

VAADAC VIEWS

Virginia Association of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Counselors,
an affiliate of NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals

Volume 24 No32
Summer 2011

VAADAC Board

John Savides	President
Ron Pritchard	Past President
Anna Powers	Secretary
Ron Mills	Treasurer

David Semanco	Northern President
John Haywood	Southeast President
Patrice Porter	Central President
Rena Fielding	Southwest President
Paul Harmon	Central Reg. Treasurer
Paul Harmon	Delegate At Large
Lisa Pleszkoch	Delegate At Large
Vacant	Delegate At Large
Vacant	Delegate At Large

Contact information:

John Savides, President
Augusta Behavioral Health
79 N. Medical Park Dr.
Fishersville, VA 22939
Phone: 540-941-2544
Fax: 540-941-2555
Email: jsavides@augustahealth.com

VAADAC Web Address:

www.naadac.org/va

Contact the VAADAC VIEWS Editor,

Patrice Porter:
VAADACViewsEditor@embarqmail.com

Advertising:

VAADAC VIEWS does accept advertising for publications, treatment centers, clinics, and job postings. Contact us if you are interested in advertising.

Position of VAADAC's BOD on Proposed DSM-V SUDs

We, the Board of Directors of Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Counselors do not support the proposed changes to the Addictions and Related Disorders section of the DSM-V because the proposed changes are imprecise, lack important distinctions, and represent a step backwards in the diagnosis and treatment of addictions. We find the proposed use of a continuum, rather than the distinct categories of abuse and dependence is misleading. The use of the proposed continuum suggests that individuals who land within the continuum would require similar treatment irrespective of the physical and psychosocial aspects of their addiction.

It is clear to this board that experts in the field of addiction treatment (i.e. licensed and certified addiction counselors, and addictionologists) were not adequately involved in the decision-making process regarding these revisions. The proposed changes obviously favor researchers and their need to quantify addiction.

For further information on the DSM-V, go to www.dsmv.org

If you wish to share your responses to the proposed DSM-V changes, you may write a Letter to the Editor by submitting your responses to VAADACViewsEditor@embarqmail.com. The editor welcomes all responses.

VSIAS Looks to 2012: Professional Treatment-Saving Lives, Saving Dollars July 16-18, 2012

VAADAC is one of the main supporters of Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies. VAADAC provides representatives who are members of the VSIAS Board of Directors. These representatives volunteer their time, energy, and expertise, attending monthly board meetings, necessary committee meetings, and responding to numerous emails with the goal of planning VSIAS each year.

To them, VAADAC says "Thank you" for another fine conference. To those of you who attended, VSIAS says "Thank you" for the enthusiasm, expertise, knowledge, and passion you brought to this year's conference. To exhibitors who sponsored the conference, "Thank you" for your support and energy answering questions and speaking to attendees who stopped by to find out what the latest information was on your services.

Colleagues reconnected. New connections with addictions specialists across the state, across the United States, and even connections overseas were made.

Next year's theme is VSIAS 2012: Professional Treatment-Saving Lives, Saving Dollars. The theme says it all for addictions counselors; doesn't it? See you in Williamsburg next year, July 16-18, 2011.

To register, check www.vsiass.org next year.

March 23, 2012 Annual Member's Meeting

The Board had a lively discussion about current factors which affect profession and our work as addictions counselors. One thing was clear. There are changes in a number of areas which affect our work as addictions counselors. With this in mind, the board chose the theme for the 2012: Rookies and Veterans Surviving Change

The board, in keeping with the theme, has changed the location of the meeting. In 2012, the meeting will take place in Richmond, Virginia at the Holiday Inn Kroger Conference Center. For further details, see VAADAC Upcoming Events and watch for a pre-registration E-blast at the end of this year.

DSM-V Proposed Changes: One Counselor's Crisis of Faith

(Note: This article represents the opinions of the writer and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of VAADAC or its members.)

When I had my training in counseling, long ago, when dinosaurs roamed the earth, we were taught of the significance of diagnosis. The mantra was "Diagnosis guides treatment." Say it again, "Diagnosis guides treatment."

So, with this in mind, I passionately dug into the proposed criteria for DSM - V. What was the newest information on diagnosis? How will this change my practice? It wasn't too long before I realized that the newest proposed changes are controversial.

It seems that those without a specialization in addictions treatment had difficulty performing a differential diagnosis between a Substance Abuse Disorder and a Substance Dependence Disorder while those of us who are addictions counselors

have found this an easy differential diagnosis to perform. Rather than refer the client/patient to someone who has the expertise to perform the differential diagnosis (such as addictions counselors and addictions specialists), the DSM-V working group has proposed combining the Substance Abuse Disorder and Substance Dependence Disorder into one diagnosis with levels of severity.

