

# PROFESSIONAL UPDATE NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S Letter

*E. Wayne Bland, MSW, LCSW, CACI*

In the late 70's and early 80's, Georgia Addiction Counselors Association (GACA) changed the landscape for addiction treatment in Georgia. GACA, along with our national affiliation with NAADAC, literally created a profession that defined what was expected of a counselor in this field and defined what was good and quality services. Certifications were created to ensure that our clients received good care, standards were set and a strong code of ethics was created. At one time, GACA had 1100 members and we were the original certification for counselors in Georgia. Somewhere along the way, we became complacent, did not pay attention to the forces at play and were unable to quickly act and take the lead on several fronts: the hijacking of treatment by insurance companies, by mental health advocates, by primary physicians, by the economy whether it was good or bad. And we began the enviable slide into middle age (however one might describe that age).

Well, folks, it is a new day. We have opportunities to again change the landscape, to become the leader in our field, to become a major part of the conversation on workforce development, to become the advocate of note for our clients. To these ends, the 2011 Board of Directors has been involved since October in the following initiatives:

To increase our membership and provide what members need from a professional organization, we completed a membership survey with the most responses we have had in recent years. Dr. Cindy Armstrong is our membership chair and will be reporting the results at a later time.

One of the major issues for all of our members is to have access to quality training opportunities for certification and recertification. Ewell Hardman, Board member at large, is the training chair and his committee not only has to plan and execute at least two state wide trainings a year, but also must monitor and certify our training providers. Ewell has created a new contract for our providers that is much more detailed and easier to monitor than in the past. This is to ensure that our members have the opportunity to choose between several excellent providers. *(continued on page 2)*

## What Can You Do With A CAC?

*Frank Barker, LPC, MAC, SAP,CS, CSAT*

According to the Department of Labor, addictions counseling is one of the fastest growing career fields. Estimates put the growth rate at 21% by 2016. The CACI is a credential which certifies the candidate demonstrates competencies after completing educational and practical experiences. The CACI is the entry-level certification within the substance use disorders (S.U.D.) field. Currently in the state of Georgia, it meets all requirements to begin a career as a professional S. U. D. Counselor.

The CACI career path prepares the candidate for many types of positions within the field of addictions. These positions can be divided into two categories: public sector and private sector. Publicly funded organizations include: community service boards, specialty providers, mental health hospitals, and corrections facilities. In addition, probation companies and DUI schools all use CACI professionals. Providers in the public sector utilize CACI's to provide services in both dual diagnosis and addiction treatment programs. Organizations within the private sector that employ addiction professionals include Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Mental Health Courts, Family Dependency Treatment Courts, and early intervention programs throughout the state. The private sector programs include: treatment centers, methadone clinics, private practice MDs, psychologists, social workers, and counselors who employ individuals with the CACI.

The opportunities are plentiful within the field for a Certified Addiction Counselor. So the next question is: What does CACI actually do? The answer to this is broken down into five areas that include individual counseling, group counseling, assessment and screening, case management, and of course the ever infamous paperwork. About 60 - 70% of the CACI's day involves with face-to-face contact with clients who are trying to manage their chronic progressive disease. The other 30 - 40% can include managing insurance benefits, documenting individual and group sessions, and facilitating discharge planning and community resources to treat disease and the client as a whole. All these tasks come together to provide the client with a solid best practices approach to help put their disease in remission.

It is apparent that a CACI can enter the field and receive the necessary training, but what else? The answer to this shows that a CACI certification, when compared to requirements of other professions in the field, provides the best training for the least cost. Other professionals in the field

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## GACA Board of Directors & Administration

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**E. Wayne Bland, MSW, LCSW, CACII**  
President 2010 – 2012  
(Savannah)

**Diane Sherman, PhD, NCACII, CCS**  
President-Elect 2010-2012  
(Marietta)

**Lewis A. Clymore, CACII, NCACII, CCS**  
Secretary-Treasurer 2010-2012  
(Decatur)

**James A. Vaughns, MS, LPC, MAC, CACII, CCS**  
Past-President 2010-2012  
(Centerville)

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Cindy Armstrong, LPC, CACII, MAC, CCS**  
– East GA (Evans)

