By Kathryn K. Rhodes, Executive Projects Coordinator

The National Board for Certified Counselors recently completed a contract with the Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse, Mental Health Services Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services. The contract was for a study of the workforce status, workforce projections, and training of the disciplines of counseling, marriage and family therapy, master’s psychology, and psychosocial rehabilitation and their relationship to the ever changing field of managed behavioral healthcare. The study represented a portion of a major Center for Mental Health Services effort to address changes occurring in mental health service delivery as a result of recent significant changes in healthcare financing.

Each discipline was represented by an individual who helped the focus committee identify and report information from his or her respective areas. Representatives included Ms. Helen Stidham, the American Counseling Association; Dr. John Ambrose, the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy; Dr. Mary Ann Gawelek, the Council of Applied Master’s Psychology Programs; and Dr. Ruth Hughes, the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services.

The research on counseling has particular significance because, according to the American Counseling Association, counselors are licensed in 41 states and the District of Columbia. NBCC has approximately 24,000 active certified counselors and offers specialty certification in addictions, career, gerontological, school, and mental health counseling. Codes of Ethics for counselors historically have been in effect, and Standards of Practice are now published by the American Counseling Association and the American Mental Health Counselors Association.

Dr. Thomas W. Clawson, NBCC executive director and project contractor, presented NBCC’s report to the Coordinating Committee of the CMHC Central Project on September 25. The study reported that these disciplines represent a total of approximately 210,000 individuals who are prepared to serve in appropriate capacities in the new milieu of changed healthcare organization and financing.

More on Page 2
**Become a National Certified Gerontological Counselor**

*By Charlene M. Kampfe, NCC, NCGC, CRC*

_Past-President of the Association for Adult Development and Aging_

The older population is the fastest growing population of all adults in the United States. The need for gerontological counselors will increase as this population continues to grow. Having the NCGC (National Certified Gerontological Counselor) credential is an excellent way to let potential clients and other counselors know of your expertise in working with older people.

A recent change in the requirements will assist those who are interested in becoming NCGCs. You will no longer need an internship in gerontological counseling because so many gerontological counselors received their formal academic training before they knew about the requirement.

To qualify, you need two years of supervised counseling experience, which includes work with, or on behalf of, older people. The supervision need not be by an NCGC (for example, an NCC can act as your supervisor). You will need to have three graduate courses in gerontological studies or the equivalent. Equivalency can include 120 hours of gerontological continuing education or documented appropriate segments of relevant graduate courses. You will need to complete a self-assessment of your competencies in gerontological counseling and outside professional assessment of your competencies. A description of competencies necessary for an NCGC are provided in Jane Myers and Valerie Schwiebert’s 1996 book, Competencies for Gerontological Counseling.

Home study courses developed by the Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA) are available through the American Counseling Association. Jane Myers offers a summer workshop at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Richard Johnson offers a summer course at Washington University in St. Louis. Every four years, Charlene Kampfe and Mae Smith offer a winter institute in Tucson, AR. The AADA board often gives workshops in the geographical areas in which board meetings are held. The American Society on Aging provides relevant training in pre-conference workshops and convention presentations.

**Other findings included:** Professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, master’s psychology, and psychosocial rehabilitation represent a group of mental health providers who have established or are quickly developing educational and training standards, codes of ethics, standards of practice, and certification frameworks. Licensure is available for qualified members of the four disciplines in most states. They provide a wide range of services and have the skills to work collaboratively with health and other mental health services.

Watch upcoming editions of *NewsNotes* for more information on the findings of this study.

Kathryn Rhodes served as project coordinator. ☐

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**ATTENTION ALL CERTIFIED CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS**

The National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC) requires a taped clinical work sample as part of the certification process of the Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) credential. Clinical work samples are reviewed by trained CCMHC tape reviewers.

NBCC will conduct tape reviewer training at the American Counseling Association (ACA) conference in Orlando, FL, April 4–7. If you are a CCMHC planning to attend the ACA conference and are interested in becoming a tape reviewer, submit a letter to James Wachsmuth, NBCC coordinator of testing and research, expressing your interest. NBCC continuing education credit will be given for participation in the training workshop. ☐
How to Highlight Your Credential

By Jay H. Stevens, NCC, NCSC, Chair, School Counselor Academy

Members of the NBCC School Counselor Academy met in Greensboro, NC, in August to set plans for the year. Present were Wyatt Kirk (NC), NBCC director; Jay Stevens (PA), ASCA liaison; Jo Collins Beattle (NC), member-at-large; and Susan Eubanks, NBCC staff. Virginia Mann (TX), specialty director, also joined the group.

One goal of the Academy this year is the promotion of the School Counselor Specialty. In a time of growing awareness of the value of professionalism nationally, it is important for professional school counselors to set aside their generally modest demeanor and proudly point to their NCC and NCSC credentials. As certificants, you have made a commitment to professionalism by your decision to voluntarily seek the certificate.

