



Professional Update

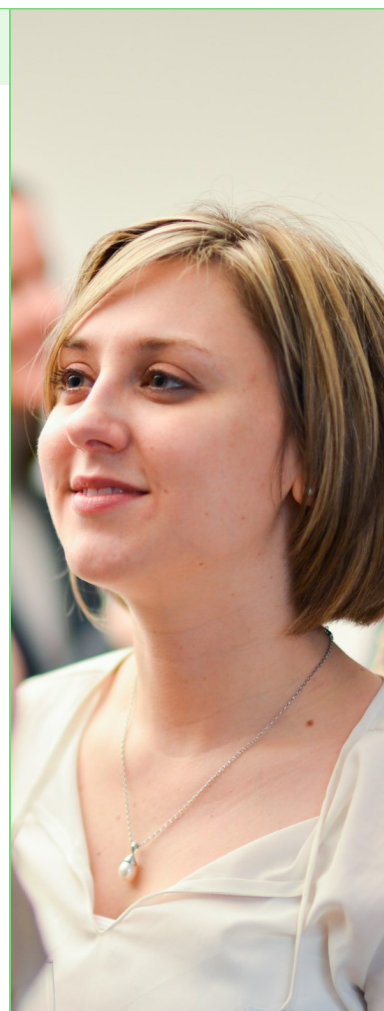
TAKE THE LEAD

This is a challenging time for substance abuse counselors. In different parts of our state there are shifts in substance abuse conditions. We hear warnings about increasing meth use in spite of recent increases in heroin use. By maintaining a continuous quality improvement process you can bring models that work in your community, and your population.

But all counselors face change and stress. Here are three areas that I have found that sustain a long career in this field.

Be engaged in learning. Fresh ideas and deeper thinking and hearing the wider experience from others in the field help us to do our best work. Our General Conferences offer great opportunities to hear experts and to grow in skills for doing the work. Besides just getting courses to maintain credentials each of us should have personal learning goals. Take a year to improve in one new skill. You will become amazing after a few years. This one thing will increase your self esteem, confidence and joy because you will find that actually being able to help others give a true personal payoff. It takes more than a single conference and more than a single book to become skilled. Devote yourself and be engaged in learning. The payoff is huge.

Be engaged with clients. Our clients come through pain. They either feel it or cause it. Some cannot carry it alone and they need to learn from it, learn to bear it, or take a new path. But the counselor's gift is to discern how to relate in such a way that clients keep choose to stay on the path. Being engaged in a way of loving, a way of challenging, a way of teaching, a way of motivating. But it is a way to be present with each one as only one. It is inviting clients to enter into the human family again and find wholeness. Being engaged through resistance and not against it, is like the palm tree that bends without breaking, yielding yet not giving up. Listening even while not agreeing, accepting the person while not accepting behaviors. Being engaged is being calm as others are distressed... distressed where others are calm. Being engaged means others don't forget you took them seriously. Offering solutions not arguments moves clients to new heights. ➤



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Fall Conference Oct 15-18 at Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge
- Successful Spring Conference
- Newly Certified Counselors
- Call for Presentations for the Fall Conference
- Summer Workshop for Scholarship Fund

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Our Fall Conference will be held at **Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge**, Buford, Georgia on Sunday evening through Wednesday morning, **October 15-18, 2017**.

To submit a proposal for a presentation at the conference, please visit www.gaca.org/call-for-presentations.

Submissions due June 23.

Be disengaged for counselor health and well being. There is a time to let go. Counselors' health is especially important as our clients become more and more challenging.

The disease itself is catching and unless we are centered and healthy ourselves we can reflect the ugly side of addiction in our relationships. Let's be people who take our own medicine and practice what we preach. Our core values are about honesty, abstinence, being of service, balance, kindness and spiritual living. Are you seeking maximum health for yourself?

Let's take the lead personally and professionally. Let me know if

you are interested in being engaged in our work as a profession in Georgia. Stay engaged in learning and you will have much pleasure in your work. Stay engaged with clients and you will have life long and meaningful relationships and personal satisfaction. Practicing disengagement allows an inward space for your own spirituality, family and personal life that supports balance and health. Thank you for all you do to represent GACA in your community and to bring recovery to others. ●

Ewell Hardman, MDiv, MAC, CACII
President, GACA

"Practicing disengagement allows an inward space for your own spirituality, family and personal life that supports balance and health."



UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL TRAINING CONFERENCE & RETREAT

OCTOBER 15-18, 2017

Sunday evening through Wednesday morning

LANIER ISLANDS LEGACY LODGE

7000 Lanier Islands Pkwy, Buford, GA 30518

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

SUMMER TRAINING WORKSHOP

Friday, July 14, 2017, 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Ridgeview Institute

3995 S Cobb Drive, Professional North Auditorium

Smyrna, GA 30080

EXPERIENTIAL GROUP COUNSELING SKILLS

By Marc Pimsler, NCACII, CCS, ACRPS, CYT, RRT-CP

Register Now at: www.gaca.org/events



Sunrise at St Simons Island, April 2017

SPRINGTIME REFLECTION

Spring is always an exciting time for renewal, growth, and appreciation. Flowering plants, green grass, and warmer weather enliven our days and ignite our imagination. We celebrated our mothers who gave us life, nurturing care, and love. This spring has been a time of gratitude and reflection for me. Looking at the growth in our membership, spring conference attendance, and community support, I am not only grateful, but truly inspired to be a member of GACA.

For 37 years, GACA has been dedicated to high standards for addiction counselors in Georgia. Our experienced, highly-qualified board of directors volunteer their time and expertise to ensure that those seeking treatment and recovery from addiction are in the best hands. GACA members are well-respected not only for their own merits, but for their Association. For these reasons, I have seen many renew their membership or join GACA for the first time this spring.

I was thrilled by the renewed energy we experienced at the spring conference. The majestic oaks, breath-taking sunrises on St. Simons Island, new connections made, and reunions with old friends made for an exceptional conference. Over 145 professionals came from across Georgia and the country to learn from top professionals and some of Georgia's brightest, emerging clinicians. Nineteen generous sponsors and 18 exceptional presenters made all of this possible.

As I look ahead to summer and fall, I am encouraged by the work our board and committees are doing to use the momentum we gained to move forward and grow. We will have a one-day summer workshop on July 14 at Ridgeview on experiential counseling skills. Proceeds from the event will support our scholarships. Additionally, we decided to change the venue of the fall conference to [Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge](#), Buford, Georgia, keeping the same dates: October 15-18. Legacy Lodge has so much to offer our conference, and I couldn't be more excited for us!

I want to invite you all to get involved in your Association and share with others the benefits of membership and certification through GACA. I enjoy hearing from you and look forward to working together to build upon GACA's tradition of high standards and quality, affordable education, while also forging new opportunities for expansion and growth. I hope to see you at our next GACA event.

Jared Sulc, Executive Director, GACA

SPRING CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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Ridgeview Institute

Rivermend Health

Twelve Oaks Recovery
Center

Twin Lakes Recovery
Center

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*We are grateful for
your kind and very
generous support!*

GACA

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Education Coordinator

NORTHWEST GEORGIA UPDATE

In Region 1 we have gotten off to a fairly good start as far as promoting GACA in the field of addiction treatment and recovery.

We had several Region 1 members conducting trainings in the field. Some of those trainings consisted of Boundaries and Enabling, Phases of Recovery, The Disease of Addiction and Culture of Change in Behavioral Health.

Developing more members starts with the promotion of excellence in the field. We plan to continue expanding our base by utilizing every

opportunity we can to train other professionals in the field in order to help them provide superior services to the clients under their care.

Todd Stumbo, HS-BCP, NCACI,
CACII, CAMS
Region 1 Director



Northwest Georgia Mountains

POSITIONS ON CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Hello Fellow GACA Certified Clinical Supervisors,

The Certification Committee is currently seeking new members to assist with the Certification process of new and existing applicants. 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. All members of the Certification Committee shall maintain membership in good standing of GACA/NAADAC, and retain at a minimum current GACA certification credentials of CCS while a sitting member of the Certification Committee.
2. Each individual must have the knowledge, experience and the integrity required to make sagacious decisions regarding the certification process.
3. Certification Committee members must be willing to commit to a term of three (3) years.
4. Must be willing to volunteer and attend four (4) work sessions per year and scheduled Certification Committee business meeting, which are held on every 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.NWCP@gmail.com.

Madelynn Speech, BS, CACII, CCS, SAP, CAMS

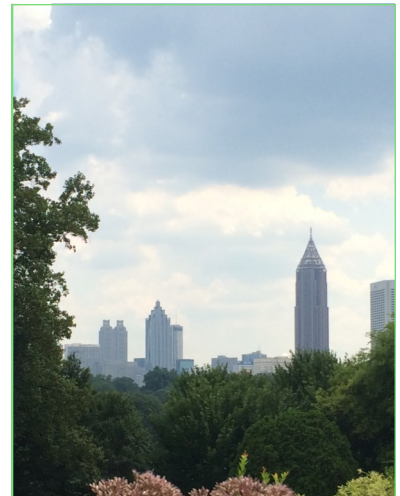
METRO ATLANTA UPDATE

Hello everyone, It was so great to see the turnout at the Spring GACA Conference at Epworth by the Sea! Your presence is much appreciated at these conferences and so important for our continued growth as a community of addiction professionals. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding GACA at rleccese10@yahoo.com.

