

# NCC AP New Endorsement and Credential

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*Certified for Success*

working to develop national competency standards for peer recovery and clinical supervision and recognize the talented professionals working in these important areas. We are now proud to announce the release of a new Peer Recovery Support Specialist Credential in July 2014 and National Endorsement for Clinical Supervision for Substance Use Disorders Professional in August 2014.

## Peer Recovery Support Specialist (NCPRSS)

Peer Recovery Support Specialists are individuals who are in recovery from a life altering event or disruption who are able to use their life experience to provide recovery support in such a way that others can benefit from their experience. The Peer Recovery Support Specialist Credential was developed by a cadre of Peer Recovery trainers, supervisors, and nationally recognized experts to standardize, at a national level, the quality of peer support to individuals with Substance Use Disorders and Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. Through standardized testing, the NCC AP is able to set a benchmark for recognition of Peer Recovery Support Specialists and monitor the abilities of those providing the identified services.

This experience-based credential focuses on the individual and provides a formal indicator of the current knowledge and competence at the national level. This national standard encourages Peer Recovery Specialists to continue to learn for the sake of their clients, and provides assistance to employers, health care providers, government entities, other practitioners, and the public in the identification of quality individuals who have met national competency standards.

To be eligible for the NCPRSS, a candidate must have:

- A High school diploma, GED, or higher;
- A minimum of one year of direct practice (paid or volunteer);
- 125 Continuing Education (CE) hours of education/training in addiction, including a minimum of six hours in addiction-specific ethics and three hours in HIV/AIDS/communicable diseases, obtained within the past six years;
- A minimum one year of recovery from Substance Use/Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders; and
- A passing score on the National Peer Recovery Support Specialists exam.

For more information, please visit [www.naadac.org/peer-recovery-support-specialist](http://www.naadac.org/peer-recovery-support-specialist).

## National Endorsement for Clinical Supervision for Substance Use Disorders Professional

While clinical supervision has long been regarded as a significant part of the SUD profession, the importance of effective clinical supervision in the addiction treatment process has gained increased attention over the past years. There has long been a great deal of interest among SUD professionals regarding the prevention of counselor burnout, the maintenance of SUD credentials, and the efficacy of treatment for clients. As the profession of SUD counseling grows and matures, it becomes even more critical that counselors acquire more advanced clinical skills.

The National Endorsement for Clinical Supervision for Substance Use Disorders Professional was developed to promote competency in clinical supervisors of SUD professionals by:

1. Promoting the formal recognition of the professionalism of SUD counselors.
2. Providing a national standard of requisite knowledge of clinical supervision in addiction counseling.
3. Encouraging continued professional growth of clinical supervisors for the purpose of improving the quality of treatment of addicted persons.
4. Recognizing formally those individuals who meet the standards for clinical supervision established by the NCC AP for Clinical Supervision.
5. Establishing, measuring, and monitoring the level of knowledge required for clinical supervision of SUD professionals.
6. Assisting employers, labor unions, government entities, health care providers, educators, and other practitioners, as well as the public, in identifying qualified clinical supervisors in the profession of SUD counseling.

This credential was developed by a volunteer team of highly esteemed clinical supervisors and was supported by the Georgia Addictions Counselor Association, which generously allowed access to its Clinical Supervision Credential as a foundation for this project.

To obtain the National Endorsement for Clinical Supervision for Substance Use Disorders Professional, a candidate must have:

- A Bachelor's degree or higher;
- A current state-issued certification/licensure as a SUD counselor that is commensurate with at least the NCAC II credential or higher (MAC credential);
- Five years full-time or 10,000 hours of employment as a SUD counselor with two years or 4,000 hours of experience in addiction treatment;
- 200 hours of face-to-face clinical supervision provided during the above five years of employment;

*Certification, continued on page 6* ➤

The specialty of addiction practice is further supported by the federal government's recent support for expanding the addiction workforce. NAADAC, along with other addiction-focused organizations, has long advocated for federal funding for minority fellowships scholarships specific to the addiction workforce, commensurate with those available for other professions. After eight years of advocacy and meeting with federal agencies, this funding was finally supported in President Obama's newly released budget in the "Now Is The Time – Healthy Transitions" section (SAMHSA, 2014). The recognition of the importance of addiction-specific training and education is finally appreciated through the creation of this specific workforce-building effort. It is likely that counselors across the country will learn more about these future opportunities to apply for these Master level scholarships this fall.

Addiction professionals are an integral part of the health team and are capable of being taught the skills and knowledge areas specific to working in an integrated care environment. NAADAC is continuing to build relationships with other helping professional groups such as the American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, International Association of Peer Specialists, Council on Social Work Education and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association through work on the *Recovery to Practice (RTP) Initiative* to create an exchange of information and education and build respect and understanding between our professionals that ultimately affects the services of the client/patient.

NAADAC will continue to emphasize and build relationships through intraprofessional collaboration to meet the various needs and complexities of the clients/patients we serve, especially those with mental health and SUDs. NAADAC will continue to support the specific education of addiction studies and the maintenance of the specialty of addiction treatment and care. NAADAC will also continue to build the leadership to assist in the maintenance of these goals in order to sustain the workforce needs in the future.

Now is the time to work toward licensure in the states that do not have licensure laws for addiction specific knowledge, skills and competencies. Together, we can continue to build the health care treatment needs of the future allowing for the specialty of substance use disorders through addiction professionals.

**REFERENCES**

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Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, NCAC II, CCDC III, SAP, is the Executive Director of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. She previously served as the Executive Director of Danya Institute and the Central East Addiction Technology Transfer Center and as Program Director for Volunteers of America Western Washington. In addition, she has over 20 years of experience serving as the administrator of multi-county, publicly funded alcohol/drug prevention/intervention/treatment centers with services ranging from prenatal care to the serving the elderly.

- At least 30 hours of education specific to SUD clinical supervision; and
- A passing score on the National Clinical Supervision exam.

For more information, visit [www.naadac.org/clinical-supervision-endorsement](http://www.naadac.org/clinical-supervision-endorsement)

The NCC AP has been successful in the oversight and development of its credentials and endorsements because of the generous support and dedication of our volunteer committees. Many who contribute to product development are not sitting members of the NCC AP yet when called upon to share knowledge and their expertise in a particular specialty, they are most willing to aid. As a profession, we should all be proud of the volunteer workforce that supports and sustains our national credentials and its testing products.

Many thanks and highest regards to our Credential Development Committees.



Kathryn Benson, NCAC II, LADC, QSAP, QSC, serves as Chair of the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCCAP). Contact her at [lightbeing@aol.com](mailto:lightbeing@aol.com) with your thoughts or questions. Every effort will be made to respond to your inquires in either this publication or a personal reply.

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