“An Update on National SUD Credentials: Striving to Improve.”

An overview of the Activities of the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP)

Jerry Jenkins, M.Ed., LADAC, MAC, Chair, NCC AP & NCC AP Commissioners

30 September 2019
Goals for today: This workshop is designed to inform SUD professionals of changes impacting how to obtain and maintain national addiction professional credentials.

How:
1. Technology is changing key processes.
2. Exam results may be transferred.
3. The workforce is expanding to include peers.
4. Collaborations may produce new credentials.
5. Certain credentials have been retired.
6. The new job task analysis and related processes are changing the examinations.
Reference for all materials presented today about National Certification can be found at:

https://www.naadac.org/certification
“An Update on National SUD Credentials: Striving to Improve.”

- First, the current professionals who are working on credentials.

- From Arizona, Treasurer, Kirk Bowden, Ph.D., MAC, LPC
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- **First**, the current professionals who are working on credentials.

- From California, Chair Elect James "Kansas" Cafferty, MA, LMFT, MCA, CATC, NCAAC
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- From Hong Kong, International Member **Elda Chan**, Ph.D., MAC, Grad. Dip. Family Therapy
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- From Alaska, Public Member **Gary Ferguson, BS, ND**
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• From Wisconsin, **Michael Kemp, CSAC, CAODAIS, CSW, NCAC I**
• **First**, the current professionals who are working on credentials.

• From New Jersey, **Rose Maire, MAC, LCADC, CCS**
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• **First,** the current professionals who are working on credentials.

• From Florida, **Christina Migliara, Ph.D., LMFT, CCTP, CA, CAP, CASAC**
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From California, APA Division 50 Liaison Nancy A. Piotrowski, Ph.D., MAC
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- First, the current professionals who are working on credentials.

- And, from Alaska, Jerry Jenkins, M.Ed., LADAC, MAC, Chair
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• **Second**, the staff who do awesome support on credentialing.

• **This Great Staff includes:**
  - Donna Croy, Certification Manager
  - Yao Kouassi, NCCAP Testing Manager
  - Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, NCAC II, CDC III, SAP Executive Director, NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
• National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals NCCAP Credentials -
  https://www.naadac.org/types-eligibility

  ➢ National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC I)
  ➢ National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC II)
  ➢ Master Addiction Counselor (MAC)
  ➢ Nicotine Dependence Specialist (NDS)
  ➢ National Certified Adolescent Addictions Counselor (NCAAC)
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- National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals NCCAP Credentials - https://www.naadac.org/types-eligibility

- NCC AP Endorsements

- National Clinical Supervision Endorsement (NCSE)
Why Do National Credentials Matter?

A certification program is an organized system of baseline requirements that must be met in order for a professional to practice within a given field.
Why Do National Credentials Matter?

- The structured and systematic process through which people intending or performing clinical practice acquire the necessary skills to optimally perform their duties within an addictions treatment setting.

- The validation of skills, knowledge and competence through the application process and testing of addiction professionals.

- Training and education are the basis for certification through which knowledge, skills and competency are acquired.
Why Do National Credentials Matter?

Recognition of professional excellence!!

NCC AP and NAADAC recommend professionals treating substance use disorders have specialized training, experience and demonstrated knowledge. One way of evidencing is NCC AP credentials.

Following describes the “QA” process used to insure the credentials and processes are up to date and reflect current practice standards.
How is technology changing key credentialing processes?

1. Distance proctoring for examinations
How is technology changing key credentialing processes?

1. Distance proctoring for examinations

2. Changing what is acceptable training and education methods
How is technology changing key credentialing processes?

Changing what is acceptable training and education methods

National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC I)

- Current credential or license as a Substance Use Disorder/Addiction counselor issued by a state or credentialing authority with GED, High School diploma, or higher.

- With at least 270 contact hours of education and training in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction or related counseling subjects. Must include six hours of ethics training and six hours of HIV/blood-borne pathogens training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.
How can exam results be transferred?
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Basic Exam</th>
<th>Advanced Exam</th>
<th>Hours of Training</th>
<th>Hours Supervised</th>
<th>Qualified for NCAC I</th>
<th>Qualified for NCAC II</th>
<th>Qualified for MAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GED; HS Diploma or higher</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>270 hours</td>
<td>6,000 hours</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree*</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>450 hours</td>
<td>6,000 hours</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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2. With at least 270 contact hours of education and training in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction or related counseling subjects. Must include six hours of ethics training and six hours of HIV/blood-borne pathogens training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.

