

The Value of NAADAC Membership: *Tangible Benefits*

By Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, BSW, NCAC II, CDC III, SAP, NAADAC Executive Director

One of my favorite things about my work with NAADAC is the wide range of benefits we are able to offer to addiction professionals! We have many tangible benefits that continue to grow and expand the professional development of our recovery support specialists, counselors and other professionals.

“What is a ‘tangible benefit?’ you may ask.” These are the benefits that are real, perceptible by touch, and helpful to you in your practice, in your professional growth, and in your career development.

The newest benefit NAADAC has to offer involves the addition of a government relations firm, Polsinelli. Polsinelli has a longstanding focus in the area of health care policy development and implementation. This includes substantive expertise crafting legislative and regulatory language to shape policy, working with members of Congress and administration officials within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Health Research and Services Administration (HRSA), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Polsinelli’s Public Policy Group is a bipartisan team that includes two former members of Congress, executive branch officials, and senior Congressional staff. Although part of a larger firm, Polsinelli’s Public Policy Group functions more like a boutique firm, working closely with clients to achieve their public policy goals. NAADAC is excited to be working with this reputable and well-known firm that has vast experience in the health care public policy arena! Already, we are working on major initiatives and setting meetings with Congress and federal agencies to build on the work that NAADAC has done over the past thirty years. Please consider joining

us at the Advocacy in Action Conference on November 12, 2018 in National Harbor, MD and on November 13, 2018 for a Briefing on the Hill and Hill Day in Washington, D.C.

NAADAC continues to work to generate new benefits that take advantage of evolving technology. NAADAC is excited to announce that it is working with the Telehealth Behavioral Health Institute (TBHI) to bring telehealth training and certification to NAADAC members at a discount. There are several training and education options available, ranging from general training to obtaining a TBHI Level I or Level II Professional Training Certificate. Some of you were able to attend the full-day training at the NAADAC 2017 Annual Conference in Denver last year and hear Dr. Marlene Maheu’s training on telehealth and technology. Dr. Maheu

will be with us again this year at the NAADAC 2018 Annual Conference in Houston to present another full day of telehealth information and education and a keynote presentation. As part of this initiative, we will also be offering telehealth video tips for members only on our website, with a new video clip every month.

To partner the education with the reality of service, NAADAC is partnering with a HIPAA-compliant telehealth platform, Clocktree. Clocktree was founded by Chandan Chauhan, David Chalmers and Nanduri Ramakrishna, formerly of Microsoft. This platform is HIPAA-compliant and secure from ground up, easy to use, and combines all aspects of client communication into one platform, eliminating the need for multiple different services for video conferencing, client messaging, document sharing, and appointment scheduling and reminders.

The simplicity and convenience allow providers to spend more time actually treating clients and less time managing logistics.

NAADAC, under the direction of HeidiAnne Werner, the Director of Operations and Finance, and Jessica Gleason, the Director of Communications, has been working to implement a new Association Management System (AMS), which launched on July 16. This new, upgraded system will allow you to more easily and speedily update your member profiles, renew your membership, register for conferences and events, make bookstore purchases, track your committee activities, access your membership benefits and discounts, choose your online directory information, and choose which newsletters and emails you would like to receive. In addition, the new AMS will allow for online continuing education tracking in 2019. This means you will be able to track all of the continuing education you earn as a NAADAC member in one place online and easily download documentation as needed for certification, re-certification, and clinical supervision requirements.

Education and training opportunities are perhaps the most important NAADAC benefits for many members. These opportunities allow members to expand their professional knowledge of new evidence-based and promising practices, as well as new science and research. NAADAC continuously updates the training materials that it provides, including most recently updating the popular *Basics of Addiction Desk Reference* series. In the last six months, we have released updated editions of *Integrating Treatment for Co-Occurring Disorders: An Introduction to What Every Addiction Counselor Needs to Know* (July 2018) and the popular three-module *Basics of Addiction Desk Reference – Module I: Pharmacology of Psychoactive Substance Use, Abuse, and Dependence* (March 2018), *Module II: Addiction*

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Counseling Theories, Practices, and Skills (January 2018), and *Module III: Ethical and Professional Issues in Addiction Counseling* (May 2018). We are also updating *Clinical Supervision: An Overview of Functions, Processes, and Methodology*, to be released this Fall. All of these manuals are great reference tools for agencies and great teaching tools for colleges/universities and training programs.

In addition to the training manuals and other products that NAADAC offers, it also offers over 150 hours of webinars covering a variety of addiction and co-occurring disorder topics from the best trainers in the country! We are very proud of the education and knowledge that these trainers impart in the webinars. Each webinar is worth at least 1 CE, and all of these webinars are available on demand 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

NAADAC recognizes that it is important for addiction professionals to carry a professional liability insurance policy and has worked to make finding and purchasing a policy easier (and less financially burdensome) on its members by partnering with the American Professional Agency, Inc. (APA). APA offers professional liability insurance policies at a discounted NAADAC-member rate for counselors, clinical supervisors, peer recovery support specialists, students and agencies/facilities. If this is something you

have not considered before, please review the information on our website at www.naadac.org/insurance.

