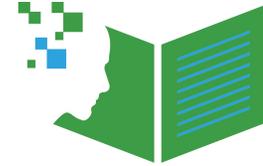


DIANE E. SHERMAN, PhD, MAC, CADC-II, CCS
M: 470-406-2097



ACTS Consulting, Inc.

June 21, 2022

TO: NAADAC

RE: Letter of Support, Pierluigi Mancini, PhD

I am so excited and pleased to present a Letter of Support for Pierluigi Mancini, PhD for the NAADAC 50th Anniversary Legend Award. He is an admired professional, author, speaker and advocate, and I am pleased to be called his friend and colleague.

I cannot say enough, or write enough, of how good a person Dr. Mancini is, and how compassionate and forward looking he is in his role as an Addiction Professional.

I have known Dr. Mancini since 1997 when he opened CETPA, Georgia's first Latino behavioral health organization providing prevention, intervention and recovery support services to children, adolescents and adults. He was instrumental with his staff in reaching into the Latino community to offer well needed supports in the primary language of persons served. CETPA also became one of the first CARF accredited agencies in Georgia offering culturally relevant and competent services much needed by his target client population. With regard to workforce development, and parallel to these efforts he was instrumental in supporting over 40 bilingual clinicians to secure their professional license or certification in the State of Georgia. This is vital, as while access to services presents a challenge, so does access to culturally competent clinicians.

Since those early years, I have known Dr. Mancini to stretch his network and reach beyond Georgia, offering presentations, advocacy, and interviews, in supporting surrounding states to build an infrastructure that supports linguistic and physical access.

Dr Mancini has worked with the US Department of Health and Human Services to develop a state of the art, evidence supported curriculum in Spanish and Portuguese to be used in the 12 Latin American countries. I'm also aware that Dr. Mancini has worked closely with NAADAC to develop Spanish language materials, educational events and communication tools for NAADAC's national audience. The benefit of this effort supports NAADAC's reach to offer events that supports cultural competence and linguistic accessibility to a wide audience of addiction professionals.

As it has gone in Georgia, and since I have known him, Pierluigi has always been the "go to" person to represent the needs of the Hispanic / Latino community and offer presentations for Spanish and Portuguese language outreach. He is the Chair of the Georgia Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council, serves on the Georgia Council of Substance Abuse board, and the Advisory Council for the Center for Victims of Torture, an organization to build resources for appropriate and sensitive care for torture survivors from all over the world.

Nationally, he serves as the Chair-Elect for Mental Health America National Board of Directors.

He is a NAADAC member in good standing, offering services and upholding his professional relationships from an ethical and compassionate approach. He volunteers as a member of the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Advisory Council, and Dr. Mancini has also been part of the NAADAC delegation in traveling abroad.

Without a doubt he has been awarded many accolades that can be counted, attesting to his sincerity and presence among our peers and social services organizations.

Thank-you for your consideration of this nomination, information contained herein. Should he be honored with this award, I have no doubt he will proudly represent NAADAC and all that is embodied by the NAADAC 50th Anniversary Legend Award.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane E. Sherman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Diane E. Sherman, Ph.D.
NAADAC Master Addiction Counselor
Former President, Georgia Addiction Counselors Association