

## Nomination of Mark Sanders, LCSW, CADC for the NAADAC Legend Award

Dear Awards Committee

It is a great honor for me to submit the name of Mark Sanders for the NAADAC 50th Anniversary Legend Award. On March 6, 2022, Mark Sanders celebrated his 40th year anniversary as a renowned substance use disorders professional. Mark has had a profound impact on the addiction field through contributions in **writing, teaching, consultation, direct practice, advocacy and service to NAADAC**. As you review this letter and the supporting documentation you will clearly see why I consider Mark a true legend in our field.

### Writing

For me the Recovery Management monograph that Mark co-authored solidified my thinking around how to provide care to addicted individuals. Having worked in acute care facilities I knew that staying sober in a facility was easy the hard part was when the individual went home. Recovery Management was a roadmap of what comprehensive treatment should look like. This was one of the most significant books I have read on addiction. Below please find a listing of some of Mark's publications that have enriched our field.

- Co-Authored *Recovery Management* with William White, MA and Ernest Kurtz. This was the first monograph on recovery management which helped shift the field from the acute care model solely, towards a recovery-oriented system of care.
- Mark is known as a thought leader in culturally responsive services he has written 3 books on Counseling African Americans with Substance Use Disorders. He co-authored some of the first articles on recovery coaching in Hispanic Communities with Jose Tovar, written extensively on effective cross cultural counseling. Mark has created podcasts, and webinar series of culturally responsive substance use disorders treatment and recovery.
- Mark is the founder of ***The Online Museum of African American Addictions Treatment and Recovery***. This educational site has been viewed by people in all 50 states and over 100 countries. University educators use the site to give assignments to students.
- He published a book on effective Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment, as addiction and mental illness overlap at the rate of fifty percent.
- Mark also had published articles in numerous Peer Review Journals on substance use disorders treatment and recovery.

### Teaching

When Mark entered the profession four decades ago a primary technique used was heavy confrontation. He wanted to influence substance use disorders treatment and decided to teach addictions studies to influence how counselors worked with clients. Mark is an inspirational international speaker in the addictions field whose presentations have reached thousands throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, the Caribbean, and British Islands. I have heard Mark speak numerous times and have invited him to speak in Cleveland three times. He

takes important concepts and personalize them so that the concepts I have learned stay with me. Below please find Mark's contributions in teaching substance use disorders.

- A 30-year career as a University educator teaching addictions studies at the University of Chicago, Loyola University of Chicago, Illinois State University, Harold Washington Community College, and Illinois School of Professional Psychology.
- Director of the First South East Asian and African Refugee Addictions Counselor Training Program in The Country. In this role Mark helped prepare refugees to provide prevention and recovery services within their own communities.
- International trainings on addictions in the United States, Europe, Canada, West Indies and Guam.
- Substance Use Disorders training for all branches of the United States military, including, Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.
- Helped prepare over 1000 corrections officers to become certified addictions counselors.
- Over 4000 presentations at substance use disorders conferences in 48 states.
- Created nearly 100 virtual products which have been utilized by addictions professionals worldwide.
- Speeches throughout the country to help shift the field towards a recovery-oriented system of care.
- Helped prepare a new generation of Clinical supervisors in the Great Lakes Region.
- For two decades Mark was a part of a training team which helped train a new generation of substance use disorders trainers in Illinois.

## **Consultations**

Mark is always willing to consult for the advancement of the field. When OAADAC was beginning to plan for our first conference in many years Mark helped the group formulate the ideas, potential funding sources and potential speakers. This regional conference, in my evaluation, had a national level lineup of presenters. Mark was one of the individuals crucial to the beginning of the process. His more formal consultation work includes:

- How to develop an integrated co-occurring disorders treatment program.
- Implementation of evidence-based practices.
- How to develop an inclusive organization.
- Shifting from the acute care model towards a recovery-oriented system of care.
- Organizational wellness and team building.
- Culturally responsive services.
- How to become a trauma informed system of care.
- Strategic Planning.

