Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) Credential Relocates and Expands

To broaden the possible applicant base for the Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) credential, NBCC’s Board of Directors has approved moving the ACS credential to the management of NBCC’s affiliate, the Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE). The major change is that applicants will no longer be required to hold the NCC. This will allow applicants across related disciplines that have the required coursework and experience to obtain the credential. Both NBCC and CCE are enthusiastic that this move will strengthen the credential overall and add to the professionalism of the counseling profession by having related professionals acquire a credential showing they are approved to supervise counselors.

For more information about the Approved Clinical Supervisor credential or to print an application, go to www.cce-global.org.

Criteria for Judging Associations and Credentialing Bodies

Many NCCs have called NBCC over the years to ask if this or that association or credentialing board is “legitimate.” Because we take seriously your need to be able to make these judgments, we are providing the following list of criteria. You may wish to use this list as a guide when you receive mailings from organizations with which you are not familiar.

ACCREDITATION: There are organizations that examine and judge certification boards. NBCC is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). It is a division of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). Ask if the credentialing board is accredited or state supported. Newly formed
Voluntary Audits

The following NCCs have passed the NBCC® Voluntary Audit for special recognition in continuing education. While 100 hours of continuing education are required for recertification, these NCCs have completed and documented more than 130 hours in the five-year certification period. They have received a special certificate citing this achievement and are to be congratulated for their dedication to excellence. NBCC salutes them!

Andrea Phelps, #44298, Haleyville, AL
Diane Berman, #41349, Potomac, MD
Ralph Manning, #37411, Sand Springs, OK
Deborah Carey, #38153, Nashville, TN
Irene P. Van Tassel, #24094, Lebanon, PA
James Joseph Creighton, #23136, Milwaukie, OR
Joan Carol Pavlik, #37563, Flossmoor, IL

Criteria for Credentialing Bodies

From Page 1

boards will not have had time to get accreditation. This does not mean that they are not legitimate.

2 The Originating Organization: Most certifications or credentials boards do not just come into existence alone. They are created from an older organization or group. Ask what organization or group started the new association or certification. The American Counseling Association formed NBCC in 1982.

3 Requirements: For certifying agencies, the major requirement should have to do with examination and documentation of education, experience, and supervision. NBCC requires extensive documentation as well as a rigorous examination. If the major requirement is money and no documentation of education is required, then one must ask what the credential really means. Requirements are the defining element of all legitimate credentials. For professional associations, look for questions regarding education and/or experience on the application. Most professional associations have several types of membership options for professional and nonprofessional members depending on degree types and levels.

4 Grandparenting Periods: Many legitimate organizations have some form of grandparenting period during which some requirements are either waived or reduced. These periods should be clearly defined with beginning and ending dates, and the requirements that will be in place after this period is over should be clearly spelled out.

5 Code of Ethics: Certification programs credentialing professionals must have codes of ethics. Many associations also develop such codes. These codes define the parameters of ethical conduct and practice in a profession. If such a code exists, then the next question should be regarding procedures for adjudication of reported ethical violations.

6 Benefits: For certifying agencies, the major benefit is the prestige of the credential itself. So, one must ask if the credential is widely known and respected within and outside of your profession. For associations, one may expect many benefits such as a professional journal, professional growth opportunities, an advocacy program that helps to promote the profession, opportunities to network with other members, methods of communicating job opportunities, financial programs such as credit cards or insurance, and other perks.

7 Other Resources: Check with your local Better Business Bureau or state attorney general’s office to find out if there have been any complaints against the board or association. There are also printed guides such as the Encyclopedia of Associations and other resource books in the reference section of most libraries that may be helpful.

NBCC hopes that this short list is useful to you as you try to make decisions regarding the many invitations that come in the mail. Please contact us if you have further questions.
**New Home Study Regulations for NCCs**
The recent change in regulations for approval of home study programs has led to a change in the requirements for NCCs who wish to accumulate hours by home study. In the past, NBCC required that home study programs taken by NCCs for the purpose of recertification credit must be approved by NBCC. Now, you may take and count hours from nonapproved home study programs. As long as the topic meets one of the 10 approved content areas and the program is designed for professionals and not the lay public, then the hours will be accepted. This only applies to actual home study programs with quizzes and certificates of completion. Reading a book or looking at a video on your own will not be accepted for continuing education credit.

**Counting Clock Hours**
The Recertification Department gets many questions about how to count continuing education credit. The simple answer is that, for NBCC, all you need to count is actual clock hours. Example: If you attend a workshop from noon to 3 p.m., you would count three contact clock hours and you would need 97 more to make your 100. Other terms that mean the same thing are CE credits, CEs, and PDHs. The term that tends to confuse people is the CEU. When used correctly, the CEU is worth 10 hours so that if you attend 17 hours of workshops, you would earn 17 hours or 1.7 CEUs. This is why we tell you on your NBCC folder that One CEU = 10 hours so you would multiply 1.7 times 10 to get your 17 hours.

