



Professional Update

ADDRESSING OPIOID USE IN GEORGIA

Georgia Addiction Counselors Association (GACA) has seen more than one drug epidemic over the last 37 years. Crack cocaine use devastated many communities in Georgia during the 1980s and early 90s. We saw methamphetamine use reach epidemic levels in the late 90s and early 2000s. Now we are addressing opioid use like never before. The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) reports that in 2015 there were 20,101 overdose deaths associated with prescription pain relievers, and 12,990 overdose deaths from heroin use.¹ As GACA counselors treat opioid use disorder and see firsthand how it has particularly devastated so many of our families and communities in Georgia, we also recognize that we cannot win the fight against a drug epidemic like this one without treating the endemic problem which has always been addiction.

On November 7, 2017, GACA participated in a community based meeting with local, state, and federal officials at The DOOR, a recovery community organization in Decatur, Georgia. Richard Baum, Acting Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, The Drug Czar was present. Local Commissioner District 3, Larry Johnson also attended along with the Georgia Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, and Georgia Overdose Prevention. The group shared ideas, experiences, needs, and hopes around the struggles we collectively face in the ongoing opioid crisis. Mr. Baum spoke about President Trump’s position on the opioid epidemic and asked for input from the community members and those working in the areas of prevention, treatment, and recovery.

GACA’s Executive Director, Jared Sulc, expressed to Mr. Baum the need for the areas of prevention, treatment, and recovery to work together in the fight against the opioid epidemic. He shared with the group about a call he received last summer from Nick Campbell, the GACA Middle Georgia Regional Representative. Nick was deeply concerned by a series of overdoses in his region caused by a form of fentanyl called “The Gray Death.” GACA responded by holding a September Recovery Month Forum in rural Middle GA to support the community. Members of the recovery community, treatment providers, addiction counselors, and recovery residents attended the forum and heard a powerful message of hope from ➤



Dr. Scott Dunbar
Recipient of the 2017
GACA President’s Award

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Spring Training Conference
April 26-29 at St Simons Island
- Dr. Susan Blank, MD
Keynote Conference Address
- Call for Presentations for the
Spring Conference
- 2017 Counselor Awards

Judge Verda Colvin, Bibb County Superior Court. In summary, Sulc said, “GACA sees the need for bringing these interconnected parts of the solution closer together.”

In response to the November 7th meeting, Ewell Hardman, GACA President, stated, "...the Opioid Epidemic has brought to light the significant difficulties in facing addiction in our communities. GACA's role is creating a cadre of counselors who are specially trained in addictions and recovery in Georgia. Old ways got us to this place. They have not been sufficient. Fortunately, I am seeing a new openness that recognizes new approaches, new funding, and new priorities. According to CASA, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse in its recent report concluded four priorities must be part of ending this epidemic: Prevention of opioid misuse and addiction; reducing overdoses and harmful consequences; improving opioid treatment; and improving addiction care in the criminal justice system. These changes will help recovery become a vital force for communities all over this state. It is necessary that we reduce the stigma of addiction and mental health so that more



Community Meeting at The Door, Decatur, GA, November 7, 2017, with Robert Baum, Acting Director, The Drug Czar

will voluntarily seek help earlier. The ‘not in my backyard syndrome’ still prevents treatment and care for these problems in some communities. GACA and its counselors are engaged in these efforts.”

In a conversation on November 9, 2017, Cassandra Price, Executive Director, Division of Addictive Diseases, DBHDD informed GACA, “We continue to hear about the devastating impact of opiate use on individuals, families and communities. Our commitment is to continue to champion evidenced based practices and competent providers that support a holistic approach toward living a life of wellness and recovery, inclusive of prevention, recovery and treatment interventions.”

As the Georgia Chapter of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, GACA is informed by NAADAC’s position on the key role of addiction counselors during this opioid crisis. In the NAADAC Position Statement on the Opioid Epidemic, NAADAC contends, “Addiction counseling helps patients avoid relapse while overcoming the major challenges they face on the road to recovery. ASAM, in summarizing many models of relapse prevention, identified these components to minimize risk of relapse, or attenuate the severity of a relapse episode:

- Identify environmental cues and stressors that act as relapse triggers;
- Learn to identify and manage negative emotional states;
- Work toward a more balanced lifestyle;
- Develop skills to cope with stressful life events;

TAKE THE STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

1. Obtain a Certified Clinical Supervisor to help guide you through the process of counselor in training endorsement and certification.
2. Complete all training and education requirements for your credential. Earn 25 hours at GACA Conferences.
3. Complete the counseling work experience and supervision requirements.
4. Complete and submit the application and supporting documentation to GACA for your credential.
5. Earn a passing score on the National Certification Examination for Addiction Counselors.

