



THE NATIONAL CERTIFIED COUNSELOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFIED COUNSELORS

IN THIS ISSUE...

NBCC UPDATE

Promoting Better Services.....	1
NBCC's Involvement in Creating International Assessment Standards.....	2

Government Affairs

• Update	3
• Year-in-Review	7

Ethics Department:

Disciplinary Actions	6
----------------------------	---

NCC Corner:.....

• Voluntary Audits	8
• New CE Providers	

Practice Research Network Expresses Gratitude	8
---	---

NBCC on the Move	10
------------------------	----

NCC Network	21
-------------------	----

NBCC and the 2011 ACA Conference.....	21
---------------------------------------	----

NBCC INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

MHF Update.....	2
2010 Year-in-Review.....	4
Counseling Events in the Americas	10

CENTER FOR CREDENTIALING & EDUCATION (CCE) UPDATE

2010 Year-In-Review.....	5
--------------------------	---

NBCC FOUNDATION UPDATE

2009 NBCCF Scholarship Recipient Close-ups.....	17
Honorary and Memorial Donations... ..	19
Individual Donations.....	19
Year-in-Review.....	20

Promoting Better Services: Collaborating With the Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa on Technology

In April 2010, while NBCC International (NBCC-I) staff members were visiting the Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA), its director, Kenneth Hamwaka, expressed concern about the center's outdated and faulty equipment, and the need for computer training for the staff.



Bob Henegar presents laptops as gifts to GCYDCA staff and MHF trainers.

NBCC-I proposed that a member of NBCC/NBCC-I's Department of Information Technology (IT) travel to Lilongwe, Malawi, where GCYDCA is headquartered, to collaborate with Mr. Hamwaka and the center's staff. Bob

Henegar, NBCC and Affiliates' IT manager, volunteered to travel to Lilongwe to provide IT assistance and instruction.

While in Lilongwe, Mr. Henegar worked to repair the GCYDCA computer systems and bring them as close to up-to-date as possible. He led a class in the use of Microsoft Office to create newsletters for Mental Health Facilitators. He also worked with GCYDCA staff to explore new ways to expand outreach and deliver their message to a larger audience using the Internet.

"It was truly a life changing opportunity in so many ways," says Mr. Henegar of his time in Malawi. "In my many years with NBCC, I've always known what we do is good and important work, but as a part of the IT staff I've been somewhat removed from it. This has driven home how important what we do really is."



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

NBCC's Involvement in Creating International Assessment Standards

In 2007, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) began to lead the development of international assessment standards. ISO is a very well-respected international organization that sets standards for business, government and society, using a creation process that includes wide representation from the appropriate professions when drafting standards related to that profession.

The Association of Test Publishers (ATP) invited NBCC to become a member of its Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which would be involved in representing the interests of professionals in the United States and would assist in drafting solid international standards. NBCC has had a long positive relationship with ATP and asked Dr. James Sampson, a counselor educator from Florida State University and an assessment consultant with NBCC since 1986, to be their representative on the committee.

Over the past four years, multiple international meetings have been held to draft these standards. Dr. Sampson has continuously advocated for standards based on proven competencies and not on having a specific professional credential or specific degree. This is the same stance for which both NBCC and the Fair Access Coalition on Testing (FACT; www.fairaccess.org), a multidisciplinary coalition sponsored by NBCC, have historically advocated.

The draft standards, titled *Standards for Assessment Service Delivery—Procedures and Methods to Assess People in Work and Organizational Settings*, were completed at the end of 2010 and have been submitted to ISO for final edits and approval. Once ISO responds, the draft will be released for public comment. (Both NBCC and FACT will take part in this comment period.) The draft includes

- competencies required for professionals to administrate assessments, and
- responsibilities of both the service provider and the clients.

“I was very pleased to represent NBCC in the creation of these standards,” said Dr. Sampson. “Having a competency-based approach in limiting access to assessments better protects the public while also ensuring broad access to the assessment services that individuals need.”

NBCC is pleased to have had this opportunity to represent the interests of NCCs and the U.S. counseling profession in drafting international assessment standards.

MHF UPDATE

The Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program continues to grow and help to meet the mental health needs of underserved citizens in different regions of the world. The following is a list of the most recent trainings of trainers and master trainings offered.

- A training of trainers was held in Puchong, Selangor, Malaysia, in August 2010, in partnership with Turning Point Integrated Wellness. Twenty participants from a variety of backgrounds obtained their registration as MHFs and as trainers.
- A master training was held in Penang, Malaysia, in August 2010, in partnership with USAINS Holding Sendirian Berhad. NBCC International (NBCC-I) is pleased to add Dr. Zainal Ariffin Ahmad, Dr. Azlinda Azman, Dr. Ismael Baba and Dr. See Ching Mey to the registry of master trainers.
- A master training was held in Greensboro, North Carolina, in September 2010. Nine participants were trained and registered as master trainers. NBCC-I is pleased to welcome Mr. Phil Clarke, Mr. Anthony Dotson, Ms. Bella Kiteki, Ms. Cristina Lima, Ms. Ali O’Dea, Fr. Peter Siamoo, Dr. June Ann Smith, Dr. Daniel Williamson and Dr. Jennifer Williamson as MHF master trainers.
- The fourth master training at NBCC headquarters is scheduled for April 2011. All available slots for this training are filled, and there are plans to have another master training in summer 2011.

