

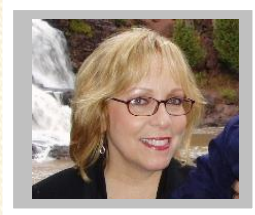


## American Academy's CAS Certification Receives NCCA Accreditation

The Certified Addiction Specialist (CAS) certification, upon meeting all requirements, was awarded accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) in June 2010.

The prestigious NCCA accreditation reflects the ongoing dedication of the American Academy to establish and uphold the highest standards of competency for its members in providing treatment in the addictive disorders.

*"The NCCA accreditation enhances the Academy's dedication to fostering the highest standard of professional ethics and professional credentialing to ensure the competency of health care providers in the addictive disorders towards the goal of quality care for those who need it most",*  
states Cheri Swenson, Academy's Executive Director.



**From the desk of the Executive Director.....**

*Cheri Swenson*

It has been an exciting year for the American Academy! And is only the beginning of great opportunities to come for our organization. In June, the American Academy was granted the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation – the gold standard in accreditation!

As a result of this accomplishment, the California Alcohol and Drug Program approved the Academy in July, one of only ten certification agencies, to provide certification for its alcohol and drug counselors. It was my pleasure to represent the Academy a few weeks ago at their annual ADP Training Conference in Sacramento and to meet some of you.

The State of Indiana is working towards licensure of its alcohol and drug counselors. The Academy's CAS certification has been recognized by Indiana for grandfathering into licensure. Cori Helget, the Academy's administrative assistant, traveled to Indianapolis in September to meet the counselors. We look forward to providing certification for Indiana counselors in the upcoming months.

Recently, Academy members participated in a short survey on the subject of continuing education. The information garnered from the responses was very interesting, as you will see in the enclosed report. Continuing education that meets Academy standards is proving to be a challenge, and especially online, web-based and/or home study. Your patience is appreciated as we review on an ongoing basis, the courses and providers. As providers are approved, they will be updated and posted at the Academy website.

In an effort to assist our members with the Academy's continuing education requirements, guidelines with a breakdown of domains are now available and will be included with letters of renewal notification and at the website under Member Documents. New categories of continuing education, in addition to addictions and TAP 21 counseling domains, will include law and ethics, special populations, PTSD, disabilities, diverse populations, cultural differences, individuals on probation/parole, ethics, communicable diseases and sexual harassment prevention.

Again, thank you to all of you for assisting in these important achievements – our Certification Board and the development of a updated exam, subject matter experts, Academy members, staff, consultants, and all who represent the American Academy and its mission to provide excellence in credentialing in the addictions field.

Warm wishes,

*Cheri*



## Online Survey Results Specialization & Continuing Education

The Academy's Certified Addiction Specialists recently were invited to participate in a survey to assist in determining the need for education in the Academy's specializations of sex addiction, eating disorders and gambling addiction. Thank you to those who responded with invaluable information, ideas and insight.

The following are the questions from the survey and the results:

1. What percentage of your caseload includes assisting clients with Gambling Addiction, Sexual Addiction, and/or Eating Disorders?

Response of those surveyed who are treating:

- Eating Disorders - 70%
- Sexual Addiction - 66%
- Gambling Addiction - 56%

2. Are there addiction-related educational resources that you would recommend to other CAS members? Resources may include books, training events, specific educators or peer-reviewed articles?

- There were many recommendations from the respondents. The Academy will be reviewing the suggested resources for consideration as approved continuing education.

3. Have you authored a book, chapter, educational DVD, peer-reviewed articles, or other educational resources, on addictions?

- There is a wealth of resources within our Academy membership.

4. If you answered yes to #3, would you consider working with the Academy to develop CE courses based on your work?

- Members indicated great interest in working with the Academy on CE resources.



## CEU GUIDELINES FOR 2011

Increasingly, the Academy is recognizing difficulties for our members in determining what type of hours are acceptable towards renewals and locating education sources that meet the Academy's policies.

It is with this in mind that important changes have been made to better define renewal requirements and offer continuing education resources for the Academy's Certified Addiction Specialists.

**CAS RENEWALS** – while the following recommended guidelines are requirements by regulation for AOD counselors in the State of California they are guidelines for the remainder of our members to assist in planning of continuing education for your upcoming renewal:

- 8 CEU hours – **Addiction Specific Education**
- 8 CEU hours – **Counseling Domains**, reference: TAP 21's "Addiction Counseling Competencies" Education
- 4 CEU hours – to include all or some of the following:
  - **Special Populations** (aging individuals; individuals with co-occurring disorders (e.g., alcoholism and mental illness), post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); disabilities, diverse populations, cultural differences, individuals on probation/parole) ;
  - **Ethics** (includes law and ethics, confidentiality);
  - **Communicable Diseases**, i.e., TB, HIV, Hepatitis C; and
  - **Sexual Harassment Prevention.**



## AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE ADDICTIVE DISORDERS

### International Office

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## MEET A MEMBER... OF THE CERTIFICATION BOARD



**Dr. Alicen-J. McGowan**

Vice Chair  
American Academy Certification  
Board

Alicen-J. McGowan, PhD, CAS, CAGS, CMI-I, LADC-I, CADAC-I, is the Director at the AdCare Hospital Outpatient Clinic, North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, specializing in gambling, alcohol and drug treatment. Dr. McGowan is well-known in the addictions field in the State of Massachusetts, hosting the radio program, 'Addiction,' on WBSM – 1420 FM, Massachusetts, as well as the blog, [AddictionCentral@blogspot.com](mailto:AddictionCentral@blogspot.com) at [www.mass-addiction.blogspot.com](http://www.mass-addiction.blogspot.com).

