

THE NCC



THE NATIONAL CERTIFIED COUNSELOR

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NBCC PRESIDENT CHAIRS 20/20 COMMITTEE

NBCC President Tom Clawson has been designated chairperson of a committee charged with examining the issue of “Presenting Ourselves as One Profession.” The committee is part of “20/20: Vision for the Future of Counseling.”

“This topic is one that we have pondered for years,” Clawson says. “It is close to the heart of what the NBCC Board discusses so often. To be able to start a dialogue that includes ideas for real change and real possibilities of unity within the profession, while still representing the differing needs of 28 different counseling organizations, is energizing.”

Leaders from three of the 28 organizations are involved in the committee: Dennis Maki, NCC (CORE); Eric Sparks, NCC (ASCA); and Laura Veach, NCC (IAAOC). The 20/20 Project was initiated in 2006 through a collaborative effort of the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) and the American Counseling Association (ACA) with the purpose of creating a unified professional identity. The title “20/20” refers to the project’s ultimate goal of presenting a clear vision for the counseling profession by the year 2020.

The committee is focusing on the prominent issue of presenting all counselors as members of a single vocation, regardless of area of specialization. Unlike many other professions, counselors often identify themselves by their area of specialty rather than primarily as a counselor with a specialized area of practice. This results in a division within the profession, creates confusion for the general public, and weakens the field of counseling as a whole.

In addition to the committee headed by Clawson, six other 20/20 committees are simultaneously at work examining related issues focusing on: strengthening identity, improving public perception/recognition and advocating for professional issues, creating licensure portability, expanding and promoting the research base of professional counseling, examining issues of students and prospective students, and promoting client welfare and advocacy.

Counselors are asked to comment on the work generated by these committees via ACA’s Web site and through “town-hall” style meetings scheduled to take place in conjunction with AASCB’s annual conference in January and at the ACA convention in March. A final draft will be written during the summer of 2007 and ratified by the 28 original 20/20 summit participants.



Tom Clawson

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NATIONAL BOARD FOR
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**National Board for Certified
Counselors, Inc. and Affiliates**

3 Terrace Way

Greensboro, NC 27403-3660

336-547-0607

FAX 336-547-0017

Web site: www.nbcc.org

E-mail: nbcc@nbcc.org

FROM THE ETHICS DEPARTMENT

Joe Jordan, NBCC Ethics Officer and Director of Corporate Projects

NBCC has received a number of calls about reporting requirements for NCCs involved in ethics-related situations. To assuage the concerns of current NCCs and provide directions for responding to this requirement, let's discuss the ethics reporting requirement in more detail.

A number of NBCC documents—applications for initial certification, the Statement of Annual Maintenance Fees Form, and the Recertification and Statement of Annual Maintenance Fees Form—specify ethical requirements for all persons seeking or maintaining NBCC credentials. Among these is the following Ethics Reporting Requirement:

There is a 60-day reporting requirement for all NCCs who become involved in legal and professional matters, proceedings, lawsuits, administrative agency actions, settlements and agreements, or organizational actions relating to them or their counseling practice, including all complaints relating to their counseling activities; and matters or proceedings involving, but not limited to, criminal charges, lesser offenses, credentialing, malpractice, disciplinary, ethics, or similar matter(s).

In other words, persons seeking certification or currently certified by NBCC should notify the Ethics Department within 60 days if they become involved in any of the situations described in the Ethics Reporting Requirement.

Complaints to State Licensing Boards

A common question about this requirement concerns complaints made to a state licensing board about an NCC/LPC. NCCs faced with this situation often call asking if they need to report the complaint to NBCC. The answer is a resounding “YES!” In fact, in the event that a complaint is lodged against an NCC with the state licensing board and the NCC fails to report this complaint within the prescribed time limit (60 days), the NCC is in violation of NBCC policy and could face any of the sanctions outlined in the NBCC Ethics Case Procedures. This may include reprimands, probationary status, suspension, or revocation of the NCC credential.

Defining Reportable Situations

Another common question concerns defining a “reportable situation.” Again, I refer to the Ethics Reporting Requirement, which states that all complaints relating to an NCC’s counseling activities, as well as any criminal charges, lesser offenses, credentialing, malpractice, disciplinary, ethics, or similar matters, should be reported to this office within 60 days. This means any legal matter involving an NCC or his or her counseling practice should be reported.

We are all too aware that not everyone follows a code of ethics, as evidenced by highly publicized stories of corporate malfeasance. NBCC is dedicated to maintaining the highest ethical standards

for those seeking or holding certification from NBCC, as part of our ongoing effort to advance the counseling profession. This is why persons credentialed by NBCC are held to a higher standard of behavior and expected to always conduct themselves in a professional manner. For the consumer of counseling services, this provides assurance that NBCC-credentialed professionals are held to a strict code of conduct.