Email gaca@gaca.org for full list of requirements.



CALL FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Our Spring Conference will be held at Epworth by the Sea, **St Simons Island, Georgia** on Thursday evening through Sunday morning, **April 26-29, 2018**.

SUBMIT YOUR PRESENTATION PROPOSAL

- Understand and manage cravings;
- Learn to identify and interrupt lapses and relapses;
- Develop a recovery support network, such as joining a self-help group; and
- Utilize clinical resources available to patients, such as counseling. ²

(End Notes)

1 American Society of Addiction Medicine. (2015). Opioid Addiction 2016 Facts & Figures. Retrieved from

<https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/opioid-addiction-disease-facts-figures.pdf>

2 Krause, M., Alford, D., Kotz, M., Levounis, P., Mandell, T., Meyer, M., Salsitz, E., Wetterau, N., & Wyatt, S. (2011). Statement of the American Society of Addiction Medicine Consensus Panel on the Use of Buprenorphine in Office-based Treatment of Opioid Addiction. *Journal of Addiction Medicine*, 5(4), 254-263.

Contributors: Diane Sherman, Ewell Hardman, David Burris & Jared Sulc ●

“GACA's role is creating a cadre of counselors who are specially trained in addictions and recovery in Georgia.”



SAVE THE DATE

SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE & RETREAT

Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia

April 26-29, 2018

Thursday evening through Sunday morning

More Details Coming Soon! www.gaca.org/events

REGIONAL WINTER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

ADVANCED GROUP THERAPY SKILLS FOR ADDICTION COUNSELORS

Presenter: Jim Seckman, MAC, CACII, CCS

Metro Atlanta Region:

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, 9am–5pm, Ridgeview, Smyrna

Coastal Georgia Region:

Friday, Feb. 16, 2018, 9am-5pm, Willingway, Statesboro

Register Today at: www.gaca.org/events

Become a Sponsor! Email jared@gaca.org for levels.

Proceeds benefit the GACA Scholarship Fund.



Ewell Hardman
President, GACA

[Become a GACA Member](#)

Members receive:

Discounts on certification

Discounts on conferences

Eligibility to sit on the Board of Directors. And much more.



Nick Campbell, CACI
2017 GACA New
Counselor of Year

SPECIAL APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD

At the end of summer 2017, Ewell Hardman, President of GACA, made a special appointment to the GACA Board of Directors. He appointed Dr. Tom Watkins as an advisory member.

Dr. Watkins currently serves as the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities DUI Intervention Program State Regulatory Officer. He has worked in the addiction field over 25 years providing detox, inpatient, and outpatient services. In his role for the state he provides direction for best practice treatment guidelines to over 650 treatment providers.

He gives back to the industry by serving on non-profit boards. Serving the DOT industry he is an active Substance Abuse Pro-

fessional (SAP). Serving the Criminal Justice arena he worked in law enforcement and held a CCJS (Certified Criminal Justice Specialist). Tom and his wife have served in Mexico working with underprivileged families.

GACA is very pleased to welcome Dr. Tom Watkins to the Board of Directors.



Dr. Tom Watkins, PhD, CACII

RECOVERY FORUM IN MIDDLE GEORGIA

On September 15, 2017, GACA held a Recovery Month Forum in Region 5, Middle Georgia, at the Christian Family Center, Soperton, GA. Our forum featured keynote speaker **Judge Verda Colvin**, the Bibb County Superior Court judge whose video went viral as she spoke in her courtroom to teens about hope for their futures.

Judge Colvin delivered a powerful and heartfelt message to the group. **Lynn Honeycutt**, LPC, CACII, MAC presented on ways to strengthen families and communities affected by the opioid epidemic. Macon-based artist **Micah Goguen** facilitated a community art mural where attendees created a mixed media painting together. The forum focused on the path to recovery, not only for individuals with addiction, but for families and communities. Participants shared personal experiences and ideas for working together on solutions to the opioid crisis.



Judge Verda Colvin

Special thanks to Hank Steverson, Treasurer of GACA for donating the meeting space and delicious lunch. We are grateful to Nick Campbell, CACI (pictured left) for organizing the recovery forum.