Currently, Vice Chair of the Certification Board of the American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders, Dr. McGowan has published many articles in both forensics and recovery. In 2009, she co-founded a non-profit organization, The Veterans Collaborative, in Wareham, Massachusetts, assisting young veterans with traumatic brain injury by providing shelter, food, clothing and counseling for substance abuse - free of charge. Run solely with volunteers, including a full-time executive director and an assistant, the organization's vision is expanding services beyond the southeastern Massachusetts area to reach out to all veterans in need.

Dr. McGowan is married and has two adult children, and a very special grandson, Nate.

## American Academy Certification Board

Martin Landau-North, PhD, PsyD, CAS  
Chair  
San Diego, CA

Alicen McGowan, PhD, CAS – Vice Chair  
N Dartmouth, MA

Brenda Schaeffer, MDiv, LP, CAS  
Minneapolis, MN

Rebecca Mair, PhD, CAS  
Grosse Pointe, MI

Dessa Bergen-Cico, PhD, CAS, CHES, ADA  
Syracuse, NY

Michael Fordham, PhD, CAS  
Salt Lake City, UT

Charles Anderson, PhD, CAS, CDES  
Port Orchard, WA

Lisa Harrison-Gulla, MA, CAS  
Edison, NJ

Elizabeth Niemi, CGSED  
Public Member  
Duluth, MN

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## 2010 Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Certification

A special thank you to the American Academy's Certification Board for their tireless contribution throughout the NCCA accreditation process. The Certification Board, comprised of subject matter experts from many states and disciplines, worked diligently together in updating the Certified Addiction Specialist (CAS) exam and certification. As a result of their work to meet accreditation requirements, 2010 Minimum Eligibility Requirements have been adopted for the Academy's national certification:

### PROFESSIONALS WITH MASTERS OR DOCTORATE DEGREES MUST HAVE:

Three years (6,000 hrs) of post-graduate, full-time supervised experience providing direct health care services to those identified with an addictive disorder. Pre-doctoral or pre-masters internships at an approved site may be considered by the Academy towards one year of clinical supervision.

### PROFESSIONALS WITH OTHER DEGREES OR WITHOUT A DEGREE MUST HAVE:

Five years (10,000 hrs) of full-time supervised experience providing direct health care services to those identified with an addictive disorder.

Submit documentation of a minimum of 270 hours of formal education as follows:

- The curriculum contained in TAP 21: "Addiction Counseling Competencies" and the knowledge, skills and attitudes associated with the practice of those competencies. (120 hours minimum).
- *Alcohol* specific education, applicable to AOD counselors, (60 hours minimum within the last five years).
- *Other Drugs* specific education, applicable to AOD counselors, (60 hours minimum within the last five years).
- *Sexual Addiction*, if applicable, specific education (60 hours minimum within the last five years).
- *Eating Disorders*, if applicable, specific education (60 hours minimum within the last five years).
- Total of 30 hours minimum:
  - Provision of services to special populations, such as aging individuals; individuals with co-occurring disorders (e.g., alcoholism and mental illness); post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); disabilities; diverse populations; cultural differences; individuals on probation/parole.
  - Ethics (includes law & ethics, confidentiality [per 42 Code of Federal Regulations, part2], and HIPAA).
  - Communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, HIV disease, and Hepatitis C.
  - Prevention of sexual harassment.

### AMERICAN ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS



### APPROVED CEU PROVIDER

AdCare Educational Institute, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation, which was established in 1986. The organization is dedicated to increasing awareness, knowledge and skills in the prevention, intervention, and treatment of substance abuse and other public health issues. The agency has an excellent reputation for producing high quality training for substance abuse counselors, corrections personnel, nurses, social workers, psychologists, health educators and other allied public health care professionals on a statewide basis in both Massachusetts and Maine.

The Institute has extensive experience in managing every aspect of training from needs assessments planning through training implementation and evaluation. Most recently, the agency has started utilizing a variety of distance education strategies such as satellite downlinking, point-to-point video conferencing and on-line learning.

Please visit

<http://www.neias.org/SATadcare.html> to see a current listing of their trainings.

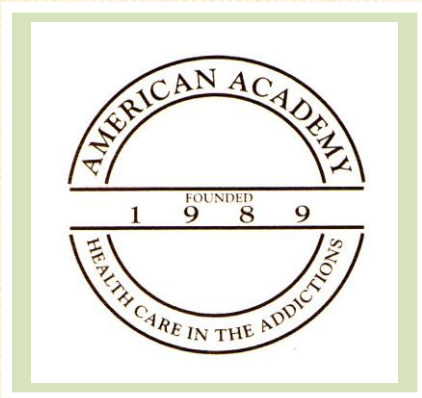
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## American Academy Mission Statement

The American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders:

- Establishes and fosters the highest standard of professional ethics and professional credentialing to ensure the competency of health care providers in the addictive disorders;
- Develops and administers examinations that assess the knowledge and skills underlying the performance of the tasks required by professional practice;
- Advances education, training and scientific research in the field of addictive disorders.

In addition to initial recognition, the American Academy provides a mechanism to recognize individuals who continue to demonstrate qualifications through adherence to standards of professional behavior and compliance with continuing education requirements.

### Watch your email . . . The American Academy is going GREEN

In an effort to do our part for the environment, the American Academy would like to announce it is **going green**. Effective January 2011, members will receive renewal documentation and the Academy's E-News via email.

Please update your profile at the American Academy's website or contact the American Academy office to ensure we have your most current email address and contact information. This will assist in our efforts to "**go green**," and ensure you are receiving all correspondence from the Academy.