Looking forward to serving the Metro Atlanta area and thanks to you all!

Robin Leccese, NCACI, CACI

Region 3 Director



“Supervision is a critical factor anytime we are faced with an ethical dilemma associated with, but not limited to, boundaries and social media.”

ETHICS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The intention of this article is to ask more questions in an effort to provoke thought and perhaps action when necessary. What are your current social media practices? Are these practices clearly spelled out in your informed consent, policies, and procedures? Are these practices uniformly carried out across all clients and staff members? As you may know the GACA Code of Ethics does not specifically address social media; however, the NAADAC: The Association for Addiction Professionals and NCC AP: The National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (Approved on 10.09.2016) CODES OF ETHICS do.

The NAADAC Code of Ethics Section VI-19 titled Friends, specifically states that “Addiction Professionals shall not accept clients’ “friend” requests on social networking sites” and goes on say that we must delete accounts that we have given clients’ access to. Section VI-20 titled Social Media, goes on to address the duty to include as part of “informed consent the benefits, inherent risks including lack of confidentiality, and necessary boundaries surrounding the use of social media”. What are your personal and organizational practices surrounding social media friend requests? Are these practices clearly spelled out in your policy and procedure manual?

In the NAADAC Code of Ethics the word “client” is defined and “shall include and refer to individuals, couples, partners, families, or groups depending on the setting”. Section I-10 titled Boundaries says, “Addiction Professionals shall consider the inherent risks and benefits associated with moving the boundaries of a counseling relationship beyond the standard parameters.” Thus, supervision is a critical factor anytime we are faced with an ethical dilemma associated with, but not limited to, boundaries and social media.

Marc Pimsler, NCACI, CCS, ACRPS, CYT, RRT-CP
Chair, Ethics Committee





Become a GACA Member

Members receive:

Discounted rates on certification applications.

Discounted rates on conferences and workshops.

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



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

SOUTH GEORGIA UPDATE

Greetings from Region 8, Congratulations to Andre Johnson on his certification as a CACI and others who are diligently working to gain the knowledge and skills needed to work in the field of substance use. We have been actively engaged in educating ourselves in the areas of Ethics, Recovery Oriented Care and addressing the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic here in Georgia.

Many attended the Spring Conference and Retreat at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons in April and expressed having a great time meeting new people, learning and enjoying

the accommodations. The Plenary Sessions were highlights for many. A greater number are entering their votes for roasting marshmallows at the Fall Conference.

Nicole Gatlin, MS, LPC, CRC, MAC,
NCACII, SAP, CCS
Region 8 Director



GACA is proud to certify counselors and supervisors across Georgia.

FUNDRAISING AT THE SPRING CONFERENCE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the prize drawings and silent auction at the GACA Spring Conference in St. Simons. Items included original artwork, a crystal vase, coffee basket, blue tooth speakers, and many more. We raised \$500 to go towards scholarships and member services. Special thank you to **The Reprieve**, Opelika, AL, for donating the flat screen television which was a very popular item. We also enjoyed the chance to catch up with members and to meet new ones at our membership luncheon. Thank you to all who attended the conference and made it such a success.

Lynn Honeycutt, LPC, CACII, MAC
Georgia-At-Large

If you have any items to donate for prizes or auction at the Fall Conference, please call Jared or Sadie at 770-434-1000.

MIDDLE GEORGIA UPDATE

It was a pleasure to see such a large turnout from Region 5 at GACA's Spring Conference on St. Simons Island. For those who were unable to make the trip to the Georgia coast, I hope that you will be able to attend our Fall Conference at Lake Lanier in October. Between now and then, there will be several recovery-oriented and training events taking place in our region. If you have any questions about GACA or Region 5 events, please feel free to e-mail me at nickscampbell@gmail.com.

Nick Campbell, CACI
Region 5 Director

COSTAL GEORGIA UPDATE

Greetings from Region 7, Coastal Georgia! Congratulations to Leon Fleming of Savannah and Tamara Thorn of Brunswick on becoming The Coastal Region's newest GACA CAC Level II Counselors! In other news, the Coastal Region was honored to be host to the Spring Conference at Epworth By The Sea. We have heard outstanding feedback from our members and conference attendees regarding the location and the programming. Thank you to Jared, Sadie, and all the volunteers and exhibitors for making the Spring Conference a success. To all our Coastal Region members, please reach out to me directly if you would like to discuss bringing CEU workshops to your town or area. I can be reached directly at 912-678-4480 or jellington@summitbhc.com.

