



THE ASSOCIATION FOR  
ADDICTION PROFESSIONALS

---

1001 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 201, Alexandria, VA 22314  
703/741-7686 800/548-0497 • FAX: 703/741-7698 800/377-1136  
World Wide Web: [www.naadac.org](http://www.naadac.org)

1972-2007 Celebrating 35 Years of  
Serving The Addiction Profession

19 March 2013

To: *CAAP/CT*

*RE: Licensure Law Hearing Raised Bill No. 1065 LCO No. 4107*

Dear Licensure Law Hearing Commission.

On behalf of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, which represents the professional interests of more than 75,000 addiction counselors, educators and other addiction-focused health care professionals in the United States, Canada and abroad, I am writing to you concerning the proposal to change the current rules governing substance abuse and behavioral health counselors in the state of Connecticut.

As you are aware, current rules governing the licensure of substance abuse and behavioral health counselors has taken out the requirement of specific substance use disorder education. NAADAC supports the statement that the licensure law has a requirement that persons licensed earn a masters degree from a regionally accredited college or university and the masters degree should be in a behavioral health science.

NAADAC also supports the importance of having substance use disorder education and specific training as part of the requirement for licensure. This requirement lines up with the Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) National Scopes of Practice that has been accepted as a credible and reasonable requirement for those serving substance disorder patients. Currently, there are 17 states that have a licensure law supporting substance use disorder specific licensure and supporting specific education and training requirements. With the Affordable Care Act coming into practice by January 1, 2014, there are many more states currently working on a Substance Use Disorder licensure law. These laws and rules support the protection of the patient to receive care that is specialized to the needs of their disorder. Just as one would not send a heart disease patient to a dentist, one would not send a substance use disorder patient to a general counselor who has been educated and trained in the specific disorder or substance use.

Further, NAADAC believes that only licensed addiction professionals are qualified to provide clinical supervision for those working to become licensed addiction professionals.

We feel that this is in line with NAADAC's Mission Statement and Vision Statement:

**NAADAC's Mission Statement**

"NAADAC's Mission is to lead, unify and empower addiction focused professionals to achieve excellence through education, advocacy, and knowledge, standards of practice, ethics, professional development and research."

*Adopted 1998*

**NAADAC's Vision Statement**

"NAADAC is the premier global organization of addiction focused professionals who enhance the health and recovery of individuals, families and communities."

*Adopted 1998*

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Moreno Tuohy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, NCAC II, CCDC II, SAP  
Executive Director