NAADAC is continuously working to build new membership benefits, such as group discounts that will benefit you professionally. These are still being finalized but will be announced soon on the NAADAC website and in the *NAADAC Professional eUpdate* newsletter.

NAADAC works consistently to increase the value of NAADAC membership and has for over 46 years! We hear your ideas and welcome them! Feel free to contact me or the NAADAC staff with other suggestions or ideas! Together we make a difference!



Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, BSW, NCAC II, CDC III, SAP, is the Executive Director of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, and has worked as an addiction professional for over 35 years. She has been a trainer in Domestic Violence/Anger Management and Conflict Resolution for over 25 years as well as an international, national and state trainer in a variety of topics. Moreno Tuohy is also a curriculum writer in addiction screening and evaluation, counseling methods, conflict resolution, co-occurring disorders, and medicated assisted treatment and recovery, and has written articles published in national and other trade magazines. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in

Social Work and is certified both nationally and in Washington State.

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roles and we can all contribute in some capacity. Contributions can take the form of writing letters or emails to state and national legislators, attending community meetings, making small donations to candidates who support our causes, or just by simply stating your message at work, at home or in the community. Those who we serve experience stigma that has, at times, prevented them from receiving needed services and even caused them to experience discrimination. Our voice and our ability to stand up for them and for the addiction professionals that serve them is a privilege and part of being a NAADAC member.

Over the past thirty-five years, I have had the distinct honor and privilege as a NAADAC member to help develop and provide a variety of trainings for both NAADAC members and other addiction professionals nationwide. Having the opportunity to take the years of experience and professional interactions I have had and apply them to a training module has been remarkably rewarding. We all have a responsibility to share what we have for the betterment of our profession. All of you have unique skills and talents that those entering the profession can benefit from being exposed to. Do not pass up that experience of sharing what you have experienced as a bridge to those coming after us.

My favorite benefit that comes from my association with NAADAC is the opportunity to mentor and shape professional growth and development of those now coming into our profession. We all are aware of the dramatic shortage of qualified and trained addiction treatment professionals across the United States. Each of us needs to be able to provide mentoring, guidance, and consultation to those in either educational programs with a focus on addiction or to those who have addiction-specific degrees and are entering the profession. Our remarkable skill sets and experiences, as well as the needed insights to guide and shape professional development, is invaluable. We all had mentors in our own professional development, and these experiences were an important part of shaping our growth and development and leading us to be the addiction professionals we are today. When called upon or if you perceive a need to mentor, please do not pass up that opportunity. You will find it truly rewarding and a way for you to grow as well. **Remember: we are a link to the future!**

Being part of NAADAC offers many opportunities for involvement for you to share your talents and skills in leadership roles at a variety of

levels. From volunteering as a member of one of the many NAADAC committees or running for office to offering your own unique talents as a trainer, NAADAC affords you the opportunity to become as involved as you would like to be. Don't sit back and assume that someone else can and will do it. Don't rob the profession of your talents and skills. We need you and we need your involvement. I know from my own personal experience that you will find it to be rewarding! The opportunity to help shape the face of treatment and to help develop and move forward legislative agendas that will directly affect the delivery of services is only part of the reward that comes from your commitment.

Finally, when looking at how you benefit from any organization you are a part of, you must look at what you are willing to invest of yourself, whether it be your time, skills, talents, or ideas. Our profession is one where individuals depend on our insight, commitment and skills to help them through some of the most difficult decisions and assist them in rebuilding lives devastated by addiction. NAADAC is an organization comprised of many talented and skilled treatment professionals, which makes it a marketplace for an exchange of concepts, ideas and practice models that can be effectively used in your practice. Don't miss the opportunity to meet and share with your colleagues across the United States either directly at a conference, on a webinar, or at a training or mentoring event. Remember, those in and striving for recovery are counting on you each and every day.



Gerard J. Schmidt, MA, LPC, MAC, is President of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals and the Chief Operations Officer at Valley HealthCare System in Morgantown, WV. He has served in the mental health and addictions treatment profession for the past 45 years. Publications to Schmidt's credit include several articles on the development of Employee Assistance Programs in rural areas and wellness in the workplace, addictions practice in the residential settings and an overview of addictions practice in the United States. He has edited Treatment Improvement Protocols for CSAT for several years and has been active with the Mid-Atlantic ATTC. Schmidt

had served as Chair of the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCCAP) and NAADAC's Public Policy Committee, and as NAADAC's Clinical Affairs Consultant. Awards include the Distinguished Service Award in 2003 and the Senator Harold Hughes Advocate of the Year in 2010. In addition to his national and international work, Schmidt has been active within West Virginia in advocating for and supporting State legislative issues related to addictions and addiction treatment.