Morning meditation at Lanier Islands, October 17, 2017, during the Fall Conference

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I approach the first year in my role as Executive Director, I want to thank our members, officers, directors, chairs, sponsors, and committee members for their support, guidance, and encouragement over the past eleven months.

The board of directors does an incredible job supporting our profession by volunteering their time and expertise to ensure individuals seeking treatment and recovery from addiction are in the best hands.

Our regional representatives keep us informed about news and advances in their part of the state. I was particularly touched by the energy and support that went into our Recovery Month Forum in Soperton, Georgia. The way our association came together to create that community event was inspiring.

Our certification committee works tirelessly to reviewing monthly certification and recertification submissions. Their time, commitment, and dedication is really phenomenal. Thank you!

I have been proud to represent GACA at several conferences and forums this year including the Georgia School of Addiction Studies, the Council of Accountability Court Judges Conference, and the Opioid Treatment Providers of GA Conference.

So many organizations in Georgia are doing extraordinary work to address the needs of individuals who suffer with substance use disorder. GACA is working to expand resources and educational opportunities for our members. I am dedicated to strengthen GACA's partnerships and create new opportunities for our members during 2018 and beyond.

I invite you to become more involved in your association. I want your input and value your ideas. In case you didn't know, YOU are the best advertisement GACA has to offer anyone. Please share your story with others. Tell them what membership and certification through GACA means to you. Let your regional representative know your ideas. Together we can do great things for our profession and strengthen our association.



I hope to see you at our next event.

Jared Sulc, Executive Director

FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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The Berman Center

Blue Ridge Mountain
Recovery Center

Dominion Diagnostics

GateHouse Treatment

Sunrise Detox

Twin Lakes Recovery
Center

Victory Home

*We are truly grateful
for the very kind and
generous support of
our sponsors!*

*For sponsorship infor-
mation please contact
jared@gaca.org.*

GACA

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Donna Ritter

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Jared Sulc, Executive Director
Sadie Bourgeois, Certification & Education Coordinator

NORTHEAST GEORGIA UPDATE

In Region 2 we are promoting GACA in the field of addiction treatment and recovery.

We had several Region 2 members that have received their well earned certification in addiction counseling: Melissa Hoffman, CACI of Gainesville, David Abbot, CACII of Mount Airy, Guy Griffith, CACI of Lawrenceville, Nicholas Rebholz, CACI of Cumming, and Alan Johnson, CACI of Stone Mountain! All making their mark—now with CAC distinction!

One of the highest recognitions in GACA is being selected for Addiction Counselor of the Year and that well de-

served honor goes to Mr. Star Bridges, CACII, CCS of North-east Georgia.

Region 2 Represents!
Congratulations Y'all
Donna Ritter, CAC II, CCS



Star Bridges, Counselor of the Year

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Certification Committee seeks additional members to assist with the certification and recertification process. This rewarding opportunity will increase your professional knowledge of the certification process and policies, while also providing opportunities for team building and networking. The minimum requirements of the Certification Committee are as follows:

1. Maintain membership in good standing of GACA/NAADAC, and retain at a minimum current GACA certification credentials of CCS.
2. Each individual must have the knowledge, experience and integrity required to make sagacious decisions regarding the certification process.
3. The term commitment is three (3) years.
4. Attend four (4) volunteer work sessions per year and scheduled business meeting. Committee meets the second (2nd) Saturday of the month.
5. Be able to work as a team and implement policies as outlined.

If you're interested in becoming a member or have any questions please send your questions and/or resume to MSpeech.GACA@gmail.com.