I want to emphasize the need for full disclosure within 60 days of any situation or legal matter which falls into the previously described categories (e.g., criminal charges, complaints lodged with state boards). Mindful adherence to this requirement protects not only the NCC, but the public and the profession of counseling. If you have any questions regarding the Ethics Reporting Requirement or other ethics-related matters, contact the NBCC Ethics Department.



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NBCC® Chair
Dawna Jackson-Sanford
President and CEO
Thomas W. Clawson
Newsletter Editor
Allison Jones

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INTERNATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH FACILITATOR PROGRAM LAUNCHED

NBCC International (NBCC-I) is currently collaborating with the World Health Organization's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to train mental health facilitators (MHF) to provide "grassroots" mental health services around the world.

WHO estimates that 450 million people live with significant mental health problems. Moreover, the *Mental Health Atlas* and other recent reports identify a critical shortage in mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, psychologists, social workers, neurologists, and counselors. Unfortunately, while the need is great, access to effective and equitable mental health care services is substantially limited.

The MHF program addresses this global need for fundamental mental health care through a community-based framework that can be adapted to reflect the social, cultural, economic, and political realities of various countries, regions, or geographic locations. Trained mental health facilitators will bridge the gap between the formal and informal systems of mental health care.

Although NBCC-I has assumed leadership for the development, standardization, and maintenance of the program, the MHF training program draws upon competencies derived from different yet related disciplines including but not limited to psychiatry, psychology, social work, psychiatric nursing, and counseling.

Briefly, mental health facilitation is a trans-disciplinary process that cares for individuals with psycho-social-emotional needs and assists them and their communities

in achieving self-determined goals. Increasing the capacity of mental health providers is addressed in the MHF mission statement:

To provide equitable access to quality first contact holistic mental health interventions (including mental health promotion/prevention; advocacy; monitoring; referral and treatment), which respect the dignity and human rights of all, meet population needs, and are based on the best available evidence contextualized by current global, regional, or local socio-cultural, economic, and geographic realities.

MHF program development meetings took place in 2006 in France, Mexico, and India. Participants included mental health subject-matter experts from various countries, leaders of the world's professional counseling associations, ministers of health, ministers of education, and select experts and policy makers from institutions such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and WHO.

Competency areas in the MHF program include helping skills, mental health disorders, disaster/trauma response, community services, and referral to other sectors. In the future, context-specific competencies will be identified and included in MHF training by local stakeholders, thereby reflecting local realities. Consequently, consumers and policy makers can assume that providers who have completed a local MHF training program will provide culturally relevant services.

Furthermore, mental health facilitation may be carried out by any individual who successfully com-

pletes the MHF training program. For example, MHF providers may be members of non-mental health related professional groups (such as teachers, primary care physicians, public health nurses, community health workers, etc.), or lay community members with no previous training as a public service provider. The MHF training model will provide low- and middle-income countries with a human resource development strategy to effectively and equitably bridge the mental health service-need gap.

For more information, visit www.nbccinternational.org.

Mental Health Observances

February 2007

February 2: Give Kids a Smile Day

February 11–17: Children of Alcoholics Week

February 25–March 3: National Eating Disorders Awareness Week

March 2007

March 5–12: National Problem Gambling Awareness Week

March 12–18: Brain Awareness Week

April 2007

Counseling Awareness Month

April 2–8: National Public Health Week

April 5: Day to End Sexual Violence

April 5: National Alcohol Screening Day

April 7: World Health Day

April 23–29: Cover the Uninsured Week

Source: www.healthfinder.gov/library/nho/nho.asp?year=2007

UPDATE

CCE AND READYMINDS OFFER TRAINING FOR DISTANCE CREDENTIALLED COUNSELORS AND FACILITATORS

Since January 2004, more than 60 distance counseling trainings have been offered across the country by ReadyMinds, the nation's leading provider of distance counseling and training. A total of 313 individuals have been awarded Distance Credentialed Counselor (DCC) recognition through the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE), an affiliate of NBCC. This credential and the accompanying training seek to ensure the delivery of ethical and high quality distance counseling services to clients by preparing counselors who will employ a variety of synchronous and asynchronous technology-assisted strategies in their work. Program details are available at www.readyminds.com/dcc.

To maintain the highest standards of training practices and learning outcomes for trainees, ReadyMinds monitors each training event by requiring trainees to complete a detailed written evaluation of the program's content and trainer delivery. In addition, each DCC trainer submits a comprehensive training report. While trainee evaluations have been extremely positive, adaptations continue to be made.

Trainees are also required to complete, within a month of their training, the Trainee Accountability Requirement (TAR). This document is a comprehensive template of distance counseling competencies. Individuals seeking the DCC credential are required to offer detailed written responses outlining

how they plan to apply the DCC competencies to their work with students and clients. According to Dr. Jim Malone, ReadyMinds' director of counseling and training, "The consistent quality and care reflected in these documents is demonstrable evidence that trainees are knowledgeable and professionally prepared to engage in distance services."

An online CEU course has recently been created by ReadyMinds to support continuing education requirements and provide additional information related to distance counseling. For more information, visit www.readyminds.com/training/ceu.html.