The problem is, many providers do not use the term correctly. Many providers use CEU as if it means an hour. If you went to 17 hours worth of workshops and your certificate said you earned 17 CEUs, you should not multiply times 10 to get 170 hours. You should say to yourself, “What they really mean is 17 hours” and you would record 17 in your NBCC folder.

We hope this helps to clear things up. If you still feel confused, just give us a call.

**Purpose of This Column**
This column is designed for NBCC Approved Continuing Education Providers. It is here that NBCC providers can read about changes to regulations that will affect your relationship to NBCC. Please inform the editor if you know of an issue that needs to be addressed in this column.

**New Home Study Regulations**
At its November meeting, the NBCC Board of Directors passed new regulations that allow NBCC providers that are already approved for designated types of home study programs to add more programs of the same type without having to apply for them. Providers that wish to offer a new type of home study that they have not been approved for in the past must fill out an application form and submit one example of the new type to NBCC for approval. Please contact the Recertification Department with questions.

**Reaching Out to NCCs**
Providers wishing to reach NCCs to inform them about your programs or events may do so in several ways.

- You may order mailing labels from our list management company, MGI. MGI can be reached at 1-800-899-4420. Ask for Carlos Mabry or Comolita Stallings.

- You may purchase ad space in this newsletter. Deadlines are far ahead of the mail date for the newsletter so look at the Ad Space Reservation Form that you received when you were approved or renewed.

- All providers get a new Calendar Request Form each year at April renewal time so that you may send your events into us and we can list them in our online CE calendar. This is a free listing for up to 50 items. Please consider taking advantage of this option.
In this column, we share with NCCs the stories from other NCCs and their interesting or unique jobs. We have had two excellent submissions so far and encourage all of you to send yours in now. We will print them as space allows.

**ERIN SWEEDEN: MIXING MENTAL HEALTH AND ANTHROPOLOGY ON AN INDIAN RESERVATION**

Erin Sweeden, MS, NCC, from Madras, OR, is a mental health counselor on the Warm Springs Indian reservation. She writes, "When I got my BA in anthropology, the career counselors said, ‘You really studied what you wanted to’. I thought, ‘Of course, why not?’ I imagined myself working on an Indian reservation. It’s difficult to make oneself useful without some expertise that the tribe doesn’t have like teaching or forestry. Twenty years later when I completed my master’s degree in counseling, I saw an ad for a mental health counselor on the Warm Springs Indian reservation. I finally had the missing piece."

"I have been working at the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for seven years now. After studying exactly what I wanted to study, I’m doing exactly what I always wanted to do. Mental health is my main course, and anthropology is my dessert. I get to really see what it’s like on an Indian reservation on a daily basis instead of just a summer of anthropological field work.” — ERIN SWEEDEN

"MENTAL HEALTH IS MY MAIN COURSE, AND ANTHROPOLOGY IS MY DESSERT. I GET TO REALLY SEE WHAT IT’S LIKE ON AN INDIAN RESERVATION ON A DAILY BASIS INSTEAD OF JUST A SUMMER OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL FIELD WORK." — ERIN SWEEDEN
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Domestic Violence
Forensic Interviewing
Depression and Medical Illness
Emotional Issues Related to Women and Heart Disease
Oppositional Defiant Disorders

Client Rights
Treatment of Sexual Abuse
How to Help Patients Stop Smoking
Establishing a Weight Loss Program
Assessment of Suicide in Medically Ill
Conducting and Writing Custody Evaluations
Sex Offender:
  Typology, Assessment & Treatment
ERIC/CASS with
NBCC and ASCA
as contributing sponsors
present
The New Wave in Comprehensive
School Guidance Programs
February 14-17, 2002
Tucson, Arizona

Optional One-Day Post Session:
Using Technology to Enhance
School Guidance Programs
February 17, 2002
Tucson, Arizona

Contact ERIC/CASS at 1-800-414-9769 or ericcass@uncg.edu or check the ERIC/CASS Web site at http://ericcass.uncg.edu
Continuing Education Provider Update