Madelynn Speech, Chair, Certification Committee

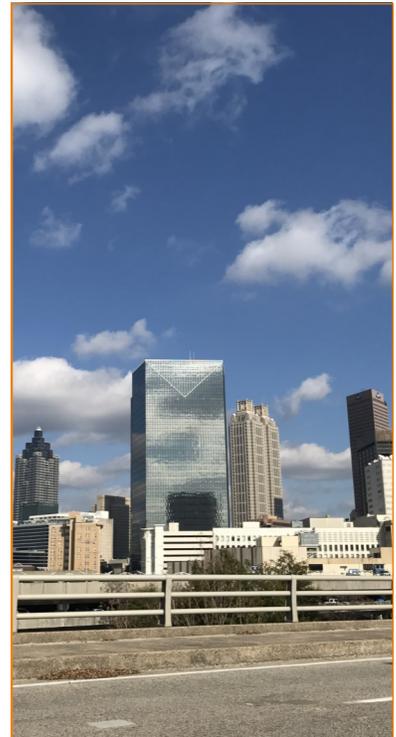
METRO ATLANTA UPDATE

In Region 3 we have kicked off a great start to the season with the fall conference that was held at Lake Lanier in October of 2017. A big thank you to all those who came out to support the event locally and outside of the metro Atlanta area. The conference was a huge success with opportunities for networking with others and continued professional development through training and various recovery-oriented events. We have new members this year to the GACA board as many are pursuing their desire for certifications in addiction counseling. Congratulations to all members who received their certification recently: Kevin Henderson, Jennifer Green, Tracy Lawhorn, Samuel Mburn, Joni Sims, and Terrance Rhodes. To those who are currently seeking certification, keep striving forward. We look forward to having you be a part of this growing population of professionals. If you have any questions about GACA or Region 3 events, please feel free to email me at rleccese10@yahoo.com.

Thanks to you all!

Robin Leccese, NCACI, CACI

Region 3 Director



“To those who are currently seeking certification, keep striving forward. We look forward to having you be a part of this growing population of professionals.”

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Fall Conference at Lake Lanier gave us another opportunity to meet and greet members from throughout the state of Georgia. Our member luncheon was set against the beautiful backdrop of the lake and featured the annual awards. Again GACA members came out strong in support of our raffle and silent auction. We raised \$723 towards the general GACA fund and scholarships to make opportunities possible for members to attend upcoming trainings. Congratulations to Charmon Talley who won a One Year Free Full Membership to GACA/NAADAC and to Kyle James who won the discount prize to the Spring 2018 GACA Training and Education Conference and Retreat.

I know we say it often, but our members are truly dedicated to this profession. I had the honor of conducting a training on "Addressing Anxiety and Stress in Treatment Planning and Relapse Prevention" at this conference, and I was blown away by the amount of active participation and knowledge in the room. Even though I had the after dinner time slot, participants were energetic and eager to learn and to share their experiences, and none of us fell asleep while we practiced meditation. I look forward to the Spring Conference and the opportunity to learn and grow with fellow GACA members. If you are interested in being on the Membership Committee, please contact jared@gaca.org to express your interest. We can definitely use your help in reaching even more members in our state.

Lynn Honeycutt, LPC, CACII, MAC, Board Member, Georgia-at-Large



OUR FALL CONFERENCE PLATINUM SPONSOR



Everyone deserves an opportunity to lead a rewarding, healthy and productive life!

The Heritage Foundation is dedicated to providing the highest level of dignified, safe, confidential, therapeutic, effective and targeted programs to our clients every day.



HOUSE OF FOCUS

House of Focus provides a range of services targeted to women and their families who have been affected by substance abuse and have encountered a setback in their recovery and rehabilitation.



SYCAMORE CENTER

The Sycamore Center provides individuals, groups and families diagnostic assessments, intensive in-home counseling, and case management services in a supportive, therapeutic environment designed to address their individual and family needs.



MAYA'S HOUSE

Maya's House is a residential substance abuse treatment program that serves women and children of South Georgia with the purpose of removing substance abuse as a barrier to obtaining and maintaining gainful employment.



OUTPATIENT SERVICES

- Anger Management
- Parenting Groups
- Domestic Violence Groups (Gender Specific)
- Substance Abuse Groups (Gender Specific)
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Pre-Marital Counseling
- Marriage Counseling
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The Heritage Foundation is located in Southwest Georgia and provides services to Baker, Dougherty, Mitchell, Worth, Calhoun, Grady, Seminole, Colquitt, Lee, Terrell, Decatur, Miller and Thomas counties (Women's Residential Program serves the entire state of Georgia).



14382 US Hwy 19 South Thomasville, GA 31757



info@heritageofthomasville.org



(229) 228-5545 PHONE | (229) 226-4755 FAX



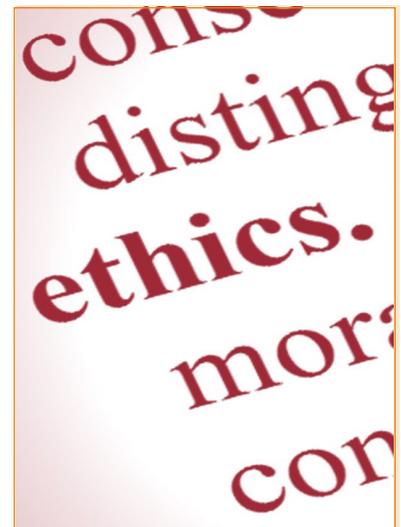
www.heritageofthomasville.com

NEW GACA CODE OF ETHICS

On October 15, 2017, Georgia Addiction Counselors Association (GACA) adopted the NAADAC/NCC AP Code of Ethics that was updated and became effective October 9, 2016. The Code of Ethics sets nine principles that consider the clinician, supervisor, and relevant others.