Distance Credentialed Facilitators (DCF)

On a new front, ReadyMinds and CCE have launched an innovative online program designed to train qualified individuals to become Distance Credentialed Facilitators (DCF). The DCF credential was

inaugurated in January 2007 for professionals providing services in career and job development, workforce development, human resources, education, and coaching work settings.

The DCF training addresses the following areas: the facilitation process, how distance facilitation relates to life/career development, the use of technology in distance counseling, assessment, crafting written communications, dealing with difficult situations, and ethical and legal standards.

Professionals who have a master's degree from a CACREP-accredited counseling program or are currently certified through CCE as a Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) will meet the educational requirement to enter this training program. For more information, visit www.cce-global.org. For information about DCF training, go to www.readyminds.com/training/overview.html.

Newly Reduced Liability Insurance Rates Make It Easier to Protect Your Practice

In an effort to make it easier for NBCC-certified counselors to obtain professional liability coverage, the NBCC-Endorsed Insurance Program is now offering reduced rates. Effective October 1, 2006, premiums for most practice specialties were reduced by 16–34 percent.

The NBCC-Endorsed Insurance Program is custom-designed to give NCCs easy access to quality insurance. Professional liability insurance is a "must have" for counselors working with clients. In a litigious society, professionals must protect their business and personal assets from legal claims. Facing the cost of preparing a legal defense, losing a case, or settling a case without the protection of insurance could be devastating to one's practice and personal finances.

The NBCC-endorsed Insurance Program can be reviewed online through the link at www.nbcc.org. NCCs can apply, receive a quote, and acquire coverage through this Web site or by calling 1-877-539-6372.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

JAMES RAPER is a new doctoral student in counselor education and supervision at Syracuse University. Prior to pursuing his studies at Syracuse, he received his master's in education with a specialty in community counseling from Wake Forest University and was a staff counselor for four years at the Wake Forest Counseling Center. He has also worked with children and adolescents in an inpatient psychiatric hospital for a year.

NBCC: How did you discover college counseling?

JR: One of my master's-level internships was at the Wake Forest University Counseling Center (UCC). Upon graduating, a counseling position became available, and I was fortunate enough to work there for the next four-plus years. I'll add that I truly looked forward to going to the UCC each morning. How many people are lucky enough to say that?

NBCC: What were some of the common developmental issues among your college student clients?

JR: Traditional-age college students often find themselves at a crossroads in their lives. They face challenges such as learning how to live and work independently, taking responsibility for making choices in their lives, developing deeper relationships, asking "Who am I?", and sometimes questioning their sexual identity. The counseling center is one of many sources of support on a college campus to which students can turn.

NBCC: What were the benefits of working in a college counseling center?

JR: Although I've only worked at one college counseling center, my perspective is that 99 percent of my clients were voluntary and insurance was virtually a nonissue. I was also fortunate to work on a

beautiful campus alongside dedicated colleagues (the counselors, psychologists, and other student life staff). Those kinds of supports and resources are invaluable during the stressful and crisis-oriented periods of the semester.

NBCC: How long did you work between degrees?

JR: After receiving my BA in religion from Colgate University, I got a job working with children and adolescents in an inpatient psychiatric hospital for a year, in hopes of accruing more experience and improving my chances of being admitted to grad school. Then after I completed my master's degree, I stayed at the Wake Forest job for four years before deciding to pursue my PhD in counselor education at Syracuse University.

NBCC: What factors influenced your decision to pursue a PhD?

JR: I credit my wife, Paige, with really encouraging me to make this change in our lives. I had been fortunate enough to gain some teaching experience by co-leading a Counseling Skills and Techniques class with my mentor, Dr. Laura Veach, at Wake. It was that experience that really "tipped the scales" in favor of further education.

NBCC: Most recently, you have been working with engineering students. How are they different?

JR: Working with engineering students (doing personal and academic counseling as part of my doctoral assistantship) is not particularly different from working with other college students. Since they tend to be more cognitive and concrete on balance, I've found myself using more mathematical and structural metaphors (such as "variables" and "building foundations") and that seems to translate well.

NBCC: What is your sense of the job market for college counselors?

JR: I'll admit that I'm somewhat addicted to checking jobs online at both The Chronicle of Higher Education and HigherEdJobs.com. It appears to be a favorable market for college counselors. While I would encourage interested students to seek out a college counseling internship to get more specific experience, not having that wouldn't preclude someone from entering into the college counseling field later.

NBCC: What's different about your academic experience in a doctoral program compared to your master's program?

JR: Based on my experience at Syracuse, doctoral study is much more focused on internal motivation for scholarship. In my master's program, I was still in the undergraduate mind-set—working for a grade and figuring out what the professor wanted. Now, I'm being encouraged to follow the specific areas that I'm passionate about (issues around suicide assessment and intervention) and, where possible, attempt to integrate these into my

NBCC: WORKING FOR YOU

Kristi McCaskill, Counseling Advocacy Coordinator

The year 2007 marks NBCC's 25th anniversary. With more than 40,000 certificate holders in the United States and throughout the world, we now enjoy a time in which professional counseling and certification are better understood and more valued. As an anniversary tribute to NCCs, we would like to highlight some of the fundamental ideals of NBCC certification.