Various addictions related professional groups have come forward to publicly state their clinical and academic reasons for their disagreement with this suggested change. I find myself in the uncomfortable position of agreeing with their dissension. With that agreement, I realize that the creation of diagnostic categories, diagnoses, and symptoms is not as soundly based on science or objectivity as I once thought.

So how does this knowledge affect my practice and your practice?

Those of us who were trained as I was worked, keeping in mind that "Diagnosis guides treatment" and we were careful about what we wrote down as a diagnosis. If sticky differential diagnosis considerations came up, we read and reread the text accompanying the diagnostic guidelines. If the issue was not resolved, we sought consultation with a supervisor or colleagues (once we achieved a level of independent practice and were therefore no longer under supervision).

Will any of this change? No, not for me. However, one thing will change. I now realize that sometimes in the course of scientific endeavor, the human factor of lack of objectivity gets in the way of decision-making. Therefore, even something so fundamental to our best work, diagnosis & supporting diagnostic criteria, is affected for all of the helping professions. --- Article by Patrice Porter, LPC, LSATP

Letters to the Editor

Member Responses to DSM -V Proposed Changes in SUDs

Diagnosis Guides Treatment Decisions

I'm a national certified addiction counselor with 38 years in the field and experience as a clinician and supervisor in psychiatric, hospital-based, and outpatient settings. While understanding the desire to establish substance use disorders as part of a spectrum of conditions, I disagree with the elimination of discrete substance abuse and substance dependence categories. My training and experience leads me to believe that diagnosis guides treatment decisions. Substance abuse implies more voluntary control over use patterns and amounts, indicating that a recommendation for substance abuse education or individual counseling may be appropriate, also pointing towards moderation as a possible outcome. Dependence implies lesser (or loss of) voluntary control (i.e. compulsion), indicating a need for more intensive treatment and likely referral to an abstinence-based support group. I think that eliminating these distinctions is a mistake. I also believe that having only two severity specifiers (moderate and severe) is too limiting: since we know addiction is a progressive illness, mark the stage of progression instead (i.e. early, middle, or late/chronic). --- Written by a VAADAC member

Addictions Diagnosis & Treatment is a Specialty

The decision to create a Substance Use Disorder Diagnosis for the Proposed DSM-V rather than maintain the current DSM-IV diagnoses of Substance Abuse Disorder and Substance Dependence is predicated upon the notion that treatment practitioners have difficulty in performing the requisite differential diagnosis. Those of us who specialize in addictions treatment have not had any difficulty in performing a differential diagnosis between a substance abuse disorder and a substance dependence disorder.

The analogous circumstance would be a patient going to their general Practitioner for treatment of ringing in the ears, pressure in the ears, and dizziness. The majority of general practitioner's do not have the expertise to diagnose these symptoms as Meniere's disease. Therefore, they refer the patient to someone with the specific expertise in ear problems, an otolaryngologist. The otolaryngologist assesses the patient and if the patient meets diagnostic criteria, will then diagnose the patient with Meniere's disease and inform the GP of the diagnosis.

The General Practitioner is not expected to have the requisite level of training and expertise to diagnose or treat the Meniere's disease. Furthermore, the response of the professional physicians' association, in this case the AMA, was not to alter the criteria of Meniere's disease, in order to provide the GP with the comfort in making the diagnosis.

Addictions diagnosis and treatment is an area of specialization and needs to be recognized as such. Failure to do so will result in ineffective diagnosis and patient care. --written by a VAADAC Member

2012 VAADAC Awards Nominations

November 1, 2011 is the deadline for nominations for the 2012 VAADAC awards. Please submit address your nominations to: Chair, VAADAC Nominations Committee at paul.harmon@dbhds.virginia.gov

Awards qualifications are:

Counselor of the Year: An active VAADAC member for the past year who is not a Board member, who has made outstanding contributions to the treatment and recovery of clients, has exceptional dedication to the field, and a high level of professionalism.

Distinguished Service Award: A person or organization distinguished by outstanding contributions in the field of addiction and recovery (award limited to one per year). Current members of the Association Board are not eligible for nomination.

Citizen of the Year Award: A person who has made significant contribution to the field of addiction and is not employed in addiction counseling.

Walter Kloetzli Award: This award is in honor of Walter Kloetzli, a long time VAADAC member and past President of VAADAC, who has spent the better part of three decades advocating on behalf of addiction professionals and those in their care. His relentless pursuit of appropriate support and recognition for substance abuse professionals has been unmatched and integral to the growth and development of VAADAC and the profession. The recipient of this award will be VAADAC member who has served at the chapter, regional or state board level and who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication in advocating for the addiction profession and VAADAC." --Excerpt from VAADAC By-Laws

Around the State

Northern Region

David Semanco, the Northern Regional President, has been meeting with treatment centers in his region to promote joining VAADAC as well as inform them of the board's activities. There are also plans underway for Recovery Month activities in September.

