

VAADAC VIEWS

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

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VAADAC NEWS

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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.vaadac.org

Contact the VAADAC Views Editor,

Paul Harmon:
paul@paulharmonlpc.com

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SHARE OUR VAADAC NEWSLETTER**



Ron Pritchard
Past President of VAADAC Board

VAADAC member, Ron Pritchard, has been elected as the NAADAC Mid Atlantic Regional Vice President Please join the VAADAC Board of Directors in congratulating Ron. Fortunately, even in the face of this new responsibility, he has agreed to continue as VAADAC Delegate at Large. The VAADAC board looks forward to working under his leadership in this new role.

President-Elect, VAADAC
Contributor of article

VAADAC's Counselor of the Year Awards

VAADAC's Board of Directors sought nominations for its Distinguished Professional Contributions awards for 2012. All of us working in the field of addiction and recovery have come across a person that needs to be recognized for their outstanding contributions, exceptional dedication, or a significant contribution to the alcoholism/drug addiction treatment community. Nominations were made by members of VAADAC and given to the chair of the nominations and elections committee. Nominations were reviewed by the nominations and elections committee chair and voted on by the Board of Directors.

David Semanco President VAADAC Northern
Regional Presents the Awards to his Members



Shirley Goe **Alma Coffey**
Counselors of the Year

The awards were presented at the *Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies* (VSIAS) at its 10th Anniversary Celebration in Historical Williamsburg, Virginia, July 16th – 17th, 2012.

The Counselor of the Year Award is given annually to a member of the Association who has made an outstanding contribution to the treatment and recovery of clients and has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the field with high level of professionalism. The counselor must have active membership status for at least one year and cannot be a current member of the Board of the Association.

Keynote Talk at VSIAS 2012

David E. Smith, MD spoke about Health Care Reform and Primary Care/Addiction Care Integration. His talk explored many societal and biological responses to addiction and its treatment. He began by talking about returning Vietnam vets seeking addiction treatment at the drop in clinics at *Haight-Ashbury*. The counter culture of the 1960's was in full swing and it gave birth to the idea of healthcare as a right, not a privilege.

Fast forward to recent years. The American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM) has defined addiction for physicians; this definition is familiar to all of us. (www.asam.org/DefinitonofAddiction-LongVersion.html) With healthcare parity, addiction is recognized as a disease and is

required to be treated like other diseases. With recognition of addiction as a chronic disease, there is realization that addiction treatment must be integrated into mainstream medical treatment and along with early intervention. Early intervention is more cost effective and early treatment is more efficient.

So where have physicians looked for a model for treatment of addiction? Most physicians developed their understanding of both addiction and addiction treatment through their treatment of Nicotine addiction, which they recognized as a brain disease. The American Society for Addiction Medicine also looks at what seem to be other brain diseases --process addictions (such as sugar addiction and compulsive sexual behavior), which like addictions to alcohol and drugs, impact the limbic system.

Furthermore, the risks factors for process addictions are the same as for substance addictions. When considering addictions, healthcare reform has had to recognize the entire disease—from beginning to end. Insurance companies, as we know, did determine ways to exclude the sick from their contracts, to maximize their profits. However, healthcare reform has removed the insurance company option of denial of addiction and mental illness treatment because they are pre-existing conditions. Consequently, insurance companies can't exclude groups from treatment. Extending beyond treatment, beyond insurance company coverage, the entire picture of the economics related to addictions

treatment, includes the cost and application of medical research. Typically medical research discovers basic principles and then applies the principles to different diseases. The trend has been to apply the research to various brain diseases—Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and now addiction.

The bottom line seems to be that in the 1960's, it was a crime for physicians to treat addictions and now physicians have addiction residency programs in medical schools. Society has come a long way. Society now views addiction as a treatable, chronic brain disease, for which treatment at all levels of the disease—from prevention to late stage -- is not only clinically appropriate, necessary, and humane, but cost saving as well.

What's New with VSIAS?

