

June 21,2022

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
ATTN: Awards Committee Chair  
44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 301  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Letter of Recommendation and Support for Dr. Pierluigi Mancini

Dear Awards Committee:

This a letter of support for Pierluigi Mancini Ph.D. to be nominated for the NAADAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legend Award. "The NAADAC 50th Anniversary Legend Award recognizes a leader and innovator in the field of addiction who has made significant contributions to NAADAC and to the addiction profession." I would like to demonstrate Dr. Mancini's significant contributions and innovations in the field of addiction:

Contributions:

- 1.) Dr. Mancini's public service announcements and documentaries addressing Latino underage drinking, suicide and prescription drugs have won a **combined six (6) EMMY® awards**. Dr. Mancini has been honored with the National Latina/o Psychological Association Star Vega Distinguished Service Award; the Unidos US (NCLR) - Helen Rodríguez- Trías Award for Health; and the Mental Health America's "Heroes in the Fight" Award and was named one of the 50 Most Influential Latinos in Georgia.
- 2.) Dr. Mancini's commitment to developing culturally and linguistically behavioral health program development is simply remarkable. He has been a frequent guest to national and international media discussing the need for improved substance use services for the Latino population. **He has been featured in US News and World Report, Fox News, CNN, Telemundo, and Univision.**
- 3.) His research resume is quite extensive for he believes in evidence based educational approaches to the treatment of substance use disorders (SUDS). He has worked with the **Healthcare Foundation of Georgia, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, National Council for Wellbeing, and Morehouse School of Medicine** in developing research protocols and curriculum concerning the treatment of SUDS in the Latino population.
- 4.) His is an **author and lecturer**. Some his latest publications include:

Mancini, P. (2019, Feb). *Blueprint for action update: Priority regions 1 and 2 findings and recommendations*. Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga.

Mancini, P. et. al. (2018) *Nuestra Salud Webcast: La Recuperación y Colaboración con Compañeros: ¿Estamos Llegando a los Latinos?* National Latino Behavioral Health Association (nlbha.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/NLBHAORG/videos/1612473922134423/>

Mancini, Pierluigi. *¡Mental! In The Trump Era - Ten Inspirational Stories About Immigrants Overcoming Addiction, Depression and Anxiety in America*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing, An Amazon Company, 2018.

5.) Over 35 years' experience as an addiction counselor in multiple types of treatment settings.

Innovations:

1.) **Development of Georgia's first Latino behavioral health organization providing prevention, intervention, clinical and recovery support services to children, adolescents, and adults in English, Spanish and Portuguese.** The nonprofit was called CETPA which grew from no funds to about \$5 million in annual revenue, and from Dr. Mancini being the only employee to having 72 full time employees and from seeing 20 people per week to seeing 150 clients per day.

2.) **Development of documentaries on substance abuse and addiction that build infrastructures to provide addiction services to individuals with limited English proficiency and different understanding of addiction in a manner and a language they would understand.**

3.) He was **instrumental in helping five states develop linguistic access infrastructures**, wrote articles, a book, op-ed pieces, provided interviews in radio and television including Spanish language television to advance the mission.

4.) Dr. Mancini also worked with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop **a training curriculum in Spanish and Portuguese to be used by clinicians in the 12 Latin American countries where the almost five million Venezuelans had to flee to because of difficult conditions in their country.**

Dr. Mancini is a true legend in the field of addiction counseling by his over 35 years' experience in developing prevention, intervention, and treatment programs for the Latino population. He is a kind and gentle man who has such passion for helping a population who has experienced many disparities in the treatment of substance use disorders. If it were not for Pierre Mancini, hundreds of Latino youth and adults would have died from the disease of addiction-thank God he was able make a difference due to hard work, determination, and a belief that recovery is available to everyone. As a friend and peer for many years, Pierre meets the criteria as a "legend" in the addiction field and I give my highest recommendation for this award. Thank you for your consideration of Dr. Pierluigi Mancini for The NAADAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legend Award.

Sincerely,

Merrill Norton (Electronic Signature)

Dr. Merrill Norton Pharm.D., D.Ph., CMAC  
President/CEO  
Chemical Health Associates, Inc.