The GACA Code of Ethics provides direction and guidance to addiction counselors, education providers, service organizations, regulatory boards, legislators, and other related parties. GACA provide training on the new code at the Fall Conference at the Tuesday Lunch and Learn.

Please educate yourself on the new GACA Code of Ethics. It is located at <http://gaca.org/about-gaca/gaca-code-ethics/>. GACA counselors must uphold this code of ethics to ensure we do no harm in counseling. All counselors are now under this code and will sign a new oath at the time of recertification.



“The GACA Code of Ethics provides direction and guidance to addiction counselors, education providers, service organizations, regulatory boards, legislators, and other related parties.”

EAST GEORGIA UPDATE

Hello everyone,

I just wanted to take time out to thank all of you who attended the GACA Fall Conference at Lake Lanier and let those of you know who could not make it that you were missed. The presenters did a wonderful job and covered some exciting topics. For those of you that I had the pleasure to meet for the first time, I am glad that I was blessed with your acquaintance and for those old friends it was great seeing you again. As you all know the holiday season is rapidly approaching which means that the roads will be busier, stores fuller, and patience shorter. Please be careful and aware of your surroundings while you are out shopping and preparing for your holidays.

You also are likely aware of the devastation suffered during the recent hurricanes; the people who were affected and are still dealing with power outages, food shortages, health issues and other complications related to the devastations; the people from the Nevada shootings; and all of those affected by the tragic events that have occurred over the past year both in the U.S. and abroad. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers and if you find it in your hearts and minds to provide some help, please do so that they too may have some holiday cheer and renewed hope during the upcoming months.

The GACA BOD voted to adopt the NAADAC Code of Ethics during our meeting at the Fall Conference, please take time out to review it on the GACA web site.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for the work you do and the love you give to the people we provide services for “We do save lives.” If there is something special happening in your program; trainings, anniversaries, upcoming events; or someone you would like to recognize, please send me an email at dplummer@penfieldrecovery.com with the information so that it can be put in our newsletter. God bless you all and I hope to see you in the future.

Donnie Plummer, CACI, Region 4 Director



*Happy
Thanksgiving!*



Certified Clinical Supervisors (CCS) are in demand in Georgia.

If you are a CACII, LPC, LMFT, LCSW, Addictionologist, Psychiatrist, or Psychologist you may be qualified for certification to supervise counselors in training and level one counselors.

[BECOME A GACA CCS](#)



To become a member, please visit us online at www.gaca.org.

COASTAL GEORGIA UPDATE

Greeting from Region 7! The Coastal Region is gearing up for the quickly approaching Holiday Season with our hearts filled with gratitude. We survived another hurricane this year and we welcome three newly certified counselors from our region.

Congratulations to these new CACs:

Mr. Leon Fleming of Recovery Place in Savannah

Ms Tamara Thorn of Unison Behavioral Health in Brunswick

Mr. Blake Arnold of Willingway in Statesboro

The Coastal Region will have a new Regional Board Member representing our area for the new term. I am honored to hand over the reigns of Region 7 to my dear friend and colleague Diane Diver. I have had the privilege of growing professionally alongside Diane in my work as an addictions counselor for the past 20 years. When my time came to rotate off the Board, Diane was my first choice for nomination. I'm extremely proud to see her nomination turn into an elected seat on the Regional Board of Directors.

As I near the completion of my term on the Board, I can't express enough what an honor it has been to serve with such an incredible collection of leaders in our state. Our field is evolving rapidly which means there is much work to be done in keeping our profession on top of the changes. You can take comfort in knowing that your GACA Board of Directors and leaders are hard at work. The Board efforts are not only to ensure

the efficacy and growth of our profession but most importantly to ensure the best quality of care and services for the clients and families we serve everyday. I look forward to seeing many of you along our journey in the coming year!