Kristi McCaskill

NBCC certification reflects the current knowledge and skills of the counseling profession.

From establishing policy to daily certification management, counseling professionals oversee all aspects of NBCC certification. The NBCC Board, consisting of six counselors and one public member, creates the policies governing national certification. Policy is implemented by the NBCC staff, more than 25 percent of whom, including the president, are licensed and/or certified counselors. This ensures that we maintain a strong connection with the counseling field. In addition, NBCC assessments are created by a committee of distinguished counseling professionals who review current questions, revise content, and design future questions.

NBCC certification recognizes those who have voluntarily completed predetermined requirements.

The National Certified Counselor (NCC) is the flagship counselor credential. NCCs must possess a master's degree or higher with a major study in counseling, complete coursework in eight specified content areas, document supervised counseling experience, and achieve a passing score on a national counselor assessment. The NCC and the Master Addictions Counselor (MAC) are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the nation's leader in setting quality standards for credentialing organizations.

Becoming certified by NBCC is not a one-time event.

Maintaining your NCC credential signifies continuous commitment to excellence in counseling. NCCs agree to follow NBCC's Code of Ethics, pay an annual maintenance fee, and complete 100 hours of continuing education every five years in order to maintain certification. The NBCC Code of Ethics provides guidelines for practicing counselors and serves as a resource for those who have concerns about a particular counselor or services received. If anyone has an ethical concern about an NCC, he or she is encouraged to contact NBCC. NBCC's Ethics Officer, an experienced counselor, is available to answer questions and address concerns.

Attaining national certification through NBCC enhances your career and serves as a source of pride.

Counselors holding national certification distinguish themselves as

committed professionals who maintain close ties with the standards set by the counseling profession for the counseling profession. Not to be confused with voluntary NCC certification, counselor licensure is required for private practice in most states

State legislators define licensure through statutes and determine who may identify themselves as professional counselors (title law) and/or who may practice counseling (practice law). Once set, licensure laws rarely change. State licensure and national certification each serve important functions and share essential indicators of professional counselor competency. These indicators are education, supervision, experience, practicum/internships, and examinations. Every state that licenses counselors includes an NBCC assessment among their requirements for counselor credentialing. State licensure helps the public identify those professionals who are permitted to independently practice counseling in their locale while national certification provides a common professional standard among all states.

Currently, 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam regulate the counseling profession. In these locales, counselors intending to practice independently must complete the state legislated process. NBCC has worked closely with state and national partners to encourage the enactment of licensure laws. State legislatures in Hawaii and New York most recently adopted counselor licensure statutes. Work is under way in California and Nevada,

NBCC: Working for You

From Page 6

the only remaining states without counselor licensure laws.

NBCC provides opportunities to promote your counseling practice.

National certification serves counselors as individuals as well as the unified profession.

NCCs are encouraged to list their business contact information and areas of practice in "CounselorFind," NBCC's online roster of participating certificate holders. This referral service allows clients and peers to search for qualified counselors who practice in another area and encourages the utilization of professionals who commit to following a well-defined set of professional guidelines and ethics. CounselorFind may also be used to locate a counselor for someone out of town who is interested in counseling. It is also extremely helpful during times of natural or man-made disaster (e.g., Hurricane Katrina, 9/11 terrorist attacks).

The growing number of certified counselors allows for a larger unified voice when reaching out to legislators. As the profession grows, more counselors desire employment with the military or other government agencies. Increased awareness for reimbursement through Medicare and private insurers is another hot topic. NBCC continues to advocate on behalf of certificate holders with regard to these issues. In fact, NBCC is opening an office in Alexandria, VA, for the purpose of facilitating federal advocacy efforts. Our presence in the DC area will help us share information about your skills and knowledge with legislators and legislative staff.

Following the 2006 election, the balance of power on Capitol Hill shifted. Newly elected senators and representatives will be sworn into the 110th Congress. New leaders of both chambers and shifts in the membership of congressional committees offer new opportunities for the counseling profession.

In the coming months, NBCC will reach out to newly elected officials and their staff to highlight the importance of the counseling profession and credentialing. **We need your help!** Legislators and staff need to hear from their constituents about key issues. While policy makers are generally receptive to national organizations, they are responsible to the people who elect them. We encourage you as professional certified counselors to become more involved in state and federal initiatives regarding counseling. NBCC periodically e-mails information regarding current legislative efforts to NCCs. You can support NBCC's efforts by communicating with key decision makers including your senators and congresspersons. There are a variety of ways to become involved including writing letters, visiting and phoning your representatives' district offices, etc. Some certificate holders have had successful discussions with legislators at the grocery store, places of worship, at the gym, and in other areas of daily life.