## **Direct Practice**

Mark's career as a substance use disorders counselor has informed all of his teaching, writing, and consultations. In my discussions with Mark his love of direct service and recovery always

comes through. His areas of expertise as a counselor include family therapy, group therapy and the utilization of evidence-based practices. He has specialized in working with clients with co-occurring conditions, emerging adults and adolescents. In his last clinical position, he integrated four evidence-based practices with an adolescent population, including: motivational interviewing, motivational incentives, the cannabis youth manualized approach and the Matrix Model. Ninety percent of the adolescents either reduced their substance use or maintained abstinence over a six-month period,

### **Services to NAADAC**

As a former Regional Vice President, I have had the opportunity to meet a number of times with the Illinois Chapter of NAADAC. They were wonderful individuals all well into their retirement. I was concerned about the secession plan, so I followed with great interest when Mark began his term as President of the Illinois Chapter. During his term as President of the Illinois Chapter, he recruited a new generation of NAADAC Board members. The previous board was so satisfied with our direction they retired as long-time board members. That new team increased the visibility of NAADAC throughout the State of Illinois and provided educational events to addictions counselors throughout the state. They established a National Recovery Month Celebration where they honored addictions professions throughout the state of Illinois and updated the bi-laws to help assure that there is regular transition of officers. It was an amazing transformation of the chapter.

Mark has also led NAADAC developments at the national level to help create new programs, training of addictions professionals, history of advocacy and has contributed to NAADAC in a meaningful way. Below is a summary of his service to NAADAC and Advocacy.

- Nationally he served as chair of the NAADAC Clinical Standards Committee. In that role they created four sub-committees. The committee was quite productive. Each sub-committee published journal articles and facilitated webinars to help increase clinical skills of the NAADAC community.
- One sub-committee began to develop National Standards for substance use disorders treatment for LGBTQIA individuals.
- Members of Clinical Supervision sub-committee joined a larger clinical supervision committee with NAADAC.
- Mark has also served NAADAC nationally as a reviewer for the Minority Fellowship program and as a committee member to help plan the national conference in Minnesota.
- Mark is a member in good standing of NAADAC in full compliance and support of the NAADAC code of ethics,
- Mark has delivered presentations at NAADAC Conferences locally and nationally. This has included Keynoting the national conference in consecutive years (2019 and 2020)

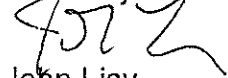
### **Advocacy**

Mark is a founding member of the Critical Issues in the Black Community Committee of NAADAC. This committee is performing groundbreaking work to assure that the unique treatment and recovery needs in the black community are recognized.

- In a leadership role Mark helped organize a recovery march in the south suburbs on Chicago which has been an annual event for a decade. This event is a collaboration between a university, businesses, the recovering community, treatment centers and community residents.
- Honored clients and the staff who serve them whose pathway of recovery is medication assisted recovery. The purpose has been to decrease the stigma of medication addicted treatment.
- Helped organize an annual advocacy day in the state of Illinois where Addiction studies students discuss policy with state legislatures.
- Helped a refugee community change a cultural practice of bringing women alcohol as a gift during pregnancy. The group did not have the words *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in their Language*. Through education about FAS the group discontinued the practice.
- Mark has taught ethics workshops for the past two decades.
- Co-authored a position paper as chair of the NAADAC Clinical Standards Committee on the need to assure quality treatment services by encouraging funding sources to reimburse the clinical supervision hour to help assure supervision actually occurs.
- For four years he published the recovery story of the month to help reduce the stigma of addiction in African American Communities.
- Co-founder of Serenity Academy Chicago, the only recovery high school in Illinois.
- The Illinois Chapter of NAADAC created the Mark Sanders Advocacy Award given annually to individuals and organizations who successfully advocate for individuals, families and communities seeking recovery from substance use disorders.

When reviewing all that Mark has accomplished in his 40 years a substance use disorder professional, I am both awed and humbled. I have been chosen to receive the NAADAC Mel Schulstad Professional of the Year Award and The Sen. Harold E. Hughes Advocate of the Year Award Looking at Mark's accomplishments I realize the difference between a contributor to the field and a legend in the field. Mark is truly a legend and worthy of this great honor.

Sincerely



John Lisz

LICDC-CS, OCPC, LISW-S, LPCC-S