Janis Ellington, MS, CACII
Region 7 Director



"I must say this is the best class ever!! I'm so inspired to study more. Maybe even go back to school."

SPRING CONFERENCE RECAP

The 2017 GACA Spring Conference at Epworth-by-the-Sea in beautiful St. Simons Island was a tremendous success. We had a larger turnout for this conference than we have had in the past several years. We had speakers and participants from throughout Georgia as well as the Southeast. We are looking forward to having even more success with our upcoming fall conference at Lake Lanier. We encourage all of our members to visit our website, www.gaca/events.org, for candid pictures from the conference.

Nick Campbell, CACI
Communication Chair

Testimonials from Spring Conference participants:

"Overall, I was very happy that I attended and learned more than I could have hoped. I really appreciated Ewell explaining the trends and politics of our industry. We have some amazing people in this field and I am thrilled to be a part of it."

"The conference was great, stimulating. The classes were great."

"Awesome job!! Always love learning from Jim S!! GA Overdose was powerful."

"Very strong delivery from each presenter. Very useful information."

"Melanie did a great job!! Understanding self-care is vital to our success! Great job!"

"This was an excellent training. I have learned so much. One of the best I've had in a while." (Diane Diver's class.)

"I must say this is the best class ever!! I'm so inspired to study more. Maybe even go back to school." (Dr. Craig's class.)



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

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) 678-650-5474 – brccllc@gmail.com

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

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

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

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/ Marc Pimsler (Smyrna) 404-839-2331 – www.safetynetrecovery.com

Talbott Recovery Campus/Diane Gay (Atlanta) 678-251-3162 - www.talbottrecovery.com

COASTAL

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

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

APPROVED EDUCATION PROVIDERS, CONTINUED

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

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

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

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

SOUTH GEORGIA

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

HOMESTUDY

Home study 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

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

PROVIDERS

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

GACA 2017 Fall Conference & Retreat, October 15-18, 2017 – Buford– www.gaca/events.org

GACA Summer Training Workshop, July 14, 2017 – Smyrna–www.gaca/events.org

Georgia School Addiction Studies, Savannah, August 2017 – 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

NORTHEAST GEORGIA UPDATE

In Region 2 we have gotten off to a great start with promoting the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association. We had several Region 2 members that have received their well deserved certification in addiction counseling: Melissa Hoffman, CACI, Gainesville; David Abbot, CACII, Mount Airy; Guy Griffith, CACI, Lawrenceville; and Nicholas Rebholz, CACI, Cumming! All making their mark, now with CAC distinction!

Congratulations Y'all

Donna Ritter, CACII , BT, CCS

Region 2 Director

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



NEWLY AWARDED CREDENTIALS THIS SPRING

Certified Clinical Supervisors

Javier Elizalde, CCS, CACII	Norcross, GA
Kascey Ifill, CCS, CACII	Hinesville, GA
Lori Phillips, CCS, CACII	Hampton, GA
Beverly Ragland, CCS, CACII	Stockbridge, GA

Certified Addiction Counselors—Level Two

David Abbot, CACII	Mount Airy, GA
Leon Fleming, CACII	Savannah, GA
Jessica Foster, CACII	McCaysville, GA
Naomi Jenkins, CACII	Cuthbert, GA
Samuel Mburu, CACII	Marietta, GA
Randell Morgan, CACII	Grayson, GA
Terrance Rhodes, CACII	Douglasville, GA
Tamara Thorn, CACII	Brunswick, GA

Certified Addiction Counselors—Level One

Ezekiel Andrews, CACI	Warner Robins, GA
Nicholas Campbell, CACI	Soperton, GA
Guy Griffith, CACI	Snellville, GA
Sally Jeffery, CACI	Ellijay, GA
Alan Johnson, CACI	Stone Mountain, GA
Andre Johnson, CACI	Moultrie, GA
Wilbert Martin, CACI	Tyrone, GA

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Advertise and promote your facility, training event, program offerings, private practice, or professional services in this quarterly newsletter. Full page, half page, and quarter page ads available. Ads start at \$25.

Advertising is also available through our e-blast updates.

Conference sponsors receive discounted rates.

For more details, please contact Jared Sulc at jared@gaca.org.