Blessings,
Janis Ellington, CACII



Diane Diver, MBA, CACII, LCSW

Diane Diver is the Chief Operating Officer and Clinical Director at Recovery Place, Inc. Diane has over 25 of experience in the medical field. She has held top posts for companies such as Bayer Consumer Care and Mead Johnson Nutritionals. In her capacity as a counselor, Diane has worked at Willingway Hospital in Statesboro, The Recovery House Services in Statesboro, and Coastal Harbor Health System in Savannah before joining the Recovery Place family in 2010. She received her CAC II in 2004 and LCSW in 2015.

Ms. Diver is responsible for the day to day operations of Recovery Place, Inc. and Recovery Place Community Services. She oversees all clinical services as well as manages the internal evaluation process for all documentation for both the profit and not-for-profit to ensure compliance with external reporting mandates and internal policy.

FALL CONFERENCE RECAP

Deepen Your Clinical Practice was our conference theme, and that's what we did. Over 125 addiction-focused professionals convened at Lanier Islands in Buford, Georgia, Oct. 15-18 to learn from Georgia's finest educators on addiction counseling skills, ethical imperatives, and current legislation affecting our profession.

Our Keynote Speaker, **Dr. Susan Blank, MD** (pictured right) presented Deepen Your Understanding of *Medical Marijuana*. She is truly a brilliant physician, and GACA was honored to have her educate us on about the affects of marijuana on the brain and current legislation on marijuana in Georgia. Her address set the tone for what turned out to be a highly informative conference filled with personal and professional growth, exchange of ideas, fellowship, and fun.



“Many agreed the atmosphere of the Fall Conference was filled with comradery and a desire to sharpen our tools with the intent to help...”

SOUTH GEORGIA UPDATE

The Value of Attending

Eighteen individuals in Region 8 took advantage of the Spring and Fall Conferences this year. Many agreed the atmosphere of the Fall Conference was filled with comradery and a desire to sharpen our tools with the intent to help to those with no intention of changing behaviors, those aware a problem exists but with no commitment to action, those with an intent on taking action to address the problem, those taking action, those with sustained change and those that have fallen back into old patterns of behaviors. We came with a desire to be prepared for whoever may sit in front of us and this conference provided that opportunity.

The value of attending GACA conferences comes down to several key benefits:

Networking—The opportunity to network with other professionals in the field, whether novice or experts, we all have something to learn and to share.

New Tools—Whether you have a tool box, tool chest or tool belt, there is plenty to add to it with the array of topic areas and different presenters' experiences and perspectives.

Change in Learning Environment—Getting out of the office and sitting in a new, fresh learning environment can spark a new energy.

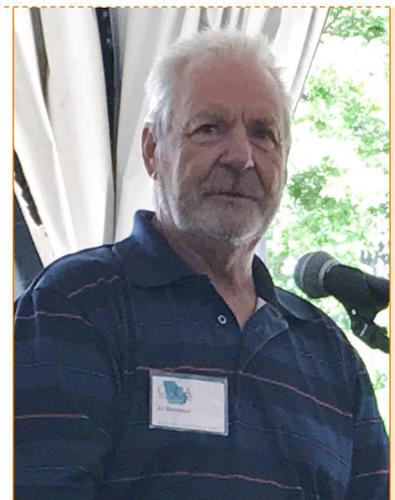
Continuing Professional Education—The educational component provides exposure to new points of views, techniques, approaches and information and hopefully additional or new ways to provide services.

Access to Vendors—Videos, Books, Games, Giveaways, Referral Information for those we serve, and as professionals, having vendors who understand and support our work is a plus!

FUN—All work and no play can be boring.

Don't miss the Spring Conference; get ready to reap the benefits!

Nicole Gatlin, Region 8 Director



JJ Bremner, CACII, CCS

**2017 Bernard Carter
Humanitarian Award
Winner**



OUR APPROVED EDUCATION PROVIDERS

We are grateful to our training and education providers. The following providers hold a GACA Provider Number for specific courses to guarantee acceptance toward Certification and Recertification. Please contact the provider for training details and to verify courses with GACA Provider Numbers. Training advertised as "GACA approved" may not equate to having a GACA Provider Number. Generally, a NAADAC Provider Number does not meet criteria listed as "must have GACA Provider Number", but can qualify under "other approved providers." Certain GACA trainings will have a NAADAC provider number as well.

Become a GACA Approved Education Provider by contacting Sadie Bourgeois at sadie@gaca.org to receive more information and an application or call 770-434-1000.