**W. Frank Barker, Jr., LPC, MAC, SAP, CS, CSAT** – Coastal GA (Savannah)

**Denise Dobbins** – Middle GA (Dudley)

**Cindy B. Driggers, LMSW, NCACII, CACII, CAP, CCS** – Northeast GA (Cleveland)

**Ewell Hardman, MDiv, MAC, CACII** – GA-at-Large (Lithonia)

**J. Scott Maddox, MS, LPC, CACII** – Metro Atlanta (Atlanta)

**Wayde Washburn, MDiv, NCACI, CACII** – West GA (LaGrange)

**Jon Wiesner, BS, CACII** – Northwest GA (Dahlonega)

**Chuck Yzenski, BA, CACII, CCS** – South GA (Eastman)

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Sue Purvis Otts**  
Executive Director

**Marlo Scoggins**  
Education Coordinator

**Kim Shock**  
Office Assistant

*(President's Letter continued from page 1)*

Since October, Ewell along with Scott Maddox, our outgoing training chair and the training committee, developed a successful spring training at Jekyll Island. For the first time, we began to see new and younger folks at our conferences, all interested in entering the field. Currently we are beginning the planning for the fall conference in October at Toccoa. Save the date October 9th thru 13th.

We continue to participate on the Board of the Georgia School of Addiction Studies. Scott Maddox, our legislative chair, worked with Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, Georgia Association of Recovery Residences, and ADACA-Georgia to create the 3rd annual Addiction Awareness Day at the Capitol. More than 600 folks showed up to support addiction treatment and for the first time the governor spoke and was well versed in the need for treatment services especially drug court treatment and he continued in the legislative session to support funds for services. Scott and David Jordan are to be commended for their continued effort for not only the legislative day but to keep us informed of what is happening on Capitol Hill.

One of the major jobs of a professional organization is to define the profession and to provide ethical guidelines for practice as well as to monitor practices in the field and investigate ethical complaints. Doug Brush, our Ethics chair and Danny Hawkins have investigated 6 major complaints in the last few months. They have handled this with the care and confidentiality that is required to do this job. It is of interest to note that at least 5 of these complaints were about boundary violations. In October at the Toccoa conference, we will offer a day on Ethics particularly on boundary issues. I would encourage you to participate. I would also encourage you to go to the NAADAC website and review the new code of ethics.

One of the major issues we have faced in the last two years is the loss of potential certifications to ADACB of GA. As we struggled to remain competitive and to continue to offer a quality, respected certification, we have eliminated the oral exams and simplified the certification process without losing the quality of the certification. Currently, the process from qualification to certification is 4 months compared to 9 months a year ago. We have a dedicated team of volunteers who process the applications at least once a month, sometimes twice. We are continuing to examine the possibility of offering new certifications for various specialties within our field.

We are joining forces with other organizations: the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, Georgia Association of Recovery Residences, ADACB of Georgia, NAADAC and others to create an environment where persons with addictive diseases can continue to have access to appropriate care.

We have a hard working board this year. Please let us know what you see as major concerns as well as offering your opinions and solutions. Thank you. It is a privilege to serve you. WAYNE

*(What Can You Do With A CAC? continued from page 1)*

include psychiatrists, psychologists, LPCs, LCSWs, and masters level and/ or Bachelors level professionals. You might ask how a CACI compares and how does that fit in. The answer to this question can be found in the crosswalk included with this article. The ability to perform certain billable services is determined by levels. What a prospective employer can bill determines the job description and use of the counselor. The CACI, with a high school diploma or equivalent, is able to bill at the Level 5 for state grant in aid and MRO Medicaid. In other words, this is the beginning professional level in Medicaid billing. In addition the CACI is a resource for the other professional levels because you have specific trainings related to addictive diseases. This is very valuable in some instances you may be the only individual with that kind of training making you invaluable to the treatment team.

In summary you can see that a career in substance abuse counseling is a very viable and rewarding career. It gives many individuals the opportunity to begin working in the field and earn a living, and perhaps continuing their education as a professional in the behavioral health field.