Southeastern Region

The southeast region of VAADAC will be represented during National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month (9/ 11), National HIV/AIDS day (9/18/11), and Mental Health Awareness Week (10/2/11-10/8/11).

Central Region

Save the Date: Ethics Training-- December 2, 2011

The Central Region is planning ethics training for Friday December 2, 2011, in Staunton, Virginia. Further information will follow as it is available. The title of the training is not yet available. The topic will be about the unique ethical niche of addictions counseling in a school setting. The training will be free to VAADAC individual members and available for a fee to nonmembers. Check your e-blasts

(around October) for the preregistration form. Seating is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

The Central Region is also planning a September Recovery Month movie for the general public. Members are also invited to attend.

Southwestern Region

Two VAADAC members are providing CSAC supervision for at least 5 people working toward their credential. The Regional President, Rena Fielding, continues to visit neighboring agencies and programs to promote membership growth in the Southwestern Region of VAADAC.

Plans are underway to support a SW region Recovery Month event in September.

Reminders

Submitting Articles

Articles submitted may be edited for length and content. The maximum length of submitted articles is three-quarters of a page, single spaced. The editor reserves the right publish only articles which relate to the VAADAC's mission.

Articles will not be printed with a recovering person's name, identifying data, or photograph without the person's written permission submitted to the editor with the related article. The name of treatment facilities or providers will not be printed.

If you wish a by-line, submit your name and credentials as you wish it to be published. If desired, your e-mail address can also be listed.

If you would like to submit a newspaper article or an article that you have written yourself such as articles on current topics of interest, trends in counseling, or book reviews to VAADAC VIEWS for publication, contact the editor, Patrice Porter at: VAADACViewsEditor@embarqmail.com

Update Your Colleagues

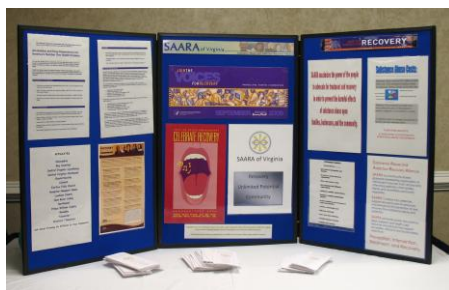
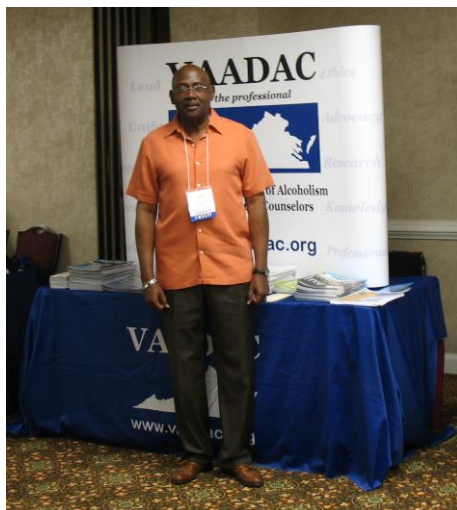
Have you received a professional award? Do you know a VAADAC member who has received a professional award? Please send VAADAC Views this information so

that the accomplishments of our members do not go unrecognized

Change in Your E-Mail Address

E-blasts to VAADAC members about VAADAC trainings and other events are performed by NAADAC, who maintains the VAADAC membership list. If you need to change your e-mail address, please write Donna Croy, Director of Membership Services, at: dcroy@naadac.org

In The Lens



VAADAC

Upcoming Events

August 25, 2011

Prince William Chapter
VAADAC Brown Bags

Training:

Record Keeping with Substance Abuse Clients
By Karyn O'Brien, PhD

Hours of Education:

1

Schedule:

No Preregistration Necessary
Registration on Site

Event:

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Cost:

VAADAC Members: \$1.00

Non VAADAC Members: \$5.00

No charge to attendees if Contact Hours
not needed

Location:

Center for Psychiatric & Addiction Treatment
IOP Group Room 2
8680 Hospital Way (Behind PR .Wm.
Hospital)
Manassas, Virginia 20110

Parking:

Large parking lot in front of the Center for
Psychiatric and Addiction Treatment

Contact:

703-369-8403

703-369-1093

September 29, 2011

Prince William Chapter
VAADAC Brown Bags

Training:

Smoking Abuse Cessation Treatment
By Janis Dauer, LPC

Hours of Education:

1

Schedule:

No Preregistration Necessary
Registration on Site

Event:

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Cost:

VAADAC Members: \$1.00

Non VAADAC Members: \$5.00

No charge to attendees if Contact Hours
not needed

Location:

Center for Psychiatric & Addiction Treatment
IOP Group Room 2
8680 Hospital Way (Behind PR.Wm.
Hospital)
Manassas, Virginia 20110