Metro Atlanta Area

ACTS Consulting/Diane Sherman (Marietta) 678-404-9309 – www.actsconsultinginc.com/cactraining

Alana Recovery Centers/Kris Shock (Kennesaw) 678-480-4275

Atlanta Intervention Network/ David Clark (Tucker) 770-713-8580- drdavidclark@bellsouth.net

Applied Training & Consultant Group/Patricia Brown (Decatur) 404-217-2722 – www.appliedtrainingatl.com

Badu Recovery Counseling Consultants/Deidre Badu (Atlanta) 678-650-5274 – brcellc@gmail.com

Brighter Tomorrows Consulting/Shannon Eller (Griffin) 678-408-4622 www.brighter-tomorrows.com

Care and Counseling Center of Georgia (Decatur) 404-636 -1457 www.cccgeorgia.org

Circle of Recovery/Karen Kelly (Decatur) 404-243-5576 - www.circleofrecovery.com

David Carter (Stone Mountain) 404-861-5254 – dacarterzz@comcast.net

Decision Point Wellness/Christie McElreath (Johns Creek) 678-651-0278 - www.dpwellnesscenter.com

Georgia Commission on Family Violence (Atlanta) 404-657-3412 – www.gcfv.georgia.gov

High Impact Training & Counseling, Inc. /Gary Byrd (Atlanta) 404-523-6074 – www.angermanagementofga.com

Houston Harris Associates/Donnie Harris (Atlanta) 678-668-5295 – drharris5630@yahoo.com

Journey to Rejuvenation/ Leanne Jamison (Decatur) 678-902-4111 – www.journeytorejuvenation.com

Opioid Treatment Providers of Georgia-GMPC/Joelyn Alfred (Decatur) – 770-840-9912
www.joalfred@bellsouth.net

Prevention Research Institute, Inc. /Diane Padgett (Lexington, KY – trainings in Atlanta Area)
800-922-9489 – www.primeforlife.org

Ridgeview Institute/Erin Evans (Smyrna) 770-434-4567 ext. 3001- www.ridgeviewinstitute.com

Safety Net Recovery (Smyrna) 404-839-2331 – www.safetynetrecovery.com

APPROVED EDUCATION PROVIDERS, CONTINUED

View Point Health/Gina Hutto (Lawrenceville) 404-557-1110 gina.hutto@hphealth.org

Talbott Recovery & Foundations Recovery Networks/ Laura Pugsley (Atlanta) 770-377-3373
www.talbottrecovery.com and www.foundationsrecoverynetwork.com

COASTAL

C4 Recovery Foundation (Amelia Island, FL) 800-611-5735 – www.c4conferencing.org

Summit Behavioral Healthcare/Janis Ellington (Statesboro) 912-678-4480 www.summitbhc.com

MIDDLE/EAST/WEST/CENTRAL GEORGIA

Brighter Tomorrows/Shannon Eller (Griffin) 770-468-7424- www.brightertomorrows.com

Larry Hardy (Covington) 678-637-4723 – lhardy1011@aol.com

Margaret House (Rockmart) 678-622-3736 – tashabranigan@hotmail.com

P.I.E.C.E Counseling and CAC Training Services/Nicki Ashley Harrison (Wrightsville) 478-278-1113 anh3102@hotmail.com

The Crestwood Group/ James Vaughns (Warner Robins) 478-225-6192 www.crestwoodgroup.org

The Counseling and Training Center/ Brenda Copeland (Warner Robins) 478-953-0667
www.thecounselingandtrainingcenter.com

The Ready Train/Renee Eady (Carrollton) 505-555-8791 – www.thereadytrain.com

NORTH GEORGIA

Addiction Solutions Training/Donna Johnson (Cartersville) 770-714-7605 – www.addictionsolutions.org

Appalachian Way Counseling LLC/Debra Murphy (Ellijay) 770-344-8019- counselormurphy@yahoo.com

Blue Ridge Mountain Recovery/Todd Stumbo (Ball Ground) 678-472-5994
www.blueridgemountainrecovery.com

Donna Ritter (Gainesville) 678-617-8398 - donnalritter@gmail.com

Highland Rivers/Shelley Suddeth (Cartersville) 770-387-3538- www.highlandrivershealth.com

Integrated Family Counseling/Patti Shipp (Oakwood) 770-540-8149 – patti@integrated-counseling.com

Recovery Outfitters/Kim Owens (Cumming) 678-947-6550- www.recoveryoutfitters.org

SOUTH GEORGIA

Rekonstruction Mind & Body/ Nicole Gatlin (Thomasville) 229-228-5545- nlgexpress@hotmail.com

Family Life Center/Iretha Woods (Thomasville) 229-225-9050

APPROVED EDUCATION PROVIDERS, CONTINUED

HOMESTUDY/WEBINARS

Home study or webinar courses related to counseling are accepted for certification/recertification by GACA, but are counted in the "Other" provider category. They do not count towards the 20 training hours that must have a GACA provider number, be addiction specific and be classroom face-to-face.