We look forward to additional partnerships and more training opportunities in 2011 and beyond.

New Law Directs TRICARE Independent Practice Authority for Counselors

On January 7, 2011, President Obama signed legislation that directs the secretary of defense to implement regulations authorizing counselors to practice independently under TRICARE by June 20, 2011. This major success was the result of many years of hard work by NBCC, the American Counseling Association (ACA), the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) and committed counselors.

The congressional mandate was included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which authorizes the Department of Defense's fiscal year 2011 funding. On December 17, 2010, the House passed the NDAA (H.R. 6523), which was the product of negotiations between the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. The Senate passed an amended version of H.R. 6523 on December 22, which the House approved by unanimous consent on the same day. The president signed the NDAA on January 7, 2011.

The new law is the first phase in final regulations to allow counselors to practice independently. The law directs the Department of Defense to prepare regulations that will determine the criteria for independent practice. Section 724 of the law, entitled Licensed Mental Health Counselors and the TRICARE Program, states in full:

Not later than June 20, 2011, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe the regulations required by

section 717 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1073 note).

Earlier versions of the NDAA had counselor language as well, but neither the House nor Senate version was identical to the final law. The House NDAA was similar, in that it included language directing the Department of Defense to implement regulations allowing counselors to practice independently, but it was a "sense of Congress" and therefore not binding. The Senate NDAA included statutory language adding licensed mental health counselors to the list of independent practitioners under TRICARE, but it required compliance with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) criteria, which included a mental health counseling degree from a CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs)-accredited program, and passage of the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE).

Congress chose not to include the IOM recommendations in the NDAA after lobbying by NBCC, ACA and AMHCA. The groups successfully convinced the committee leadership that including the IOM criteria in law would tie the hands of the Defense Department and require congressional action for future changes. While the law does not require a degree from a CACREP program, passage of any particular national exam or any other IOM criteria, it is not the final phase of implementation. The Defense Department regulations will establish the standards for independent

practice, and according to the new law, should be completed by June 20, 2011.

NBCC has requested a meeting with TRICARE staff to discuss the profession and encourage regulations that include a wide swath of qualified counselors. Ultimately, the Defense Department will have complete control over the final regulations. Similar to the VA, we likely will not know what is in the regulations until they are released to the public. Counselors will not be eligible to practice independently in TRICARE until the regulations are fully implemented. NBCC will be doing whatever it can to ensure inclusive standards.

Implementation of the VA Law Continues

NBCC continues to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to promote the employment of counselors within the VA. NBCC sent a joint letter with ACA and AMHCA urging revisions to the counselor qualification standard, including a grandparenting provision for counselors who do not meet the new standards but have years of clinical experience, and acceptance of a doctoral degree from a CACREP-accredited program as a qualifying degree (currently, only master's degrees are recognized).

Implementation of the law has been slow, but it does appear to be occurring. NBCC identified a couple of job postings for mental health counselors within the VA, although many postings are still

Continued on page 6

NBCC INTERNATIONAL 2010 YEAR-IN-REVIEW



NBCC International (NBCC-I) enjoyed an exciting and very productive year. One of the most exciting developments included the addition of one full-time staff member to the NBCC-I staff. Adriana Petrini joined NBCC-I in July 2010 as the international programs coordinator.

Professional counseling certifications continued to develop in collaborating countries, and the Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program continued to grow. In 2010, NBCC and NBCC-I staff traveled to approximately 12 countries worldwide to further develop collaborations, discuss future ones, learn about counseling development in each country and introduce NBCC-I's work. Below are some of the highlights of the year.

Professional counseling certification:

- Venezuela created grandparenting requirements for the NCC-Venezuela and awarded the first 32 national certifications to highly accomplished and experienced counselors.
- Italy began discussing an NCC project with the European Board for Certified Counselors (EBCC), another division of NBCC, and NBCC-I.
- Counseling professionals in three countries (Argentina, Jamaica, Mexico) continued to develop country-specific professional counseling certification.

MHF program:

- In March 2010, Lott Carey Baptist Mission School in Monrovia, Liberia, began an MHF program by training MHF trainers.
- NBCC-I began training and registering master trainers to assist in developing and growing the MHF program. A total of 30 master trainers were trained at NBCC headquarters and registered.
- Mexico and Germany continued to develop their MHF programs through ongoing trainings.
- Other recent updates regarding the MHF program can be found in the article titled "MHF Update" in this newsletter.

Other collaborations (formal and informal):

- NBCC-I was present for the founding of the Malawi Counseling Association in Lilongwe and assisted in sponsoring its first counseling conference.
- NBCC-I assisted the Pan American Health Organization in gathering information on NCCs who might be interested in working in Haiti.
- NBCC-I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women)—founded by Her Majesty, Queen Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck, of Bhutan—to collaborate in developing the counseling profession in that country.
- NBCC-I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with USAINS, the commercial arm of Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang, Malaysia, to create NBCC Malaysia.
- Dr. George Vera, professor of counseling at Zulia University in Maracaibo, Venezuela, and one of the leaders in creating the NCC-Venezuela certification, worked at NBCC headquarters as an international counselor in residence for two months.
- At the request of the Botswana Counseling Association (BCA), NBCC-I organized an internal review of draft counseling legislation created by BCA.
- Two representatives from Cuba, interested in developing counseling in their country, visited NBCC, CACREP and counseling programs to exchange information and discuss potential future collaborations.

NBCC-I looks forward to continued growth and exciting developments in 2011.



The Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE), an affiliate of NBCC, has been growing and expanding services for more than 15 years. The following are some recent developments.

CCE newsletter

The final GCDF Connection was published in Winter 2011. It will be replaced later this year by an inclusive newsletter for all of CCE's credential holders. In addition to Global Career Development Facilitators (GCDFs), the expanded audience will include Distance Credentialed Counselors (DCCs), Distance Credentialed Facilitators (DCFs), Human Services-Board Certified Practitioners (HS-BCPs), Board Certified Coaches (BCCs), Thinking for a Change Certified Facilitators (T4C-CFs) and Approved Clinical Supervisors (ACSSs). The newsletter will include information useful to individuals holding each specific credential, as well as more general information that will foster the professional growth of all readers. We look forward to providing this expanded service.

BCC (Board Certified Coach)

CCE introduced a new international coaching certification last year. The master's degree entry portal is especially suited for former mental health clinicians whose career path has led to professional coaching. In November 2010, the first applicants under the inaugural application process were credentialed.

Applications postmarked by December 31, 2011, will be reviewed under the inaugural requirements, and applicants will be required to take the examination; however, there will not be a pass/fail score. Information derived from the exam performance of inaugural applicants will be instrumental in the norming of the examination. The inaugural application is available at www.cce-global.org/Downloads/Apps/BCCapp.pdf.

HS-BCP (Human Services-Board Certified Practitioner)

The norming process for the HS-BCP examination was completed in 2010, with more than 1,800 human services practitioners taking the examination. There are currently nearly 1,900 fully certified HS-BCPs working in all levels of the human services profession. The current application is available at www.cce-global.org/Downloads/Apps/HS-BCPapp.pdf.

DCC (Distance Credentialed Counselor)

An online alternative to the two-day in-person training was developed in 2010, and its pilot phase is nearing completion. ReadyMinds, the exclusive training provider for the DCC credential, has received many positive comments from seasoned counseling professionals regarding the content and format of the new training. The training not only meets the training requirement for the DCC credential, but also provides NBCC-approved continuing education for participants. More information regarding the DCC credential is available at www.cce-global.org/DCC.

i-counseling

In 2010, the Missouri Committee for Professional Counselors began offering its legal and ethical responsibilities examination to Missouri licensure applicants via CCE's i-counseling Web site. In addition to laws and rules examinations for state licensure boards, i-counseling also provides NBCC-approved continuing education via an online platform. More information regarding i-counseling is available at www.i-counseling.net.

Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE)

More than 8,000 students took the CPCE in 2010. Last September, CCE launched a secure browser-based portal—accessible from anywhere in the world—that allows representatives from participating universities to access documents and score results for their students.

Across the United States and abroad, more than 290 counseling programs have adopted the CPCE. It is designed to assess students' knowledge of counseling information considered important by counselor preparation programs. More information regarding the CPCE is available at www.cce-global.org/Org/CPCE.

GCDF (Global Career Development Facilitator)

The GCDF certification program was introduced in Taiwan and Cyprus in 2010. The initial phase of certification development was also completed in Macedonia, with the first 31 individuals being certified. These countries now join Bulgaria, Canada, China, Germany, Greece, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Romania, Turkey and the United States in offering career development services tailored to the specific needs of their country's labor market. Career development professionals play an integral role in helping students and other individuals enhance their employability skills, fulfill their potential and make better career decisions. NCCs are eligible to apply for GCDF certification upon completion of the 120-hour training and verification of 1,400 clock hours of career development-related experience. More information regarding the GCDF program is available at www.cce-global.org/GCDF.

Continued from page 3

limited to social workers. NBCC has been urging the VA to increase education of its local facilities and administrators about hiring opportunities for counselors. In response to these requests, the VA has expressed a willingness to prepare a professional bulletin for counselors that can be shared internally and with the public. No details or timeframe for the publication have been provided, but it offers another step on the path to parity.

Medicare in 2011

The initiative to provide Medicare recognition of counselors is in a state of transition following the 2010 elections. The House and Senate sponsors of our Medicare legislation did not return, requiring us to find new champions in the 112th Congress. Our House sponsor, Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN), retired this year and our Senate sponsor, Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), lost in a competitive election. Both departures were anticipated, but still created challenges for moving the issue forward.

Since October, 2010, NBCC has attended many congressional meetings with representatives from ACA, AMHCA, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) in an effort to find new sponsors. The groups have met with offices of members on the committees or jurisdiction and have found several that are willing to explore a leadership role, although

no office has yet committed to champion. Once sponsors are found, the coalition will begin adding cosponsors and positioning the legislation for inclusion in any broader Medicare packages. Reports indicate that an opportunity may arise in the fall, although possibilities for earlier vehicles exist as well.

Federal Funding for the National Certified School Counselor

NBCC continues its effort to obtain federal funding for the National Certified School Counselor (NCSC). For decades, funding has been available for the school counselor certification issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), but not for the NCSC. NBCC has been meeting with congressional staff to educate them about the policy conflict and encourage recognition of both school counselor certifications.

The initiative is currently in a state of uncertainty as a result of the troubling economic climate and political budget disputes. The NBPTS funding was determined to be an earmark and was eliminated in the stopgap spending bill signed by President Obama on March 2, 2011. The funding elimination is only for this fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2011. However, it seems unlikely that it will be revived in the FY 2012 appropriations. The future of the funding will dictate NBCC strategy, but we will continue to work with congressional offices to ensure that whatever funding may survive includes the NCSC.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The following matters represent final outcomes by the NBCC ethics officer, ethics hearing committee or board ethics appeals committee in accordance with the NBCC *Code of Ethics* and *Ethics Case Procedures*.

Bakalis, Tina L., #64096, Arizona, voluntary certification suspension and two (2) year probation by agreement, following Arizona State Board of Behavioral Health Examiners issuance of a Consent Agreement suspending certificant's state licenses and imposing license probation and supervision based upon certificant's violation of state regulations governing the conduct of licensed professional counselors.

Schaeve, Lisa J., #228876, Colorado, public reprimand and one (1) year certification probation by agreement related to violations of Sections A.1, A.13, and A.16 of the NBCC *Code of Ethics* and Section A.7 of the *Ethics Case Procedures*.

Wenrich, Alan C, #77967, Pennsylvania, voluntary certification revocation following the Pennsylvania Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors action of temporarily suspending certificant's counseling license.

NBCC GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS 2010 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

The counseling profession reached significant policy milestones in 2010. Servicemembers and veterans were the primary beneficiaries as laws to increase access to counselors were passed and implemented. The profession also made progress on the most sweeping policy initiative—Medicare recognition.

TRICARE

After more than a decade of lobbying, Congress passed legislation authorizing counselors to practice independently under TRICARE. Counselors are the only core mental health discipline that requires a physician referral and supervision and the legislation puts the profession on par with social workers and marriage and family therapists. The new law directs the secretary of defense to implement regulations granting independent practice authority no later than June 20, 2011.

The effort to remove the referral and supervision requirements began in the late 1990s. In the FY2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Congress directed a demonstration project granting counselors independent practice authority in designated regions. RAND, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research institution, completed its report on the project in 2005 and found increased access to services with no adverse effects on treatment. In the FY2006, FY2007 and FY2008 NDAA, the House included language granting counselors the authority to practice independently. The Senate, however, did not include the provision. In the FY2008 NDAA, Congress passed legislation directing the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to study the issue.

In October 2009, Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL) introduced H.R. 3839 to remove the physician supervision and referral requirements. In February 2010, IOM issued its report, which recommended permitting counselors to practice independently under TRICARE and instituting a comprehensive quality management system for all mental health professionals. In March 2010, Sens. McCaskill (D-MO), Lieberman (I-CT) and Collins (R-ME) introduced S. 3371 to address the issue.

NBCC, the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) spent the next several months lobbying members and staff from the House and Senate Armed Services Committee to include language in the FY2011 NDAA authorizing counselors to practice independently under TRICARE. The House NDAA (H.R. 5136) included a “sense of Congress” directing regulations. The Senate NDAA (S. 3454) included statutory language removing the physician referral and supervision requirements, but mandating the IOM criteria.

A vigorous outreach effort convinced Armed Services Committee staff to remove the IOM criteria and incorporate statutory language directing new regulations into the final compromise NDAA (H.R. 6523). The House passed H.R. 6523 on December 17, 2010. The Senate amended and passed H.R. 6523 on December 22 and the House approved the amended bill on the same day. The president signed H.R. 6523 on January 7, 2011, thereby enacting legislation to grant

counselors independent practice authority under TRICARE.

VETERANS

On September 30, 2010, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released qualification standards establishing the criteria and authority for the hiring of licensed professional mental health counselors. The qualification standards were the final step in implementing the 2006 law (P.L. 109-461) adding counselors to the list of recognized mental health professions within the VA.

The qualification standards were disseminated nearly four years after S. 3421 was signed by President Bush in December 2006. NBCC, along with other counseling and marriage and family therapy (MFT) organizations, urged the VA to begin implementation, but had little success for three years. Only after involving congressional staff and meeting with Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration John Sepulveda did the development process begin. In late 2009, the VA established a Subject Matter Expert workgroup to prepare draft qualification standards for the profession and set a deadline of September 2010 for completion. NBCC monitored the process and provided information, but was not permitted direct access to the content. On September 30, 2010, the VA completed the qualification standards in accordance with its deadline and has begun hiring counselors—albeit slowly. NBCC continues to monitor the process and work with the VA to accelerate counselor integration.

Continued on page 9

NCC CORNER

Reminder to Board-Eligible NCCs: If you are fully and currently state licensed (LPC, LCPC, LMHC, LPCC, etc) you can use that to upgrade your NCC from board-eligible to fully certified. Just send a copy of your license and a printout of the online verification of your license—or a completed Verification of State Professional Counselor Credential form if your state does not have online verification— along with the board-eligible upgrade voucher and \$55. You can find the forms in the “Board-Eligible Upgrade Packet” on the NBCC Web site (www.nbcc.org).

Time to Recertify? Paid Online? You still need to send us your signed recertification form (plus continuing education (CE) documents if you were selected for audit).

VOLUNTARY AUDITS

The NCCs listed below have completed and documented a minimum of 130 hours of continuing education activities in the five-year certification cycle. By doing so, they have demonstrated a dedication to excellence and professionalism. NBCC congratulates these outstanding NCCs.

95880 Tracy Maddox Ocean Springs, MS
207177 Delories W. Porter Keithville, LA

NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Addiction Technology Transfer Center National Office, #6481, Kansas City, MO
Web site: www.ATTNetwork.org

Asheville Center for Group and Family Therapy, #6471, Asheville, NC

Integrative Life Center, #6483, Nashville, TN
Web site: www.integrativelifecenter.com

Lorrie Brubacher, M.Ed., MFT, #6488, Greensboro, NC
Web site: <http://lbrubacher.com/>

Love and Logic Institute, #6478, Golden, CO
Web site: www.loveandlogic.com

Mobile LPC Association, #6480, Mobile, AL
Web site: www.mlpcainfo.com

Northwest Resource Associates/Cascadia Training, #6475, Seattle
Web site: www.cascadia-training.org

Pamela Hayes, ATR-BC, MFT, #6482, Calabasas, CA
Web site: www.hayesarttherapy.com

Sakhu School of Psychology of Sankofa Psychological Svcs, #6451, Atlanta
Web site: <http://sankofapsi.com>

Sally Bowden-Schaible/Living Well, #6479, Westbrook, ME
Web site: www.livingwellcenter.info

The Love and Trauma Center, #648, Denver
Web site: www.loveandtrauma.com

Wake AHEC (Area Health Education Center), #6477, Raleigh, NC
Web site: www.wakeahec.org

Practice Research Network Expresses Gratitude to Counselors Who Volunteer to Participate in DSM-5 Field Trials

In October 2010, at the request of the Practice Research Network of the American Psychiatric Association for Research and Education (Practice Research Network), NBCC e-mailed counselors to let them know about an opportunity for practicing, licensed counselors to participate in the DSM-5 field trials. For the first time, licensed counselors were provided an opportunity to volunteer to participate in the DSM-5 field trials in clinical settings. A follow-up e-mail regarding participation was sent in February 2011.

The field trials focus primarily on the feasibility and clinical utility of

1. The proposed modifications to the diagnostic criteria for a broad range of disorders in the full range of clinical settings.
2. Cross-cutting and diagnostic-specific dimensional measures that are incorporated into the diagnostic scheme for DSM-5.

Practicing, licensed counselors must meet certain criteria in order to participate in the field trials. Counselors who are eligible and agree to participate will be asked to

- Complete approximately two hours of online training before enrolling patients or clients into the study.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 7

MEDICARE

In 2010, the counseling profession made progress in its effort to obtain Medicare recognition. The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation adding counselors to the list of Medicare providers, but the language did not make it through the Senate and into law. NBCC will be working with our coalition allies (ACA, AMHCA, AAMFT and CAMFT) to obtain approval in the 112th Congress.

The counselor Medicare effort was a small piece of the health reform initiative that captured the nation's attention. The language was originally included in the bill approved by the three House committees of jurisdiction (H.R. 3200). The language remained in the bill (H.R. 3962) when it passed the House floor on November 7, 2009. Unfortunately, the language was not incorporated into the Senate reform bill (H.R. 3950) that passed on December 24, 2009, nor the final law signed by President Obama on March 23, 2010. While Medicare recognition language failed to pass, other provisions in the health reform bill did benefit counselors, including behavioral workforce training grants and loan repayment programs available to counselors, and a nondiscrimination provision prohibiting insurers from discriminating against health care providers acting within the scope of their license.

Despite the outcome, the past year's work increased support for the legislation. Meetings with committee members and staff have revealed members from both parties and chambers who are interested in the

issue. The effort suffered a setback in losing its chief sponsors in the House and Senate, but there is early interest from several offices, and new champions will bring a fresh perspective and interest in the issue.

CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

On November 2, 2010, Republicans won a landmark election taking control of the U.S. House of Representatives and many state legislatures and governorships. The Democrats retained control of the U.S. Senate, but lost six seats and narrowed their majority.

Republicans gained 63 seats in the House of Representatives, giving them 242 to the Democrats' 193. Republicans also won seven governorships, obtaining control in 29 states. Additionally, Republicans won almost 700 state legislative seats, claiming 18 legislative chambers and outright control in 14 states. These state victories will have an impact on the national balance because many states are undertaking congressional redistricting this year.

While NBCC lost some supporters in the 2010 election, the change in Congress will not fundamentally change the way we address our issues. Counselor issues have always had bipartisan support and sponsors, and NBCC has worked with both sides of the aisle to promote our initiatives. We will be looking for champions from the majority party to take the lead in their respective chambers and will continue to move forward with our policy priorities.

Practice Research Network Expresses Gratitude to Counselors Who Volunteer to Participate in DSM-5 Field Trials

Continued from page 8

- Provide access to a computer, with an Internet connection, for both participant and clinician to use during study visits.
- Enroll one new and one existing patient or client in the study.
- Administer the DSM-5 study measures at an initial client visit and at a follow-up approximately four to 12 weeks later.

The Practice Research Network reports that overall the response has been good, and they asked that we let you know how much your participation in the DSM-5 field trials is appreciated.

If you are interested in volunteering to participate in these field trials, please go to www.dsm5.org/pages/registration.aspx and register to volunteer. Be sure to check the "Field Trials" box at the bottom of the online form. Once this is done, you should receive the eligibility survey. If you have any questions or concerns about the registration process and the eligibility criteria, you can e-mail the Practice Research Network at aparesearch@psych.org or call the toll-free number, 800-713-7123.

NBCC on the Move

NBCC is committed to advancing professional standards and annually attends, exhibits and/or presents at national and international counseling conferences. An additional bonus to attending these conferences is the opportunity to meet and share with our certificants, and other credentialing organizations and associations. Please visit with us at an upcoming event:

Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) 2011 Annual Conference
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
May 17–20, 2011
Conference Web site: www.ccpa-accp.ca/conference2011/

International Association for Counselling (IAC) 2011 Conference
Montego Bay, Jamaica
June 13–17, 2011
Conference Web site: www.iac-irtac.org/Welcome.html

American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) Annual Conference 2011
San Francisco
July 14–16, 2011
Conference Web site: www.amhca.org/member/annual_conference.aspx

Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Convention 2011:
Nashville, TN
October 26–30, 2011
Conference Web site: <http://acesonline.net/features.asp?feature-id=805608597>

Counseling Events in the Americas

Recently, NBCC International (NBCC-I) was honored to have the opportunity to attend two important events in Latin America.

VI Counseling Congress of the Americas and Asociación Mexicana de Orientación Psicológica y Psicoterapia (AMOPP; Mexican Association of Counseling and Psychotherapy) 2nd Encounter, November 2010

Themed the *Role of the Counselor Who Faces Diversity*, this congress convened in Mexico City on November 4–6, 2010. Counselors, students and related professionals gathered at the Universidad Iberoamericana and the Universidad de las Américas de Ciudad de México to participate. Attendees traveled from Argentina, Cuba, numerous states in Mexico, Venezuela and the United States.

Representatives from NBCC and NBCC-I, one of the sponsors of the congress, were invited to present and participate in panels and workshops regarding diversity and multiculturalism.

FAVO's I International Symposium, December 2010

In a climate of excitement and enthusiasm, the Federación de Asociaciones Venezolanas de Orientación (FAVO; Federation of Venezuelan Counselors Associations) celebrated its I International Symposium December 8–10, 2010, at the University of Zulia in Maracaibo, Venezuela. The theme, *Advances in Counseling—Philosophy, Pedagogic Address and Emerging Praxis*, drew counselors, students, government officials and related professionals. NBCC-I, a symposium sponsor, had the opportunity to present and participate in workshops and roundtables on the certification process, development and challenges, and international perspectives and leadership in counseling.

The symposium culminated with FAVO awarding the NCC-Venezuela certification to a group of 32 counselors. Recipients and attendees, characterized it as the relaunching of the profession in Venezuela. This positions Venezuela as a leader among Latin American countries in certifying professional counselors.



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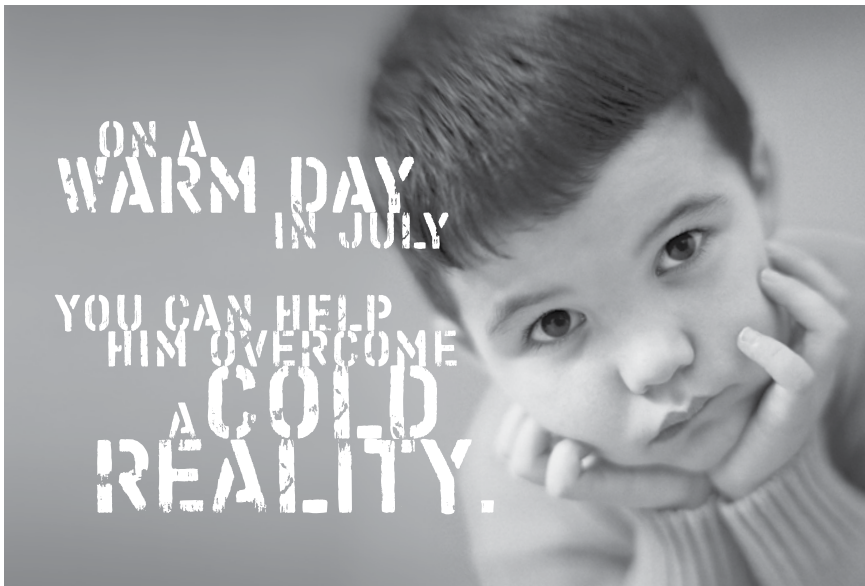
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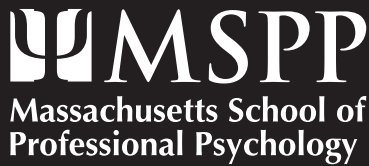
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2009 NBCCF Scholarship Recipient Close-ups

Editor's Note: This is the third of a three-part series profiling the recipients of the 2009 NBCCF scholarships.

John LaCreta



John LaCreta was inspired to become a counselor after witnessing the genuinely caring way his mother, a teacher for autistic individuals, interacted with her students. “She was able to instill in me a genuine concern for others. Counseling is just an extension of my desire to serve others and to help them process their reality.” When he realized that something was lacking in his military career, the caring

way he learned from his mother laid the foundation for him to take a “leap of faith” and embark on a career in counseling.

Mr. LaCreta is pursuing his ambition to become a counselor and currently works as a long-term substitute school counselor in his Pennsylvania hometown. He has been able to use the funds from the NBCCF military scholarship to improve his skills as a counselor by completing a mind/body stress reduction course. “I have applied the knowledge gained from that course with my students to help them learn to control stress and find different outlets for it.”

Mr. LaCreta’s goals for the future include combining his military experience and his skills as a counselor to offer counseling services with a unique perspective. Specifically, he plans on working as a transition counselor, career counselor or a community counselor for servicemembers and veterans. “I feel my service as a military member has given me unique insight on the military population’s thoughts and beliefs. I believe serving the military community will go a long way to continue the growth of counseling as a global profession.”

Dena Held



Having a gift for learning and helping others, Dena Held realized that becoming a counselor was a natural part of her professional and personal development. This decision was reinforced by a former school counselor who provided her with educational and career guidance. She hopes to provide this same support to others. “I also am a strong believer in the power of knowledge and the option

of choice. With a role in counseling, I have a strong opportunity to help others find options and their own answers.”

After years of working in social services, Ms. Held plans to focus her energy on creating a strong and more preventative school counseling setting. She explains, “I am a focused, result-oriented, detailed person and have the goal to serve students and families in my community through both individual interaction and systemic involvement.”

Ms. Held also plans to obtain the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential. “In such an important profession where people care for people, it is a way to inform and practice on the highest level. It is a reminder to continue both personal and professional growth in an ever changing and complex field.”

While being an NBCCF rural scholarship recipient has obvious benefits, like being able to build a counseling library and resources, this award has also given Ms. Held an unforeseen benefit in her work as a school counselor with adolescents. “One of the best things of being a recipient is the way I use the example with youth,” she explains. “I can relate that it is tough making it through obtaining a degree and how good works are rewarded, most of which by knowing if you tried and did your best that is the greatest reward. I always encourage perseverance and always putting the best foot forward, time after time.”

2009 NBCCF Scholarship Recipient Close-ups

Editor's Note: This is the third of a three-part series profiling the recipients of the 2009 NBCCF scholarships.

Alesha McCord



Alesha McCord's introduction to counseling came during college with she took a course called "Foundations of Mental Health Counseling." Upon learning the core principles and concepts of the profession, Ms. McCord felt inspired to embark upon a career in the mental health field. She secured a position as a case manager and soon began to observe the lack of mental health services available to those in rural areas. She sought to address this issue and worked to link individuals to the resources they required. Her desire to help others on a larger scale lead her to return to school to become a counselor.

As Ms. McCord works towards completing her counseling degree, she continues to grow as a helping professional and to develop expertise as counselor, which includes obtaining the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential.

"Becoming an NCC conveys a message to clients that I stand behind the ethics code of the counseling profession [and] that I try to live my life in accordance with principles of integrity, honesty and respect for others. I feel that my job as a counselor is to be an embodiment of the principals that I teach clients."

In the long term, she plans to open a private practice in her Tennessee community, which does not offer mental health resources. By taking advantage of continuing education opportunities in areas such as family therapy, substance abuse and couples counseling, Ms. McCord hopes to fulfill the mental health needs of her community and surrounding areas.

She has further demonstrated her commitment to her area and to people in need by volunteering in midstate Tennessee after the catastrophic floods in 2010. Ms. McCord explains, "I never want to leave a state in which its residents so readily come together after such a tragedy to make the world a better place. It is my desire to give back to this amazing area in any way possible for the duration of my career."

The NBCC Foundation is dedicated to promoting mental health through the advancement of professional counseling and credentialing.

To learn more about the Foundation or to show your support by making a donation, please visit the Foundation's newly redesigned Web site at www.nbccf.org or send your contribution to

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Continued on page 20

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Continued from page 19

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NBCC FOUNDATION 2010 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

- The recipients for the 2009 inaugural military and rural scholarship were chosen and announced in early 2010. The five rural recipients and six military recipients were given a scholarship of \$3,000, a plaque and a waiver of the application fee for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential. These promising counseling students are committed to making a difference for the underserved and the Foundation is honored to be a part of their success.
- The 2010 scholarship program was announced and applications were collected. The recipients of this second round of military and rural scholarships were chosen in February 2011 and announced on the Foundation's Web site (www.nbccf.org).
- The Foundation Web site (www.nbccf.org) was redesigned and launched in late 2010.
- Two productive board meetings were held to discuss the development of programs, fundraising efforts and the future of the Foundation.
- A new Foundation Board Trustee was chosen: Sherry Allen of Naples, Florida.

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NCC NETWORK

Stephen Muse, NCC, LPC, LMFT, of Columbus, GA, recently published *When Hearts Become Flame: An Eastern Orthodox Approach to the dia-Logos of Pastoral Counseling*, available on Amazon.com.

“Opens the spiritual and psychological depth of the caregivers’ vocational world and does not allow the reader to relax or to stay indifferent. The author’s experience and ideas make your brain think, your soul pray, your eyes cry, your ears listen to the heart and your heart love God and people.”

--Tatiana Filipieva, Ph.D, psychologist, St. Sergius Orthodox Theological School, Moscow, Russia.

Howard Rosenthal, NCC, CCMHC, MAC, HS-BCP, LPC, of St. Louis, is the editor of two new books, *Favorite Counseling and Therapy*



Techniques and *Favorite Counseling and Therapy Homework Assignments*. The books feature entries from some of the finest therapists in the world including William Glasser, Jon Carlson, Samuel Gladding, Arnold Lazarus, Bradford Keeney, Claudia Black and Patricia Arredondo, to name a few. Published by Routledge; 1-800-634-7064. Official Web site: www.howardrosenthal.com.

Rick Martenson, NCC, LMHC, of Davenport, IA, recently published an e-Book to his Web site, www.qccounselor.com. The book, entitled *The Voice Inside My Head*, offers a novel and effective approach to treating addictions in general.

The author can be reached at Psychology Health Group
2102 East 38th St.,
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phone: 563-359-4049;
fax: 563-359-4069.

GOT NEWS?

If you would like to submit an item for NCC Network, refer to the guidelines and deadlines on our Web site: www.nbcc.org/Newsletter/Submissions

NBCC and the 2011 ACA Conference

The American Counseling Association (ACA) held its annual conference and expo March 23–27, 2011, in the Big Easy—New Orleans (www.counseling.org/Convention). As usual NBCC and Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) staff were on hand to talk with conference attendees about our services, and to celebrate and support all NCCs. Every year we enjoy seeing hundreds of NCCs and we try to answer all questions. We look forward to seeing you next year in San Francisco, March 21-25, 2012.