NEWLY APPROVED PROVIDERS

Advanced Seminars.Net, Highland Park, NJ #5946
Adventures in Teaching and Counseling, Fair Lawn, NJ #5943
Baptist Regional Medical Center, Corbin, KY #5940
Behavioral Health Training Center, Denver, CO #5944
City University, Renton, WA #4482
Continuing Education University for You (CEU4U), Beachwood, OH #5934
Counseling CEUsOnline, State Line, PA #5936
Institute for Professional Growth, Oklahoma City, OK #5942
Mental Dynamics International, Inc., Ogden, UT #5941
New Vision Youth and Family Services, Inc. Training Institute, Cape Girardeau, MO #5945
Painting from the Source Workshops and Seminars, Ghent, NY #5938
Presley Ridge Schools of West Virginia, W alker, W V #5948
Public Information Resources, Inc. (PIRI), W est Roxbury, MA #5947
Rebek and Associates, W auwatosa, WI #5939
Steven R. Vazquez, Hurst, TX #5935
The Mental Health Advisor, Emmitsburg, MD #5932

NEW HOME STUDY PROGRAMS

The following N BCC Approved Providers have home study programs that have been recently approved. Please contact them directly to find out about these programs. See the entire list of approved home study programs on our N BCC Fax Information Line (1-800-324-6222). Request document #4001. This list is also on our W eb site, www.nbcc.org, on the Continuing Education page.

American Counseling Association (#1000)
5999 Stevenson Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22304
(800) 347-6647
W eb: www.counseling.org

Advanced Seminars.Net (#5946)
238 Raritan Avenue
Highland Park, NJ 08904
(732) 565-1115
W eb: www.advancedseminars.net

American Schools Association (#5913)
PO Box 14260
1814 W anasias
Chicago, IL 60614-0260
(773) 782-0046
W eb: www.asaceu.com

Association for Specialists in Group Work (#1011)
University of Georgia
402 Aderhold Hall
Athens, GA 30602
(706) 542-4107

CMR Home Study (#5484)
30423 Canwood Road
Suite 228
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
(818) 706-1671

THE COMPLETE NBCC® APPROVED PROVIDER LIST IS UPDATED MONTHLY ON THE WEB AT www.nbcc.org/providers/home.htm

CCE to Offer Continuing Ed Online

In the next few months, our affiliate, the Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE), will begin offering continuing education programs on its W eb site. Initial programs will be on topics such as Clinical Supervision, Psychodiagnosis and Treatment Planning, and Family Counseling in the Schools. CCE would like to know more topics of interest to you for our online continuing education program. Please send your suggestions to Dr. Scott Hinkle at hinkle@nbcc.org. CCE appreciates your help. ☐
Penny Dahlen, NCC, of Laramie, WY, a University of Wyoming assistant professor of counselor education, received the Wyoming Counseling Association’s J.R. MacNean Award. The award is named after UW’s first Counselor Education department head. Dahlen is the coordinator of the Counselor Education doctoral program.

Gloria Goldstein, Elaine Sozzi, and Faye Woocher, all NCCs and NCCCs, and their organization, the Westchester Career Counselors’ Network, were recently featured in the Westchester County Business Journal (November 2000). The article described the network, which is a consortium of certified and student career counselors from Westchester and Rockland counties (NY), Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York City. Goldstein, the founder, says that the group has grown from about a dozen to 75 active members and 150 on the mailing list. The group meets four times a year to discuss career issues and network with one another. Career counselors interested in the network should call 914-834-7984 or 914-467-7878.

Paul F. Hard, NCC, LPC, of Cullman, AL, has accepted a position with the Cullman Area Mental Health Authority as the clinical director of the West Alabama Mental Health Center. Hard is a native of Demopolis, AL.

Susan Mentzer-Blair and Jeanne McCung-Morris, both NCCs and LPCs, have been selected as Frederick County (MD) High School Counselor of the Year. Mentzer-Blair was chosen for the current school year, and McCung-Morris is a previous winner. Mentzer-Blair is the Guidance Department chair, sits on the School Improvement Team, and the Middletown Feeder Improvement Team. Both women are founding members and past presidents of the Frederick chapter of the A Association for Counseling and Development. They also are members of the American School Counselor Association and its Maryland chapter.

Connie Miller, NCC, LPC, founder and director of the Center for Co-dependency and The Spring Lake Heights Counseling Center in New Jersey, has developed and trademarked a new action method of therapy called Soul drama®. This method and technique has been featured in the International Journal of Action Methods (Winter 2000). Miller has presented her process at the last two conferences of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama (ASGPP). For more information, go to Miller’s Web site, www.centerforcounseling.com, or e-mail her at cocenter@bellatlantic.net.

Diana Queely-Berge, NCC, a counselor at Wyoming Behavioral Institute in Casper, received the Wyoming Counseling Association’s Human Rights Award. Her dissertation focused on methods of multicultural education. She taught multicultural counseling courses at the University of Wyoming prior to moving to Casper last year.