There are a number of ways you can highlight your credential to the public. Use business cards that carry the NCC, NCSC after your name. If your counseling center publishes a newsletter, be sure to identify yourself with your certificate. In news releases, use a credit line such as, “Sally Smith is a National Certified School Counselor at Cool Springs Elementary School.” Proudly wear your professional designation in lapel pins available through NBCC headquarters. This writer also wears an NCC wrist watch—it tells the time as well as my profession.

Look for other ways you can draw attention the fact that you are a nationally recognized, highly trained professional school counselor who is committed to the profession and to providing valuable service to young people and your community.

Research & Testing News

RACC Developing COUNSELOR PREP EXAM

In response to requests from counselor preparation programs across the United States, the Research and Assessment Corporation for Counseling, Inc. (RACC), an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc., is developing the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE). The CPCE will be a knowledge-based examination that reflects the eight core curriculum areas approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

The RACC will be responsible for the development of the CPCE, which will be designed to measure pertinent and professionally relevant knowledge obtained by students during their counselor preparation programs. The CPCE is not intended or designed as an alternate credentialing examination.

An initial step in the development of the CPCE is to develop a listing of the textbooks and/or required readings for each of the eight core areas. Currently, RACC has received responses from almost 200 counseling programs that want to receive additional information about the CPCE. The first administrations are scheduled for March/April of 1997.

Correction

NewsNotes mistakenly reported in its Summer 1996 issue that the Ethics Hearing Committee had issued a decision with respect to Rosalyn Harris-Offutt, ID #15483, and that her certification had been suspended. There has been no decision of the Ethics Hearing Committee in a matter involving Ms. Harris-Offutt, and no disciplinary action is pending against her. We regret the error.
Clinical Academy Officially Merges with NBCC

By J. Scott Hinkle, Chair, Clinical Mental Health Counselors Academy

Within the past three years, the Clinical Mental Health Counselors Academy has affiliated with the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. We officially became a lasting part of NBCC in July 1996. During this period, the Clinical Academy was chaired by Jim Brown and Lynn Brueske, who have courageously and selflessly led the Clinical Academy’s merger with NBCC.

The Clinical Academy is now represented by Lynn Brueske, Bill Kline, Joan Marshesault, and me (Academy representatives); John Bloom (NBCC representative); and J. Thomas Smith (AMHCA representative). As the first chair of the Clinical Academy since it became a “permanent” part of NBCC, I’d like to update CCMHCs on the recent business of the Clinical Academy.

New CCHMC Exam Nearly Complete

The new examination is nearly complete and will be used for the first time in April 1997. This exam is the product of a national work analysis conducted during the past 18 months. All CCMHCs were asked to respond to a comprehensive questionnaire regarding their work behaviors. The test items for the new examination will be a reflection of what mental health counselors actually do.

The examination will use state-of-the-art psychometric technology and be consistent with clinical issues found in today’s mental health clinics and private practices. Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) in Kansas City has developed the examination with consultation from the Clinical Academy and a testing committee made up of CCMHCs from across the United States. I would like to thank AMP and the committee for their many efforts in creating the new examination.

Master’s Students May Take Exam

The Clinical Academy also has passed a motion that will allow master’s students in CACREP-approved mental health counseling programs to take the clinical mental health examination prior to graduation. We also passed a motion that will allow students to seek an affidavit from their internship supervisor attesting to clinical competence through the use of audio tape, videotape, or live observation. Therefore, upon graduation, a prospective CCMHC would need only to complete the required clinical experience in order to complete specialty certification requirements in mental health counseling. This motion has been presented to the NBCC Board for approval in October 1996.

Alternate Requirements

Mental health counselors who do not have 60 semester hours of graduate credit may be eligible for the CCMHC specialty certificate if they have advanced training and/or work experience. This alternate requirement has been developed for those mental health counselors who have been in service for a number of years and cannot return to school for the additional, and traditional, university training. This motion also has been presented to the NBCC Board for approval.

Managed Care Project

The Clinical Academy has been active in the current U.S. government’s Center for Mental Health Services’ managed care projects. We have contributed to documents concerning professional counselors’, as well as mental health counselors’, contribution to the nation’s service provider workforce in mental health. We will continue to be involved in these “recognition” efforts.

13 Programs CACREP Certified

There are now 13 programs with CACREP accreditation in Mental Health Counseling. Congratulations to you all! The Clinical Academy believes that this is an important statistic since the CCMHC credential has been available nearly 20 years. As more clinicians from CACREP-accredited programs are providing services, the need for professional affiliation will become more important and necessary.

Mental health counseling is a professional identity that is recognized nationwide by various governments and managed care, and such recognition is increasing. Graduates of CACREP mental health counseling programs who achieve certification as mental health counselors subsequently will be in a better position to serve their public and receive payments for their work. The Clinical Academy is committed to supporting programs with MHC accreditation.
What a Start: 500 counselors and growing
By Virginia Villarreal-Mann, Specialty Board Member

I recently attended my first Addictions Academy meeting and, I must say, I was quite impressed. The first bit of good news was: After only 18 months, the number of Masters Addiction Counselors (MAC) reached the 500 mark and continues to grow!

