

# Questions Asked During Live Webinar Broadcast on May 2, 2018



## *Advocating for Your State: Where Most of the Rubber Meets the Road*

Presenters: Sherri Layton and Michael Kemp

**Alcohol and drug councils have been around a long time. They seem to have fallen out of favor in many areas in recent years. Are the presenters saying that local A & D councils are now being revived and re-invigorated?**

**A: Michael** - I have seen an upsurge of these in Wisconsin & Oregon. Most of this has centered around the "Opioid Crisis" & does give the opportunity to address other issues around addiction treatment & recovery.

**Sherri** – In contrast, I have seen the Councils in Texas vary greatly in their focus and services provided. Some are primarily prevention agencies, some are assessment and referral, and some have an array of treatment services. It is my impression that, here in Texas, they do not play the predominant role they once did. I don't see current legislation influencing a revival. It does seem to be a regional thing. I also see that in the ATTC's. It seems they vary greatly from region to region. I did make reference to the state association connected to the National Council as being a possible partner organization. Here in Texas some of our Councils are involved with the National Council.

**Could you mention the Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus? Also, encourage everyone to contact their Congressional Rep to join the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus. Thank you**

**A: Michael** - That's a "Whoops" on our part: we will definitely include it in our presentation at the NAADAC National Conference

**Sherri** – I agree, whoops!

**What did you mean by an "undeserved area"?**

**A: Michael** - Sorry for any grammatical challenges: we meant "underserved": these are rural areas, inner cities, reservations, etc.

**Sherri** – Yes, sorry for that mistake. There are areas designated as high need areas and they qualify for the student loan forgiveness programs. I believe you can access that listing with the loan forgiveness info. There are specific populations that also qualify. For info on Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) student loans, go to the following website: <https://bh.w.hrsa.gov/loansscholarships>.

**I just started a non-profit, Three Bridges Recovery Wisconsin. I am a recovery coach and trainer. I have a degree in AODA. I would like to find ways here in my town to get the message out. Any ideas?**

**A: Michael** -Contact your local newspaper & talk to a reporter about how addiction is affecting the community. Offer to do an interview. Show up to your city council & ask them to do a proclamation for Recovery Month. Find a few others to host a Recovery Month event (Hands across the Bridge??). Invite the Mayor to read the proclamation at the event. Invite the Mayor, council members, and treatment providers to an open house at your non-profit.

**Sherri** – Great ideas Michael! Also invite your state and national representatives and senators.

**Does HR 5102 have a provision for previously received student loans? For example, earned before 2018?**

**A: Michael** - Not at this time. You can call your representative & suggest the addition to the language!

**Sherri** – If you haven't engaged in the process before this would be a great way to get started. You have a specific bill to ask about and you can share your experience as an example of why that addition will be helpful.