Feel like you would not know what to say? You are not alone; a lot of people are intimidated or disillusioned by our system of government. Please remember that legislators cannot act on your behalf if they do not hear from you. Most are hungry for contact with their constituents and do not expect you to be political experts. What they need from you is the

expertise that you have gained through your advanced level of education, national certification, professional experience, and from interacting with other counseling professionals.

NBCC will work in partnership with you to help others understand the value of qualified counselors and the services they provide. If you are not receiving e-mail from us, we do not have your correct e-mail address. Please update your contact information (particularly your e-mail addresses) through myNBCC so we can keep you informed. We invite you to become involved. NBCC's advocacy staff is eager to talk with you.

VOLUNTARY AUDITS

As of January 5, 2007, the following NCCs have passed the NBCC® Voluntary Audit for special recognition in continuing education. While 100 hours of continuing education are required for recertification, these NCCs have completed and documented more than 130 hours in the five-year certification period. NBCC salutes them!

Christine A. Breier, Naperville, IL
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Luna E. Smith, Naples, FL
Janice R. Tosto, New York, NY

If you are interested in applying for a voluntary audit, go to www.nbcc.org/audit and click on "Download the Voluntary Recognition Audit" form.

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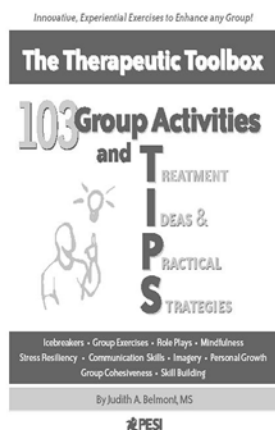
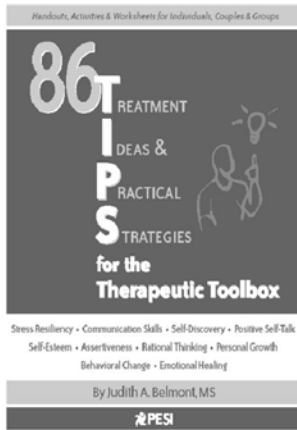
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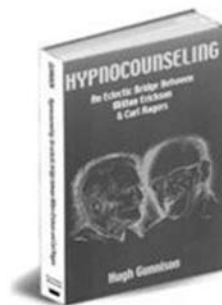
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Hypnocounseling, An eclectic bridge between Milton Erickson & Carl Rogers

Hugh Gunnison, Crown House Publishing Ltd., 2004



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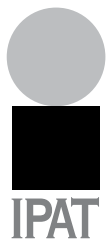


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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ADRIAN GOULBOURNE, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

“NBCC’s mission, in the simplest of terms, is to certify counselors and protect the public,” says Adrian Goulbourne, NBCC’s new director of information technology (IT). “Our mission in IT is to provide the technology that enables NBCC to efficiently accomplish the mission of the organization.”



Adrian Goulbourne

With more than 20 years of IT experience, most recently as a senior project manager for the U.S. Postal Service International Business Group in the Washington, DC area, Goulbourne was ready for a change in both business and locale. He was attracted to NBCC by the opportunity to be involved in an organization committed to making a difference globally in the field of mental health. “Challenge makes me want to get up in the morning and come to the office,” he says. “If the technology is not fully meeting the business requirement, let’s find what will. If the technology is broken, let’s fix it. In accepting the challenge of the transition to Greensboro, I also accepted the NBCC challenge of making a difference.”

“I’ve traveled a lot in my career.” Goulbourne explains. “Traveling has helped me gain a broad perspective on the life differences that can be found by just crossing borders. I’ve come to recognize that no matter the border there is still the need for mental and physical health. NBCC is working to establish ways to help people not only in

“WE WANT THE NBCC WEB SITE TO BE ONE OF THE BOOKMARKS ON THEIR BROWSER.”

the U.S. but also across borders. I have signed on to be a part of that team.”

In his first meeting with NBCC staff, Goulbourne promised that IT would not inflict technology on NBCC and that he would listen and do his best to provide what the organization needed.

“Understanding counselors and the counseling profession is imperative in providing the IT tools to best support them. The role of IT within NBCC is to support the organization and the people it serves. In order to do that, IT must be able to meet the organizational requirements, not drive the requirements.” Even though he is not a counselor, Goulbourne demonstrates skills that are familiar to the profession. He allows time for the individual to process what is said, listens well, and often reflects back what he has heard.

While continuing to gain an understanding of what NBCC does and how it’s done, Goulbourne has begun to explore how technology can assist in making NBCC more effective. “We see two primary areas to start,” Goulbourne explains. “The first is how NBCC collects and utilizes data. An example of that might be learning how people use the NBCC Web site and get to the information they are seeking. The second is how NBCC connects with people. Are we providing people the ability to communicate with us? Is the data that they are seeking accessible and

Take Advantage of myNBCC and CounselorFind

NCCs can go to **myNBCC** (from www.nbcc.org) to update their contact information and provide details about their areas of practice.