NAADAC 800-548-0497 www.naadac.org NAADAC Providers are not required to have a GACA Provider Number, but hours will qualify under "other providers" approved by GACA. www.naadac.org

California Quantum Units Education 877-665-3311 www.quantumunitsed.com

Laban's Training 800-795-5278 www.last-homestudy.com

Relias Learning 877-200-0020 www.reliaslearning.com

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

GACA 2018 Spring Conference & Retreat, April 26-29, 2018 –St Simons– www.gaca/events.org

GACA Winter Workshop, January 26, 2018 – Ridgeview, Smyrna–www.gaca/events.org

GACA Winter Workshop, February 16, 2018– Willingway, Statesboro–www.gaca/events.org

Georgia School Addiction Studies, Savannah, August 2018 – www.thegeorgiaschool.org

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Grand Canyon University/Michelle Green (Phoenix, Arizona) 602-639-6355- www.gcu.edu

Albany State University/Carol Ann Ham (Albany) 229-317-6895 – www.darton.edu/programs/socialscience

Kennesaw State University-Center for Young Adult Addiction Recovery/ Sarah Cunningham (Kennesaw) 470-578-2538 <http://studentsuccess.kennesaw.edu/cyaar/>

GACA verifies accreditation with the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) at www.chea.org.

RECENTLY ENDORSED COUNSELORS IN TRAINING

Wykita Burns	CIT	Phenix City
John-Nathan Graham	CIT	Dalton
Christy Hamby	CIT	Marietta
Paul Hindman	CIT	Statesboro
Darryl Suttles	CIT	Decatur

For more information on becoming at Counseling-In-Training (CIT) please call 770-434-1000. We will point you in the right direction of supervision and education needed for employment.

GEORGIA ADDICTION COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

GACA is a non-profit professional membership association of addiction counselors and other persons interested in the field. It is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of some of Georgia's top addiction professionals.

You are very important to GACA. This organization is for YOU. We want your input, your volunteer time, your voice, and suggestions. Your presence at our conferences helps us grow. Your ideas and support in legislative matters is important to us. We need your voice to continue to battle to reduce the stigma of addiction, increase access to care, and support treatment and recovery.

Donate to our legislative fund at www.gaca.org/about-gaca or contribute by mailing a check to the address below. Thank you!

Georgia Addiction Counselors Association

4015 S Cobb Drive, Suite 160
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Phone: 770-434-1000
Fax: 770-434-3144
E-mail: gaca@gaca.org



RECENTLY AWARDED CREDENTIALS

Certified Clinical Supervisors

Kasey Ifill	CACII, CCS	Hinesville
Melanie Storrusten	LSCW, CCS	Tucker

Certified Addiction Counselors—Level Two

David Abbot	CACII	Mount Airy
Danita Adams	CACII	Greenville
Leon Fleming	CACII	Savannah
Jessica Foster	CACII	McCaysville
Kevin Henderson	CACII	Marietta
Samuel Mburu	CACII	Marietta
Terrance Rhodes	CACII	Douglasville
Autumn Streetman	CACII	Rockmart
Tamara Thorn	CACII	Brunswick

Certified Addiction Counselors—Level One

Nicholas Campbell	CACI	Warner Robins
Jeremy Cole	CACI	Cochran
Jennifer Greene	CACI	Marietta
Guy "Trey" Griffith	CACI	Snellville
Sally Jeffery	CACI	Ellijay
Andre Johnson	CACI	Moultrie
Alan Johnson	CACI	Stone Mountain
Tracy Lawhorn	CACI	Marietta
Deborah Luper	CACI	Rome
Wilbert Martin	CACI	Tyrone
Nicholas Rebholz	CACI	Cumming
Brittany Schoeneck	CACI	Woodstock
Louie Seals	CACI	Moultrie
Joni Sims	CACI	Kennesaw
Caroline Stout	CACI	Lavonia

Congratulations to our GACA counselors and supervisors!