The hallmark of this specialty is that, from its inception, the MAC specialty was the result of the joint efforts of NBCC and the American Counseling Association (ACA), specifically the International Association of Addiction and Offenders Counselors (IAAOC). At the Addictions Academy meeting, Academy Chair Sandra Barker provided a summary of the past year’s IAAOC activities. She attended the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) meeting, where she addressed the NAADAC’s Board of Directors.

The second piece of good news involved NBCC’s continuing efforts to work and cooperate with state and national addictions organizations to promote collaborative relationships related to addictions counselor certification. NBCC Recertification Coordinator Pam Leary provided a report on NBCC’s dialogue with the Clinical Substance Abuse Buse T treatment Professions Credentialing Committee of North Carolina.

The third bit of good news came from James Wachsmuth, coordinator of testing and research. He reported that in early August the examinations committee, made up of 12 Masters Addiction Counselors, generated multiple choice items for inclusion on the April 1997 MAC exam. Committee members will review the test in September.

It seems the addictions specialty is off to a “MACnificent” start.

NCCs of Note

Scott McGowan, NCC, of Yonkers, NY, recently was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Education in the Department of Counseling and Development, Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus. He is the editor of the Journal of Humanistic Education and Development and chair of the Council of ACA Editors. He is also coordinator of LIU’s graduate program at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point. In addition to receiving a 1996 Distinguished Counselor Award from AACA, he is the recipient of the 1996 Fordham University School of Education Alumni Award for excellence in his profession and his community. McGowan also was named as the 1996 University of Scranton Frank J. O’Hara A ward recipient for excellence in education.

Ann T. Resca, NCC, of Canton, MA, was awarded an outstanding Service Award in recognition of her tireless effort and service to the American Counseling Association of Massachusetts and the counseling profession. The award was presented at the July executive board meeting.

More on Page 6
NCCs With A June 30, 1996 Expiration Date

If your certification expiration date was June 30, 1996 and you have not sent your yellow recertification form to NBCC, you should do so immediately. After December 31, 1996, you will have to go through reinstatement which requires mandatory audit and payment of extra fees. This does not apply to those who have requested and been granted a formal extension. If you have sent your form in and have not yet heard from NBCC, please contact the Recertification Department. All certificates and new CE files for recertified NCCs will be mailed by the time you receive this newsletter so if you have not received your packet, please contact us by mail, phone, or email.

NCCs Are Not Restricted to Approved Continuing Education Providers

We receive many calls asking about non-approved Continuing Education providers. NCCs are allowed to take non-approved programs for recertification credit as long as the program meets NBCC guidelines. Please refer to the checklist in your CE folder as your guide when choosing non-approved programs.

The Calendar of CE Events Is On FAX

In every issue of NewsNotes you will find a box with information on how to access the NBCC Fax Information System. This is where you can find the list of CE events for each state for the next three months. Also available is the list of Approved Home Study Programs. If you have questions about this service, please contact the Recertification Department.

NCCs of Note

From Page 5

by Co-Presidents Alice Labonte-Hsu and Laura Hendsby. Resca has a private practice in Canton, MA, and is membership chairperson for the American Counseling Association of Massachusetts.

Sue Waldman, M.A., NCC, CC MHC, of Upper Montclair, NJ, specializes in helping individuals achieve their potential by promoting personal effectiveness, productivity, and creativity. A reas of interest include: communication skills, relationship issues, grief and loss, mood disorders, and addictions. Working as the quality assurance coordinator for the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Waldman also is a consultant for high-risk adolescents. She can be reached by telephone at (201) 744-4379 and (201) 857-9090 or by fax at (201) 365-0868. Her office address is 1149 Bloomfield Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07012.

Sue Waldman
THE RHODE ISLAND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION has achieved state licensure and obtained Medicaid provider inclusion within three months. The state licensed clinical mental health counselors (CMHCs) and marriage and family therapists (MFTs) were added to the list of mental health professionals eligible for reimbursement for services rendered to recipients of the medical assistance program. This ruling permits state licensed CMHCs and MFTs in private practice to join networks of approved providers receiving client referrals from agencies serving their population.

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1001 Menu of Publications
1002 General Information
1003 Code of Ethics
1004 Consumer Rights and Responsibilities
1005 "Dedicated to Helping you—What is a National Certified Counselor?"
1006 Order Form—Plaque, pins, NBCC Code of Ethics

Certification
2001 Certification Information and Application Request Form
2002 CACREP Programs List
2003 State Licensure List

Testing
3001 National Test Dates and Sites
3002 Preparation Guide Order Form—National Counselor Examination (NCE) for Licensure and Certification
3003 Preparation Guide Order Form—National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE)

Continuing Education
4001 Approved Home Study Programs
4002 Approved Providers

Continuing Education Update
5001 New England—Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont
5002 Northeast—New York, Connecticut
5003 Eastern Seaboard—New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland
5004 Mid-Atlantic—Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington DC
5005 Southeast—North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida
5006 South—Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Arkansas
5007 Deep South—Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama
5008 Great Lakes—Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin
5009 Midwest—Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa
5010 West—Colorado, Nevada, Utah, South Dakota, North Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming
5011 Southwest—Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona
5012 Pacific—Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii
5013 Non-US—Puerto Rico, Canada, US Virgin Islands

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