CounselorFind provides potential clients and other counselors seeking referrals easy access to the business contact information of participating NCCs.

To participate in CounselorFind:

1. Log onto myNBCC.
2. Add business contact information to your profile.
3. Indicate your areas of specialization to assist prospective clients and other counselors seeking referrals.

easy to find? This is exciting territory. The goal is to make every user comfortable visiting our Web site, regardless of their level of technological proficiency.”

Goulbourne and NBCC have a number of ideas about how technology can help NCCs, future counselors, and people seeking counseling services. Over the next months and years, many of these ideas will become realities. “We want the NBCC Web site to be one of the bookmarks on their browser.”

One future goal is to launch a job-listing service. NBCC frequently receives notification of open counseling positions. An easy-to-access online listing will benefit counselors, employers, and prospective clients.

When asked what he would like to say to NCCs, Goulbourne replied, “Communicate with us. Keep your contact information up-

Call for NBCC and CCE Board Nominations

The NBCC and CCE Boards will each have director positions open July 1, 2007. Terms of office vary from three to five years. Interested NCCs are strongly encouraged to apply. Additional information and nominations packets may be obtained from our Web site, www.nbcc.org, or from our FAX-on-Demand Line at 1-800-324-6222; request document number 6001.

Completed nomination packets MUST be received no later than March 15, 2007.

NBCC and Affiliates value differences in background, perspective, beliefs, and traditions in order to represent a diverse constituency offering exemplary and viable counseling services. We seek NCC applicants who represent as many experiential backgrounds as possible.

Adrian Goulbourne

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to-date through myNBCC. Sharing this information provides NBCC with the ability to help you and your ability to reach others. Ensuring correct information on CounselorFind provides an easy way for others to reach you. One of our goals is to be a counselor information resource. We also intend to provide a mechanism whereby you can provide us with information to share with others. We want people to get to know us from the time they think about a career in counseling and to stay engaged with us throughout their career. We want your suggestions. There are NCCs with years of experience who can help newcomers find their way. My goal is to help shine a light on NCCs and the counseling profession.”

NCC NETWORK

- **Judith Barr, NCC, CCMHC**, of Brookfield, CT, has published a new book, *Power Abused, Power Healed*. The book weaves fairy tales with current life events and reveals teachings about the misuse and abuse of power—and the healing that is possible. For more information, visit www.PowerAbusedPowerHealed.com.
- **Judith A. Belmont, NCC**, of Allentown, PA, recently published two therapeutic handbooks, *86 TIPS and Tools for the Therapeutic Toolbox* and *103 Group Activities and TIPS*. TIPS is an acronym for Treatment Ideas and Practical Strategies. To order, visit www.worksiteinsights.com or www.pesi.com.
- **Georgie Bright Kunkel, NCC retired**, of Seattle, WA, has co-authored, with husband Norman C. Kunkel, *WWII Liberator's Life: AFS Ambulance Driver Chooses Peace*. A story of liberation and love based on letters the Kunkels wrote during WWII when Norman was in the private AFS ambulance corps in India/Burma, Italy, Paris on VE Day, and helping to liberate survivors from Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. To purchase, send \$25 including tax and mailing to Georgie Kunkel, 3409 SW Trenton St., Seattle, WA. For more information, see the archives at www.afs.org or e-mail gnkunkel@comcast.net.
- **Jeffrey Chernin, NCC, MAC**, of Los Angeles, CA, has completed his second book *Get Closer: A Gay Man's Guide to Intimacy and Relationships*. This step-by-step guide helps gay men (single or in a relationship) maintain an intimate, long-term relationship. To order, visit www.Alyson.com. For more information: e-mail JNChernin@AOL.com.
- **Kathy Dietz, NCC**, of Kennebunk, ME, recently published *Emotion Commotion*. This book of children's poems and activities helps children ages five and up explore their emotions. It can be ordered online at www.depotpublishing.com. For more information, write to Depot Publishing, 12 Depot St., Kennebunk, ME 04043.
- **Sally Gelardin, NCC**, of Greenbrae, CA, recently edited *Starting and Growing a Business in the New Economy*, the first of a series of monographs published by the National Career Development Association. The entrepreneur monograph is a guide that brings together the expertise of leading career professionals who both counsel others and have grown their own businesses. To order, visit www.ncda.org or call 1-866-FOR-NCDA.
- **Vicky Whipple, NCC**, of Elgin, IL, recently published *Lesbian Widows: Invisible Grief*, in which she relates her original qualitative research on widowed lesbians. To order: visit www.haworthpress.com or www.amazon.com. Whipple was also honored at an Illinois Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) authors' reception in Springfield, IL.

