

Meet Your 2015–2017 Regional Vice-President for the Southeast: Angela Maxwell

Representing Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

By Jessica Gleason, NAADAC Director of Communications

Angela Maxwell, MS, CSAPC, is currently the Director of Prevention and Early Intervention Services for Alcohol and Drug Services, where she oversees services in 10 counties and has served for over 14 years. She began her work as an addiction professional over 20 years ago as a program facilitator for youth deemed “at-risk” for substance use disorders and other risky behaviors. She has served as an adjunct professor at Guilford Technical Community College, and a Certified Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Instructor, and is a statewide trainer in the areas of substance use disorder prevention, workforce development, strategic planning, coalition development, and workplace wellness. Angela has facilitated numerous workshops on substance use disorders and their impact on the family and is an authority in the field of prevention. She currently serves on numerous boards in North Carolina, including the North Carolina Substance Abuse Prevention Providers’ Association, the Guilford County Partners for Healthy Youth, the Cone Health Foundation Prevention and Best Practices Committee, and as Board Immediate Past President for NAADAC’s affiliate, the Addiction Professionals of North Carolina (APNC). Angela has received two statewide awards: the Art of Prevention Award by APNC in 2008 and the 2010 Johnnie H. McLeod Exemplary Service Award. She has Bachelor’s Degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Master’s of Science Degree in Agency Counseling from North Carolina A&T State University, and is currently working on her Doctorate in Leadership Studies. Angela lives in North Carolina and can be reached at aet.maxwell@gmail.com. The Managing Editor was able to catch up with Angela to learn about her thoughts and plans for NAADAC during her two-year term.



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

My initial goal is to gain a strong working knowledge of the role and responsibilities of a NAADAC Regional Vice-President to ensure that I am able to provide the most effective leadership for the Southeast. I want to get to know each affiliate within the Southeast region in an effort to identify needs, work collaboratively with each affiliate to develop a plan of action to address the identified needs, and service as a collective voice for the region within NAADAC’s national business affairs. I also hope to bring forth a platform that acknowledges that there are many pathways to recovery and that supports a community of professionals who represent diverse levels of substance use services (including primary prevention).

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

As the new Southeast RVP, my initial goal is to meet with each affiliate

within my region to identify critical needs in the region. I expect to work with affiliates on developing a clear plan of action to address needs, fill gaps, and strengthen current resources and assets.

Q: Why is NAADAC membership important for addiction professionals?

NAADAC membership is important for addiction professionals for three major reasons:

Networking: NAADAC serves as an ideal venue for addiction professionals to network through national conferences and state-level affiliate conferences and networking events. Membership also provides members access to a dynamic team of staff at NAADAC that is able to link professionals to other addiction professionals within their state, nationwide, and even internationally.

Professional Development: Addiction professionals have few opportunities to get high-quality trainings. NAADAC is a valuable educational resource through its conferences, as well as its numerous education products and free online trainings. Membership provides access to over 75 FREE online CE credit trainings. This alone is worth the membership.

Legislative Advocacy and Support: In an ever-changing legislative landscape, it is imperative that addiction professionals have representatives at the federal level advocating on our behalf. This often overlooked benefit makes it possible for addiction professionals to continue our work. From parity to federal funding, NAADAC’s advocacy work has touched all of our careers.

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

I hope that NAADAC continues to sustain its efforts into the future. One key factor will be to ensure that NAADAC remains connected and relevant to the mission of state affiliates by continuing to assess the needs of its affiliates and working collaboratively with affiliates to meet those needs. I also hope that NAADAC continues to examine how it represents the full continuum of substance use disorder services (from primary prevention to medication-assisted treatments to aftercare services, etc.).



in Amherst, MA.

Jessica Gleason is the Director of Communications for NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. She is responsible for NAADAC communications, marketing, public relations, and all digital media, including the NAADAC website and social media. She is the Managing Editor for NAADAC’s official publication, Advances in Addiction & Recovery magazine, and editor of NAADAC’s two ePublications, the bi-weekly Addiction & Recovery eNews and weekly Professional eUpdate. Gleason holds a Juris Doctorate from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, MA and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst