



**November—January
2009**

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2008-2010**

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The MACA Newsletter

MISSOURI ADDICTION COUNSELORS' ASSOCIATION

President's Corner By Laverne Blackorby, President

Here we are in a new decade and a lot of changes are going on everywhere, from Washington DC to Jefferson City and to MACA. We recently completed our election of officers and it looks like you chose to be stuck with me again. We will introduce the new board in April at the spring conference. The new board will be getting their feet wet on January 15, 2009, in Columbia with our quarterly meeting. I appreciate your confidence in me and the direction the board is going with MACA. It appears we are growing stronger both in membership and financially. We still have a ways to go in membership both individual as well as agency. I would like to thank the prior board members for all their hard work and wish each and every one of you all the best, and just a reminder: I still expect you to be as supportive and active as in the past. Again, Thank You so very much.

I would like to see an effort by all the membership to get both the individual and agencies we work for to become members of MACA. Everyone can gain by increasing our membership, it makes us stronger and it helps you and your agencies by offering discounts for their employees to attend conferences and helps them by providing some affordable job advertisements on our web site. I hope every member can bring to MACA one new member this year as well as one new agency.

Linda Christian was appointed as our new Conference and Education chairman. Therefore, if any of you have individuals in mind as a speaker or sponsors, please contact Linda with your ideas.

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and you all we well. I hope to see you all at the Spring Conference.

Lavern Blackorby CSAC, ICADC, SOQP-R
MACA President

MSAPCB Latest News: By Scott Breedlove, MSAPCB Administrator

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and that your 2010 is off to a great start.

The MSAPCB is excited about the coming year and the different items we have either in the works or on the horizon. As I write this article on Friday January 15, 2010, we are 15 days into our new adventure of credentialing those people pursuing SATOP credentials. During the month of December, we transitioned almost 400 SATOP files over from the DMH/ADA Division. On January 1st, 2010, letters and new certificates went out for all of those transitioned individuals. While there will always be some challenges with a transition of this size, so far, we

have heard mostly positive comments about the changes and look forward to the future of SATOP credentialing of professionals.

We continue to provide an array of trainings throughout the State. These include Ethics trainings, Supervision trainings, and in collaboration with ADA/ATR, we are providing a number of Stages of Change/Pathways to Recovery trainings throughout the State. Continue to check our training calendar at www.msapcb.com for upcoming trainings. Remember that all MACA members receive a \$5.00 discount on all MSAPCB trainings.

Finally, as we look forward into 2010, you will begin to hear more news about a new Medication Assisted Treatment specialty endorsement that the MSAPCB will introduce. This will be an additional endorsement to those already credentialed or licensed to show special knowledge of medication assisted treatment. This should be available around June/July of 2010.

If you have any questions for me, I can be contacted at scott.breedlove@dmh.mo.gov or at 573-526-4099.

Thanks,
Scott Breedlove
MSAPCB Administrator

Membership: Submitted By Ronnie Beaver, Executive Secretary

Hello from the Membership Committee; alias Linda Christian and Bernard Spittler! We are excited to be working together on this project. Our goal this year is to get a boost to our membership numbers. To do this, we are looking at new incentives for our "recruiters" in the field. Details are to follow soon.

Having a credential means you are a part of a professional organization and being involved in MACA allows you to have a voice in the organization! We all want to be heard in our professional lives. Become a part of MACA and invite coworkers as well! As a member of MACA, you also receive a discount to the conferences and to MSAPCB trainings.

We are also looking for more Agency Members. An Agency membership allows a reduced conference rate for their employees! Plus, the agency gets to post employment opportunities on the MACA web site. These are great incentives for your agency to be a part of our organization.



News from DMH By Mark Stringer, Missouri Department of Mental Health

With Missouri's General Assembly in session, state legislators face serious budget problems. High unemployment means reduced income taxes. Stagnant wages and consumer uncertainty diminish sales taxes. Unlike the Federal government, states must balance revenue (income) with expenses. So as state revenue shrinks, so must state spending.

In times like this, it is more important than ever that lawmakers and the public understand the value of modern substance abuse treatment and the professionals that provide it.

The goal of treatment for individuals addicted to alcohol or other drugs is not just sobriety but also full employment, stable housing, social connectedness, and a life free of crime as both perpetrator and victim. It is offered through recovery oriented systems that include treatment professionals, structured programs, recovery supports, social service agencies, families, and others. For some individuals, it includes medications that reduce craving or treat co-occurring psychiatric conditions.

Today's substance abuse treatment is quite effective. Over the past 10 years, there have been over a thousand drug-free births to women in Missouri's substance abuse treatment programs. Men, women, and adolescents in treatment are healthier, use less alcohol and other drugs, commit fewer crimes, return to work or school, and become less dependent on government programs as they advance in recovery.

Cuts to substance abuse treatment funding do not cut state spending. Instead, people who need treatment but cannot get it end up in more costly settings like emergency rooms, jails, and prisons. Jobs are lost and families broken.

If you get a chance, please let your elected officials know how important it is for modern substance abuse treatment to be accessible to all Missourians.

Mark Stringer
Director, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Acting Director, Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services
Missouri Department of Mental Health

"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed
by the things you did not do than by the things you did do.
So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour.
Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." – MARK TWAIN

"And the voices in the waves are always whispering, in their ceaseless murmuring, of love - of love, eternal and illimitable, not bounded by the confines of this world, or by the end of time, but ranging still, beyond the sea, beyond the sky, to the invisible country far away!"

~Charles Dickens

PURPOSE

The Missouri Addiction Counselors Association is a not-for-profit Professional Organization for Counselors living in or working in the State of Missouri.

MISSION

MACA will actively engage in those activities which promote the integrity and professionalism of addiction counselors. MACA will provide continuing educational opportunities to addiction counselors, counselors-in-training, and other counseling disciplines. MACA will inform legislative and government officials of Missourians' treatment needs. MACA will explore and pursue ideas and principals which advance the Professional recognition of Addiction Counselors in Missouri.

Did You Know.....

MACA is the only Professional Membership Association in Missouri for Addiction Counselors and other Professionals in the Addictions field.

MACA was organized in 1971 as the Missouri Association of Alcohol Counselors to provide fellowship and support for persons professionally employed in alcoholism counseling. The role and mission of MACA expanded through the years to include persons providing professional counseling for alcohol, drug, and other addictive behaviors, thus necessitating a name change to the Missouri Association of Substance Abuse Counselors. In 1992, MASAC Membership and NAADAC (National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors) St. Louis Chapter agreed to combine and form one professional association in Missouri. MASAC then became Missouri Addiction Counselors Association.

In 2008 MACA discontinued its affiliation with NAADAC in order to focus resources on the needs of State membership.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Professional (Individual) Membership*:

Open to anyone engaged in the work of counseling or related fields who is interested in the addiction-focused profession. *(It is not a requirement that Professional Members be credentialed in Addictions.)*

May actively participate in the association, hold office, serve on committees, and have full voting rights.

Will be expected to uphold the aims & actions of MACA and abide by the MACA Codes of Ethics.

Associate (Registered) Membership*:

Open to persons with an interest in Substance Abuse and/or Addictions & the aims of the Association, ***but not qualified for Professional or Student Membership and not yet certified by MSAPCB as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor.*** Associate Members will inform the MACA Board of Directors when they qualify for Professional Membership status.

Student Membership*:

Open to any full-time (9 hours) student at an accredited college or university or students involved in full-time or part-time internships. Student Membership is limited to Student Members for four 1-year membership terms. Student membership is open to both new & renewing Members. Student Members will be required to present documentation of "student-status" to MACA

*** All individual memberships**

Agency Membership:

Open to those agencies, organizations, institutions, and associations wishing to support the purpose, objectives and actions of MACA. ***Agency members receive the reduced conference rate for their employees.*** Agency members can designate one representative who may vote and serve on committees, but is not eligible to hold office.

Retired Membership:

Open to anyone who has retired from working in counseling or related fields who is interested in supporting the addiction focused profession. (It is not required for the Retired Members to have been credentialed in Addictions)

MACA BENEFITS

- Inexpensive continuing educational opportunities
 - Annual Spring & Fall Conferences
 - Centrally located in Osage Beach
- Informative MACA Newsletters
- Networking opportunities with other Missouri Addictions Professionals and Agencies
- The chance to promote and enhance the role of the Professional Addictions Counselor
- MACA official certificate
- Individual members receive a discount on all MSAPCB training fees

Join today and you'll be on your way to gaining the professional edge, earning greater recognition, and keeping up-to-date with the newest field information.