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH CONGRESS: FOCUS ON THE NEVER SERVED

The first international conference sponsored by NBCC International (NBCC-I) was held on October 23–24, 2006, in New Delhi, India. Sixty-eight participants from 25 countries attended this invitation-only event including leaders from counseling associations, ministers of health, ministers of education, and leaders from institutions such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

This two-day event featured a wide range of topics related to counseling and mental health issues. Two keynote speakers launched each day's sessions. Dr. Benedetto Saraceno (WHO) advocated for programs that improve access to mental health care and, at the same time, are cost-effective. Harriet Mayor Fulbright (J. William & Harriet Fulbright Center) focused on education's importance for communities worldwide and education's foundation for promoting other aspects of community health.

In other presentations:

- Dr. Thomas Collins (NBCC-I's Board Chair) presented NBCC-I's goals to improve access to mental health care while also taking steps to assure that services are of high quality.

- Dr. R. Srinivasa Murthy (Professor of Psychiatry (retired) and NBCC-I Board member) discussed mental health needs in the Middle East and Indian subcontinent and contributions counselors can make to improve mental health.

- Dr. J. Scott Hinkle (NBCC-I) and Dr. Shekhar Saxena (WHO) provided an update on the joint

NBCC International/WHO *Atlas: Country Resources for Counselling*.

- Dr. Lakshmi Vijayakumar (VHS Hospital and Indian Institute of Technology; WHO International Network for Suicide Prevention and Research) spoke about cost-effective community-based interventions that have been used to reduce the incidence of suicide in India.

- Dr. Hinkle, Dr. Stanley P. Kutcher (Dalhousie University), and Dr. Sonia Chehil (Dalhousie University) discussed the developing curriculum, training, and service provision framework for the Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) credential.

This congress brought together mental health experts and policy makers from around the world to identify and address core issues related to mental health services including the critical need for mental health services, resources that currently exist, and possible solutions to increase access. NBCC-I continues to work with WHO on a variety of projects including the MHF credential and the *ATLAS: Resources for Counselling 2007*.

Preventing Suicide: A Resource for Counsellors is now complete and available in six languages.

ATLAS: Resources for Counselling 2007

Dr. Hinkle and Dr. Saxena presented preliminary data for this project, which involves mapping the profession of counseling worldwide. NBCC-I continues to gather data, and the *ATLAS* publication is scheduled for release in 2007.

Mental Health Facilitator

Drs. Hinkle, Kutcher, and Chehil described steps in the development of this project, including plans for training and service provisions in the immediate future. In addition, a scheduled "town-hall" style meeting allowed participants to provide feedback on plans for MHF development.

The staff of NBCC-I is honored to have organized, sponsored and taken part in this event with our distinguished guests. We are looking forward to working on projects currently underway while developing new ideas for the future.

Global Mental Health Congress: Focus on the Never Served Countries Represented



What Do You Do?

From Page 5

coursework. As our department chair, Dick Hackney, has said, “Focus on the work and the grades will come.”

NBCC: Do you have advice for counselors thinking about pursuing a doctorate?

JR: First, be mindful of the many foci that a doctoral student should have: from class and homework, to graduate assistantships/work, to supervising master’s students, teaching classes, doing personal research, and preparing to present at regional and national conferences. I strongly encourage potential applicants to get to know the faculty and current doctoral students at the programs in which they are most interested. Each department has its own culture, and given all of the pressure we put on ourselves, it’s important to feel as comfortable as possible with the people around you.

NBCC: What are your plans post-PhD?

JR: That question makes me laugh—so much needs to happen before I graduate! I hope to be a college counseling center director one day. I learned so much from my former director at Wake Forest, and I believe I would really enjoy the program management component of it. However, I won’t rule out teaching. As you can see, there is so much out there from which to choose. I’m just excited about all the potential possibilities.

NCC CORNER

To Renew or Not to Renew?

When your annual bill for the certification maintenance fee for your NCC credential arrives, you may find yourself asking, “Why should I renew my national certification?” If you have ever asked this question, we have several answers for you:

- Your NCC credential tells clients and potential employers that you have met national standards for your profession.
- The NCC credential can assist you in getting liability insurance from the Lockton company. (See our Web site at www.nbcc.org).
- NBCC’s lobbyist in Washington is advocating for your right to bill Medicaid and other federal insurance programs.
- NBCC’s primary mission is promoting the counseling profession and advancing its excellence. Certification with NBCC connects you and your profession in a way that no other credential can.

NBCC is working every day to promote the NCC credential and all the specialty credentials throughout the U.S. and around the world in order to increase the public’s awareness and understanding of our profession and standards. Safeguard the one credential that stands for quality, growth, and expansion in the counseling profession. Send in your annual fee as soon as you receive your bill.

Leadership Can Earn You CE Hours

Are you leading a state or national grassroots advocacy effort on behalf of NCCs or the counseling profession? Leadership in the counseling profession can earn you up to 20 CE hours for recertification. See your NBCC CE File folder for details or visit www.nbcc.org/guidelines. If you wish to claim these hours for CE credit, but are unsure if your activity qualifies, please e-mail a brief statement about your advocacy efforts to recertification@nbcc.org.