In response number of attendees this year, VSIAS is expanding next year. Instead of a two day conference, the conference will run three full days next year, from Monday, July 15 through – Wednesday, July 17.

Patrice Porter
President-Elect, VAADAC
Contributor for both articles



The VAADAC Counselor of the Year awards were presented at the 10th Anniversary *Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies* (VSIAS)

VAADAC

Selected for the Caron's Educational Excellence Award for an Institution

Barbara Dragovich the Marketing Specialist for Caron gave notice to VAADAC that they intend to present our organization with an award for "*...an outstanding institution that has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the ongoing effort to help the public understand the real consequences of addiction to alcohol and drugs...*" This award will be presented at Caron's 8th Annual Washington Metropolitan Area Community Services Awards Breakfast October 26, 2012. Congratulations to VAADAC and all our members who make this organization work to help people recover and move forward with life.

VAADAC Regional Reports

VAADAC Northern Region Report

The Regional President represented VAADAC at **the Capital Networking** Group on April 20, 2012 to promote membership benefits and the upcoming training event in the Northern Region. Their mission statement is: "The Capital Networking Group is a collaboration of professionals working together to help those suffering with mental health, substance abuse and addiction issues." The training event and membership were also promoted

over their listserv group.

The regional training "Integrative Treatments of Post-Traumatic Stress and Substance Use Disorders" was held April 27, 2012 in Winchester with an overwhelming attendance creating the need to hold the event at a local hotel (Holiday Inn). Seventy-seven (77) people registered (19 VAADAC members) and 60 people attended (16 members). Attendees came from VA, MD, WV, and DC. The training was presented by Charles Gant, MD, PhD, an expert in functional medicine and mindfulness.



Dr. Charles Gant, Presenter

The evaluations indicated a high level of satisfaction with the training and the desire for similar training in the future. Sustaining member Bridging the Gaps provided lunch and administrative support. The presentation was videoed, also courtesy of Bridging the Gaps, and an edited version will be made available to VAADAC for educational purposes under a full

release from Dr. Gant. Additionally a new Sustaining Membership application from the Neurofeedback Center of Virginia was received at this event.

An email was sent to all attendees of above training promoting the May \$20 discount for new and lapsed members. One lapsed membership application was received by the Regional President from this emailing.

Another training event is being planned for the fall, possibly in conjunction with National Recovery Month (September) and will likely take place closer to the DC metropolitan area in Northern VA. Preliminary topics are the use of neurofeedback and reiki in the treatment of addiction.

Mark McCrystal, a substance abuse professor at Northern VA Community College (NVCC), was contacted in an effort to promote student memberships. The Regional President has directly received 2 "free" student membership applications and has informed the applicants that their applications will be reviewed for approval at the May Board meeting. VAADAC has also been contacted by a NVCC student regarding the possibility of holding a training event regarding the certification process for substance abuse students at NVCC in the fall. Consideration is being given to revitalizing the VAADAC Student Chapter at NVCC.

Respectfully Submitted,
David J. Semanco, President
VAADAC Northern Region

**VAADAC
Central Region Report**

Recovery Month planning has been completed. Special thanks to Father Martin's Ashley who have generously allowed us to show two films at no charge to the groups working together on this event. Sponsors are both local and national. Local sponsors are the Central Region of the Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, Valley Community Services Board, Augusta Health, Augusta Health Mental Health of America of Augusta, a United Way Partner, and Shenandoah Valley Teen Challenge, Inc. National sponsors who will be noted are supporters of Recovery Month across the United States are the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration(SAMSHA), The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors.

