

For Immediate Release - Alexandria, VA

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The National Certification Commission (NCC) of NAADAC, NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals, the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) and the Society of Credentialed Addiction Professionals (S.CAP) announced plans to create a "unification through merger" of the organizations. A 15 member workgroup unanimously voted to approve and recommend a unified governance structure to both memberships. The announcement came after weekend discussions from June 4-6, 2005. Another unanimous motion approved the unification of the two organizations' credentials.

"Our discussions have been frank and transparent and we have been thoughtful in planning the details to move this to fruition," said Mary R. Woods, RNC, LADC, MSHS and Acting IC&RC President Jeff Wilbee. "The next step in moving our associations and the addiction profession forward, is the careful consideration of a plan that will create the most benefit to our members and credential-holders."

The associations have worked on three key areas: credentialing, organization and training/advocacy to outline the details for future progress. All participants also began development of an interim Business Plan for the amalgamated organization. The participants, made up of equal numbers of NAADAC and IC&RC representatives, decided on eight essential components for the interim business plan leading to a merger:

1. Having one recognized set of credentials worldwide.
2. Having a unified professional membership organization.
3. Having a single foundation for raising money for research, training, and special projects.
4. Communicating the progress and the methods of the merger process to the associations' members.
5. Completing the due diligence process.
6. Developing a working budget for the new organization.
7. Ensuring the merger process is reviewed and approved by a legal counsel.
8. Creating funding streams to ensure the completion of the merger is not a financial drain on the associations.

The joint NAADAC/IC&RC committee proposes that all current IC&RC and NCC credentialed professionals will have their qualifications unified by December 31st, 2005.

The issues of Standards, Scope of Practice, Career Ladders and Finances have all been referred to committees to assess and make recommendations as agreed to in February, 2005. These committees are in the process of identifying individuals to serve, and their names will be released upon confirmation.

The National Certification Commission (NCC) of NAADAC, NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals, the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) and the Society of Credentialed Addiction Professionals (S.CAP) would like to specifically thank Partners for Recovery for their support in the bringing these organizations together. Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, Acting Executive Director for NAADAC announced, "Without the support of CSAT/SAMHSA and Partner's for Recovery, the progress of unification of these organizations would not be at the level that it is today. We are appreciative of the confidence through support that is evidenced in their helping to fund this effort."

Mary R. Woods, RNC, LADC, MSHS and Acting IC&RC President Jeff Wilbee were pleased with the prospects for the future. "Our unification through merger will strengthen the services and credentials available to clinicians, educators and other addiction-related health professionals, and will strengthen the addiction profession by allowing it to speak with one voice."

NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals, is the largest organization for addiction-focused health care professionals. Founded in 1974, NAADAC is committed to the professional development of individuals who treat and prevent addiction. NAADAC also works to improve the provision of treatment services through education and advocacy programs. naadac.org

ICRC's vision is to serve as the source that establishes standards globally for credentialing and that provides resources to advance quality in addiction-related healthcare. ICRC's mission is to protect the public through the development and advancement of competency standards and programs for professionals engaged in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. www.addictionboards.org

The mission of the Society of Credentialed Addiction Professionals (S.CAP) is to ensure quality of care in addiction prevention and treatment by promoting credentialing of professionals in the field of addictions. S.CAP is a membership organization composed of individual professionals

as well as non-profit and for-profit entities that support its mission.