3. And at least three years full-time or 6,000 hours of supervised experience as a Substance Use Disorder/Addiction counselor.

4. Passing score on the NCAC I written examination within 4 years of application.
   Passing score on the NCC AP’s NCAC Level I exam or “Basic Level” or “Advanced Level” SUD exam from a certifying/licensing entity.
How can exam results be transferred?

And what if I can’t locate my clinical supervisor to certify my supervised hours?
How is the workforce expanding to include National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists (NPRSS)?
How collaborations may produce new credentials?

- American Psychological Association (APA) Division 50 – The Society of Addiction Psychology
- Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD) and Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs (CTTTP)
- National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) and the National Council on Problem Gambling.
- Global Centre for Credentialing and Certification (GCCC) formerly known as the International Center for Credentialing and Education for Addiction Professionals (ICCE).
How have recent assessments impacted credentials including retiring some?
How have recent assessments impacted credentials including retiring some?

- **Retired** Student Assistance Professional (NCSAP)
- **Retired** National Endorsed Co-Occurring Disorders Professional (NECODP).
How has the updated job task analysis, test blueprints and related processes changed the examination process?
How has the updated job task analysis, test blue prints and related processes changed the examinations?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities for NCC AP – 2018-2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Definition – Completed – 12 July 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Analysis Study (3 exams combined) Begins 20 July 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Blueprint Meeting – Done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Analysis Report – Results reviewed September 2018 – 150 item test bank proposed as sufficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Mapping –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Launch new exams – November 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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How has the updated job task analysis, test blue prints and related processes changed the examinations?

Test Definition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Acceptable Candidate Description</th>
<th>Minimally Acceptable Candidate Description</th>
<th>Superior Candidate Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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**Test Definition**

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<th>Minimally Acceptable Candidate Description</th>
<th>Superior Candidate Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Practice Dimensions</strong></td>
<td>I. Clinical Evaluation</td>
<td>I. Clinical Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Screening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Clinical Evaluation</td>
<td>Generally establishes rapport quickly, including management of a crisis situation and determination of need for additional professional assistance.</td>
<td>Frequently establishes rapport, including management of a crisis situation and determination of need for additional professional assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skilled at assessing and de-escalating crisis situations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How has the updated job task analysis, test blue prints and related processes changed the examinations?

2018 Job Task Analysis Results

The current JTA resulted in the following core areas:
1. Screening and Orientation to the Treatment Process
2. Assessment
3. Ongoing Treatment Planning and Implementation
4. Addiction Counseling Practices and Skills
5. Professional Practices

These core areas further defined 177 skills/knowledge areas currently considered critical for credentialed professionals. They reflect the tenets of TAP 21.
How has the updated job task analysis, test blue prints and related processes changed the examinations?

Test Blue Prints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Certified Addiction Counselor, Level 1 (NCAC I) Test Blueprint</th>
<th># of Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Orientation to the Treatment Process</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Orientation to the treatment process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Determine presenting issues/items bringing client into treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Inform client of services and fees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Obtain client’s informed consent prior to initiating services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Explain program rules and regulations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Explain counseling process to client</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Assess compatibility of program services for client</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Provide referral sources as needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Clarify provider/client roles and expectations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Advise clients of their rights, including confidentiality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Complete release of information forms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Develop a therapeutic relationship with client</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How has the updated job task analysis, test blue prints and related processes changed the examinations?

Test Blue Prints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V. Professional Practices</th>
<th>26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Professional Practices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Adhere to Federal, State, and Tribal laws, and agency regulations as related to substance use disorder clients</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Adhere to established codes of ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Apply critical thinking skills to the established codes of ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Seek supervision on treatment decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Consult with other professionals as appropriate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Function as a member of an interdisciplinary team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Participate in personal and professional development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Obtain appropriate continuing education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Identify and address burnout in self and others</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Use assessments that are sensitive to basic validity, reliability, and empirical criteria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Apply information from current counseling and addictions research literature and training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Items 150
How has the updated job task analysis, test blue prints and related processes changed the examinations?

Job Analysis Report – Results reviewed September 2018 – 150 item test bank proposed as sufficient

Item Mapping –

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Final Edit
How has the updated job task analysis, test blue prints and related processes changed the examinations?

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Questions or Comments or Recommendations?
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Good day.

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Be careful out there!
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The End!