



JRW Behavioral Health

June 21, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Mark Sanders for the past 25 years and am writing this letter in support of his nomination for the 2022 NAADAC Legacy Award. Mark has touched thousands throughout the world with his training, writing and clinical consultation. His knowledge and experience are so diverse as to virtually defy description. However, he was among the first in the country to write and speak about recovery management and recovery-oriented systems of care. He is also a pioneer in educating the field about the African American substance use disorder experience and the role of African American professionals in the treatment of addiction. His website "Online Museum of African-American Addictions, Treatment and Recovery" is unique within the field. Further, Mark is an expert in treating difficult and hard to reach clients and has significantly contributed to knowledge and practice in this area. He teaches frequently on cultural competence and ethics and has enriched the lives of the many who have attended his workshops and read his many monographs, articles, papers and books. He has received numerous awards including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Addiction Counselor Certification Board and the Barbara Bacon Award for outstanding contributions to the Social Work profession as a Loyola University of Chicago Alumni.

Beyond these accomplishments, Mark is a major presence in shaping the future of the substance use disorders field through supporting the continuing education and training of young counselors and other clinicians. He has also played a significant role in the initiation of the ROSC Council network within Illinois and is widely respected as a leader in this area. Through his clinical expertise, he has enriched the lives of countless youth, and has thus ensured the strength and self-efficacy of a new generation. As the (Past) President of the Illinois Association of Addiction Professionals, he has represented NAADAC admirably and enhanced it's work within the State.

Despite these accomplishments, Mark is a humble person and accessible to those who seek his advice. He is generous in providing such counsel.

In closing, I would like to say that Mark has significantly enlightened the addictions field throughout his long career. We are better for his efforts, and he truly deserved to be recognized for his tireless and meaningful contributions to NAADAC and to the substance use disorder profession.

Sincerely,

Randall Webber  
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Principal Consultant