Karen Robinson, NCC, of Laramie, Wyoming, a University of Wyoming doctoral student, received the Wyoming Counseling Association’s Outstanding Service Award in recognition of three years of service as secretary/treasurer of the WCA. Prior to returning to school, she was the director of Samaritan Counseling Center in Casper.

Keith Seagle, NCC, of Dothan, AL, was recently voted “Alumni of the Year” at Troy State University-Dothan. In addition to being an NCC, Seagle is a Licensed Professional Counselor and master’s level addictions professional who is currently serving as the Student Support Services counselor at his alma mater. Seagle’s counseling focuses on assisting disadvantaged students attain a college degree and start or enhance their careers. His experience includes therapist and assessment specialist for the Substance Abuse Program of the Wiregrass Community Mental Health Board. The award recognizes his service to the Dothan community including serving as chairperson of the local Substance Abuse Partnership Advisory Board and his “superior service, loyalty, and dedication” to the university and the community.

Barbara Y. Wills, NCC, LPC, was selected as one of two representatives from the USA/AFS on the AFS Global Educator’s Program to More on Page 11
Phyllis-Terri Gold, Ph.D., NCC, CCMHC, of Ft. Salonga, FL, has written a newly published book titled Saving G race: A Spiritual Love Story. Gold describes Saving G race as a novel about true love, real magic, and ordinary miracles. Set in Long Island, the main characters are romantically impaired individuals, wanting love but unable to give it or know what it is. The author believes that the lessons in the book are particularly timely, as many people are now discovering that material things alone will not make them happy. Gold, a native of Huntington, is a board certified clinical mental health counselor and psychologist who specializes in integrating alternative and conventional therapies. The founding director of Mindworks Center for the Self, she is in private practice in Ft. Salonga and also gives lectures and workshops for corporations as well as for the general public. Saving G race: A Spiritual Love Story, published by Infinity Publishing, is available at bookstores or may be ordered by calling 1-877-BUY-BOOK.

Paula Prober, NCC, a licensed professional counselor in private practice in Eugene, OR, has a new book, Ten Tips for Women Who Want to Change the World Without Losing Their Friends, Shirts, or Minds. This self-help book with a sense of humor presents strategies that help the reader contact her authenticity and embody her creative spirit in order to facilitate real change. Order through TCC Press, PO Box 50832, Eugene, OR, or from Amazon.com. For more information, e-mail pprober@efn.org or visit www.psychevolution.com.


Sally Walsh, NCC, is a licensed professional counselor in Michigan who has worked with at-risk children, families, and adolescents. Walsh has recently written the audio book, Joyful Parenting: Tuning Into Your Child, for both parents and professionals who work with children and families. Joyful Parenting is full of practical, simple, and easy-to-implement ideas about tuning into children. It was Walsh’s experience as a parent group leader that impressed upon her the need for a simple tool to help parents improve their skills and find answers to the most common parenting questions. Available on both compact disc and cassette, the audio book is published by MCcloud Publishing of Santa Cruz, CA. Order online at www.books4hearts.com or by calling toll-free 1-877-644-2845.

Sally Walsh, NCC, is a licensed professional counselor in Michigan who has worked with at-risk children, families, and adolescents. Walsh has recently written the audio book, Joyful Parenting: Tuning Into Your Child, for both parents and professionals who work with children and families. Joyful Parenting is full of practical, simple, and easy-to-implement ideas about tuning into children. It was Walsh’s experience as a parent group leader that impressed upon her the need for a simple tool to help parents improve their skills and find answers to the most common parenting questions. Available on both compact disc and cassette, the audio book is published by MCcloud Publishing of Santa Cruz, CA. Order online at www.books4hearts.com or by calling toll-free 1-877-644-2845.

Barbara Wills
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IN THIS ISSUE:
CRITERIA FOR JUDGING ASSOCIATIONS AND CREDENTIALING BODIES

NBCC helps Sponsor ERIC/CASS Conference

NBCC is proud to be a contributing sponsor to the ERIC/CASS conference, “The New Wave in Comprehensive School Guidance Programs,” which will be held in Tucson, AZ, February 14–17, 2002. The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is also a supporting sponsor of the conference, which will feature Dr. Norman C. Gysbers and Dr. Patricia Henderson. Both speakers are nationally acclaimed leaders in training education professionals to design, implement, and evaluate Comprehensive School Guidance Programs.

There is also an optional, one-day post session, “Using Technology to Enhance School Guidance Programs,” on February 17. This session will feature training on creating Guidance Plus Web sites and establishing one-stop guidance resource centers. Many other technology-related topics will be covered.

For information on the conference, please contact ERIC/CASS at 1-800-414-9769, by e-mail at ericcas@uncg.edu, or go to its Web site at http://ericcas.uncg.edu.

The New Wave in Comprehensive Social Guidance Programs
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