A fine candidate has been identified to be the next Central Region President. I wish to thank the region and the board for all the support given to me while I acted as the Central Region President. I look forward to more fully embracing my role as President-Elect.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrice Porter

Central Region President,
VAADAC

President –Elect, VAADAC

**VAADAC 2012-2013
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**BRONZE SPONSOR
APTNA**

Janis Dauer
3557 Chesapeake Blvd., #1
Norfolk, VA 23513
757-858-9934
757-858-8404 Fax
jdauer@aptna.org



**BRONZE SPONSOR
Barry Robinson Center / St. Brendan's
Harbor**

433 Kempville Road
Norfolk, VA 23502
Grey Martin or Betty Selph
Ph 757-455-6177
Fax 757-455-6127
gmartin@barryrobinson.org
bselph@barryrobinson.org



Bridging The Gaps, Inc.
423 West Cork Street
Winchester, VA 22601
David Semanco
Ph 540-535-1111
Fax 540-450-1205
dsemanco@bridgingthegaps.com

Farley Center at Williamsburg Place
5477 Mooretown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188
Gina Thorne
Ph 800-582-6066

Fax 757-565-0620
gthorne@farleycenter.com

Harrison House of VA
Steve Crow
5105-Q Backlick Road
Annandale, A 22003
703-256-6474
703-256-1596 Fax
Hhouse5105@aol.com

Higher Ground Recovery, Inc.
8527 Mayland Drive
Suite 103
Richmond, VA 23294
Christine Galli, LPC, LSATP, NCC
Ph 804-363-2583
Fax 804-747-5805
highergroundrecovery@comcast.net

Human Resources Incorporated
Karen D. Rose
15 W Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23220
804-644-4636
804-648-4301 Fax
karenr@hricorp.org

Integrative Music Institute
1008 East Jefferson Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Cara Maranucci, LPC
Ph 434-960-2327
cara@caramarinuccilpc.com

Neurofeedback Center of Virginia
Neurotherapy Associates
803 West Broad Street
Suite 620
Falls Church, VA 22046
Sajeela M. Ramsey, Ph.D.
Ph 703-536-2690
drsajeela@gmail.com



**BRONZE SPONSOR
Pathways Treatment Center**
Brent McCraw
3300 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503
434-200-4796
434-200-7467 Fax
Brent.McCraw@Centrahealth.com



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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 Center of Northern Virginia
459-A Carlisle Drive
Herndon, VA 20170
Desi Farren
Ph 703-464-5122
Fax 703-464-5822
desifarren222@gmail.com

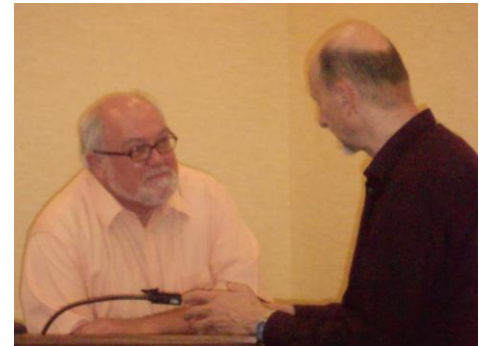
Recovery Choice
Augusta Health
John Savides, CSAC
79 N. Medical Park Drive
Fishersville, VA 22939
540-941-2544
540-941-2555 Fax
jsavides@augustahealth.com

SAARA of Virginia
Mark Blackwell
306 Turner Road, Suite P
Richmond, VA 23225
804-762-4445
804-762-4333 Fax
markb@saaracenter.org

Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring
Program (HPMP)
700 East Franklin Street
Suite 300 Tower
Richmond, VA 23219
Penelope Ziegler, MD
Ph 804-828-1551
Fax 804-828-5386
ppziegle@vcu.edu

Wilmington Treatment Center CRC Health
Group
2520 Troy Drive
Wilmington, NC 28401
Mandy Anderson-Ille
Phone 910-815-3337
Fax 910-762-7966
manderson@crchealth.com

In The Lens VSIAS 2012



Erik Ramsey, **Neurotherapy Associates (Sustaining Member)** speaking with Dr. Gant, Presenter

VSIAS 2012



Chandell Miller, Member; Carol Frazelle, Member; David Semanco, Northern Region President; Shannon Fulcro, Member; Charlie Baughman, Member

Northern Regional Training

“Integrative Treatments of Post-Traumatic Stress and Substance Use Disorders”



Members Charlie Baughman, Shannon Fulcro, Julian Jenkins, & Dian Epp with Northern Region President, David Semanco