Parking:

Large parking lot in front of the Center for
Psychiatric and Addiction Treatment

Contact:

703-369-8403

703-369-1093

September 29, 2011

Deadline 5 PM:

Article submission for the Fall Edition,
VAADAC VIEWS

October 27, 2011

Prince William Chapter
VAADAC Brown Bags

Training:

Neurofeedback in Substance Abuse Treatment
By Donna Creasy LPC

Hours of Education:

1

Schedule:

No Preregistration Necessary
Registration on Site

Event:

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Cost:

VAADAC Members: \$1.00

Non VAADAC Members: \$5.00

No charge to attendees if Contact Hours
not needed

Location:

Center for Psychiatric & Addiction Treatment
IOP Group Room 2
8680 Hospital Way (Behind PR. Wm.
Hospital)
Manassas, Virginia 20110

Parking:

Large parking lot in front of the Center for
Psychiatric and Addiction Treatment

Contact:

703-369-8403

703-369-1093

December 1, 2011

Deadline 5 PM:

Article submission for the Winter Edition,
VAADAC VIEWS

December 2, 2011

Central Region Training

Training:

Training will be on ethics and addictions
counseling in schools. The title has not yet been
stated.

Hours of Education:

To Be Determined

Schedule:

Preregistration Necessary

Registration on Site

Event:

To Be Determined

Cost:

VAADAC Members: Free

Non VAADAC Members: To Be
Determined

Location:

Commonwealth Center for Children &
Adolescents
Staunton, Virginia

Directions:

www.ccca.dbhds.virginia.gov

Parking:

Free on Site.

Contact:

Paul Harmon at 540 332-2109

March 23, 2012

Annual Member's Meeting

Theme:

Rookies and Veterans Surviving Change

Hours of Education:

To Be Determined

Event:

AM - PM

Cost:

Free as a benefit to individual members

Location:

Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center
1021 Koger Center Boulevard
Richmond VA 23235
Tel: 804-379-3800
Fax: 804-379-2763

Contact:

See preregistration flyer.

July 16-18, 2011

Conference:

Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies (VSIAS)

Theme:

VSIAS 2012: Professional Treatment-Saving Lives, Saving Dollars

Hours of Education:

20 Contact hrs. for attending all sessions and 2 lunchbox sessions

Event:

Register at www.vsi.org

Reduced fee for early bird registration.

Registration also available on site.

Location:

Williamsburg, Virginia

At the Hospitality House

VAADAC VIEWS

Parking:

On site

VAADAC Sustaining Members

APTNA

Janis Dauer

3557 Chesapeake Blvd., #1

Norfolk, VA 23513

757-858-9934

757-858-8404 Fax

jdauer@aptna.org

Father Martin's Ashley

Lisa Bucklin Williams

800 Tydings Lane

Havre de Grace, MD 21078

410-273-2220

410-273-2296

lbucklin@fmashley.com

Harrison House of VA

Steve Crow

5105-Q Backlick Road

Annandale, A 22003

703-256-6474

703-256-1596 Fax

Hhouse5105@aol.com

Human Resources Incorporated

Karen D. Rose

15 W Cary Street

Richmond, VA 23220

804-644-4636

804-648-4301 Fax

karenr@hricorp.org

Life Center of Galax (CRC)

112 Painter Street

Galax, Virginia 24333

877-762-3747

Phoenix House – Mid-Atlantic, Inc.

Patricia Schneeman

521 N. Quincy Street

Arlington, VA 22203

703-841-0703x302

703-243-7956 Fax

pschneeman@vanguardservices.org

Recovery Choice

Augusta Health

John Savides, CSAC

79 N. Medical Park Drive

Fishersville, VA 22939

540-941-2544

540-941-2555 Fax

jsavides@augustahealth.com

Richmond IOP, PLC

Gail Santarelli, LPC

10049 Midlothian Turnpike, B2

Richmond, VA 23235

804-320-8032

804-323-0602 Fax

GESantarelli@aol.com

SAARA of Virginia

Mark Blackwell

306 Turner Road, Suite P

Richmond, VA 23225

804-762-4445

804-762-4333 Fax

markb@saaracenter.org

The Farley Center at Williamsburg Place

Gina Thorne, Director of Marketing

5477 Mooretown Road

Williamsburg, VA 23188

757-565-0106

757-565-0620 Fax

INOVA Comprehensive Addiction Treatment Services

Thomas D. Barrett

3300 Gallows Road

Falls Church, VA 22042

703-776-7742

703-776-7799 Fax

Thomas.Barrett@Inova.org

Pathways Treatment Center

Brent McCraw

3300 Rivermont Avenue

Lynchburg, VA 24503

434-200-4796

434-200-7467 Fax

Brent.McCraw@Centrahealth.com