

# A Conversation with Northeast Regional Vice President, William Keithcart

By Kristin Hamilton, JD, NAADAC Communications Manager



*William Keithcart, MA, LADC, MAC, SAP, has over 18 years of experience in direct, MAT, and residential services. Keithcart is the Program Supervisor of DayOne, an outpatient substance use disorder program in the Department of Psychiatry at The University of Vermont Medical Center. He is on the Board of Directors of NAADAC's af-*

*filiate, the Vermont Addiction Professionals Association (VAPA) and the Vermont Association of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery (VAMHAR). Keithcart also participates in Chittenden County Opioid Alliance and Co-Chairs the Treatment Access and Recovery Support Action Team.*

**Q: What goals do you hope to accomplish during your time as Northeast RVP?**

**A:** One of my goals for the Northeast region is to continue to improve the already positive collaboration among the state affiliates. This will be accomplished by maintaining our monthly conference calls to discuss what is currently working in each state and determine how NAADAC can assist in furthering each state's individual needs.

Another goal is to offer a coordinated multi-state training initiative that would provide clinicians in our Northeast region with more opportunities to participate in evidence-based trainings to strengthen their clinical skills.

**Q: What are the major issues or challenges happening in your region? How can NAADAC help overcome them?**

**A:** One of the major issues in our region is workforce development. We need to work to increase the number of skilled addiction professionals by both providing opportunities for current addiction professionals to improve and enhance their skills to meet the complex needs of our clients, and also by encouraging and supporting mental health professionals as they move into the field of addiction treatments.

We also need to encourage other professionals to become dual-licensed in the field of addictions to meet the demand of client needs.

Living in the northeast, our geography poses a constant challenge. The distance between practitioners can limit connections, and trying to find adequate representation for our affiliate Board of Directors membership is challenging. We are exploring ways to address how to communicate with addiction professionals interested in becoming involved with their affiliate Board.

**Q: Why is NAADAC membership important for addiction professionals?**

**A:** NAADAC membership for addiction professionals offers clinicians a voice and NCC AP credentialing offers recognition for the quality of work being accomplished with clients seeking recovery. By being a member, addiction professionals are able to network with other colleagues, learn ways to promote professional ethics, gain insight into decisions at the state and federal level, and keep informed of current national standards in the field of substance use disorders. In addition, NAADAC members are afforded the opportunity to receive on-going continuing education courses through a variety of methods, including webinars, independent study courses, and conferences, for free or at a reduced cost.

**Q: What are your hopes for the future of NAADAC?**

**A:** My hope for the future of NAADAC is that we can work to continue its mission to provide leadership and advocacy in to advance our profession at the state and national level. NAADAC is in the unique position to advance the field of addictions by setting the standards with our Code of Ethics. This is the foundation for upholding the highest standards for our profession.

Another hope for the future direction of NAADAC would be continuing to offer its expertise to higher education in setting the standards at college and graduate level for credentialing and/or licensing to enter the field of addictions.



*Kristin Hamilton, JD, is the Communications Manager for NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. She works on NAADAC public relations, communications, and digital media, including the NAADAC website and social media, is editor of NAADAC's two ePublications, the bi-weekly Addiction & Recovery eNews and weekly Professional eUpdate, and is associate editor for NAADAC's magazine, Advances in Addiction and Recovery. She also contributes to the planning, organization, and administration of communication campaigns, administers the PhD Candidate Survey Program, and serves as the affiliate liaison for the Communications Department. Hamilton holds a Juris Doctorate from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, MA and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and Chemistry from Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI.*