CE PROVIDER UPDATE

Newly Approved Continuing Education Providers

AIICEUs.com, Alachua, FL, #6261

Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE, #4516

Catholic Services of Macomb, Clinton Township, MI, #6263

CEU-USA.com/Thomas O. Whitehead, El Campo, TX, #6262

EEG Spectrum International, Inc., Conoga Park, CA, #6260

Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC, #4514

Intensive Trauma Therapy, Inc. (ITT), Morgantown, WV, #6272

Mid-Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis, New York, NY, #6268

Mountain State Counselors Alliance, Ridgeley, WV, #6267

Nancy Newport, LPC, PC, Fairfax, VA, #6265

Park Street Counseling, Canton, NY, #6266

Prescott College, Prescott, AZ, #4517

Thought Field Therapy, Inc., Honolulu, HI, #6269

William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ, #4515

CCE UPDATE

The Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE) is an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. CCE is a management services company specializing in credential development, association and board management services, test development, application review, measurement services, and the administration of specialty credentials, including the Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF), Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS), and Distance Credentialed Counselor (DCC).

■ **The South Carolina Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psycho-Educational Specialists** recently renewed its contract with CCE to provide application review services for the state's Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) credentials. In its correspondence with CCE, the Board applauded changes in the CCE Web site, noting that "It looks great and is very self-explanatory. You made the requested application changes and even took it a step further. Thanks for all that you do. It has been a pleasure working with all of you."

■ **The Mental Health Licensing section of the Colorado Division of Registrations** has contracted with CCE to process the education equivalency review for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) application. The contract went into effect on January 1, 2007.

■ CCE continues its longtime relationship with **ReadyMinds** and will launch the Distance Credentialed Facilitator (DCF) certification in early 2007. Upon completion of the online DCF training course, developed by ReadyMinds, current Global Career Development Facilitators (GCDFs) will automatically qualify for the certification. (See story on page 4.)

■ Recently, CCE launched a new partnership with **The Workforce Development Professionals Network (WDPN)**, creating the High Performance Career Development Programming (HPCD) and Centers of Excellence (CoE) Program Accreditation. This project encourages continuous quality improvement among peer programs offering workforce development, adult education, school or private career centers, or one-stop career centers, thereby fostering best practices. Numerical benchmarks have been identified which will facilitate effective comparisons among participating programs.

To learn more about CCE's management services, please visit www.cce-global.org or call 336-482-2856.

NBCC's Counseling Advocacy Coordinator Involved in Nevada Legislative Training

Kristi McCaskill, NCC, NCSC, counseling advocacy coordinator for NBCC, participated in a legislative training for the Nevada Counseling Association in December. The training prepared association members for the grass roots work necessary to support the licensure effort in Nevada. State Senator Joe Heck is introducing the bill in the 2007 Nevada legislative session. An emergency care physician, Heck became involved in the counselor licensure issue due to his frustration with the lack of mental health care resources available in the state. Other training team members were ACA Executive Director Richard Yep, Director of Public Policy Scott Barstow, and AMHCA Director of Public Policy and Professional Issues Beth Powell.

Counselor licensure legislation is expected to be a topic during legislative hearings and committee votes in February. Nevada NCCs are encouraged to become involved in this effort as Nevada is one of the remaining two states not licensing counselors. NBCC has been promoting a licensure effort in Nevada for some time. Please contact Kristi McCaskill at mccaskill@nbcc.org for more information.

Got News?

If you would like to submit an item for NCCs of NOTE or NCC NETWORK, please refer to the guidelines and deadlines on our Web site: www.nbcc.org/newsletter/guidelines.

nbcc

**Exhibit Hall Booth #415
adjacent to the ACA Bookstore**

VISIT

- Pick up your NCC/specialty ribbons
- Meet staff members Susan Shafer, Kristi McCaskill, Mona Olds
- Obtain information relevant to NCCs and future NCCs
- Enter drawing for an iPod and other prizes
- Learn about liability insurance discounts
- Take home a calendar
- Receive updates on legislative issues

at ACA

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the NCC and the MAC—are
accredited by the
National Commission for
Certifying Agencies.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS (VA) OPENING UP TO COUNSELORS

In December 2006, President George W. Bush signed PL 109-461 into law. For the first time, licensed mental health counselors will be recognized as mental health specialists by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA). In addition, the new law:

- Increases access to care for veterans.
- Authorizes \$180 million for the provision of readjustment counseling and related mental health services provided at VA Vet Centers.
- Boosts the number of clinicians, including mental health counselors, treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Authorizes \$2 million for VA community-based outpatient clinics to support mental health services.
- Expands access to bereavement counseling.

With the enactment of this provision, the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will create a General Schedule (GS) occupational classification for counselors, paving the way for better paying jobs and promotional opportunities for mental health counselors.

Over the years, NCCs have worked with the VA and related organizations to raise the consciousness of their legislators about this issue. NBCC appreciates these efforts and applauds the accomplishment.



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