- Frank Barker is on the Board of Directors, Region 7 – Coastal GA and CEO of Recovery Place Savannah, Inc. in Savannah. Contact at [wfbarker@recoveryplace.org](mailto:wfbarker@recoveryplace.org).



## Legislative Update

**J. Scott Maddox, MS, LPC, CACII**

GACA co-sponsored the Addiction Recovery Awareness Day 2011, which was held at a later date than originally scheduled due to the January ice storm which shut down Atlanta. Despite being bumped to a February date, the event was still an overwhelming success. This year we had over 20 elected and other State officials make an appearance at the noon rally on the Capitol steps, including both the Governor and the Speaker of the House. ARAD 2011 incorporate a new event at this year's event... we held 2 separate lunch & learn sessions for participants to learn about recommended techniques for communicating with elected officials about addiction and recovery issues.

As the Legislative Chair, I would like to personally thank Neil Kaltenecker, Executive Director of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse and Representative Jay Neal (R) of State House District 1 for their invaluable contributions to the efforts on making legislative changes that affect the services that we provide and our clients who will benefit from the important issues being addressed by our State legislature.

The following are some of the Bills that were being tracked by the Legislative Committee during the 2011 Legislative Session:

**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for Georgia: SB 36** – Sen. Buddy Carter's bill on the electronic database for SCHEDULE I1-V controlled substances passed Senate (49-6) and House (117-45). The House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee made several changes to the bill that put restrictions on access to the database, especially by other states and the federal government.

**HB 184** – Sponsored by Rep. Tom Weldon is the same bill which elements were folded into SB 36 allowing the Senate bill to be the primary legislation.

**Mental Health Courts: SB 39** – Sen. Johnny Grant sponsored a bill to create mental health courts to allow for them to receive funding, establish standards, collect and coordinate information. The bill passed the Senate 51-0 and was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee, which favorably reported it out on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sex Trafficking: HB 200** – Rep. Ed Lindsey took up the cause to put strong criminal penalties on sex trafficking. The bill passed the House 168-1 and the Senate 54-0.

**Independent Department of Public Health: HB 214** - Rep. Channell sponsored a bill to create an independent Department of Public Health. The bill received overwhelming support from both chambers as it moved through the process with only a few technical changes occurring along the way. The House originally voted 151-9 and then the Senate passed the bill 46-7. Since the Senate had to make a few technical changes requested by the Governor the House had to agree on the final version, doing so on March 31<sup>st</sup> with a vote of 142-18.

**Community Services: HB 231** - Developing Community Services for strong evidence-based, recovery oriented sponsored by Rep Wendell Willard with Judge Tate as the key supporter  
(continued on page 9)



## September is Recovery Month

**Recovery Month** promotes the societal benefits of treatment for substance use and mental disorders, celebrates people in recovery, lauds the contributions of treatment providers, and promotes the message that recovery in all its forms is possible. **Recovery Month** spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective and people can and do recover.

Go to [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov) for events in your area, and how to get your RECOVERY MONTH KIT.

- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual GARR Recovery Fair** to be held on Friday, September 30, 2011 at the Marietta Conference Center.  
[www.garronline.org/recoveryfair.html](http://www.garronline.org/recoveryfair.html)
- Kick off to Recovery Month, Wednesday, August 31, 2011, **Georgia School of Addiction Studies, Savannah**. For the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual GSAS conference schedule go to [www.thegeorgiaschool.org](http://www.thegeorgiaschool.org).
- **National Conference on Addiction Disorders (ncad)**, September 17-21, 2011, San Diego, CA, [www.ncad11.com](http://www.ncad11.com)

## Training & Education Report

*Ewell Hardman, MDiv, MAC, CACII*

### COUNSELING APPS CONFERENCE-TOCCOA-OCTOBER 9-13, 2011



## COUNSELING APP

This is the Age of APPs. Cell phone users routinely select an "Application" to accomplish specific tasks. These tools have made it possible to do finances, take notes, listen to the radio, watch TV and dozens of other things on phones that were impossible a few years ago.

GACA wants to provide you a counselors APP Conference at Toccoa, Georgia. Our intent is to bring you quality practical tools to do your work, maintain your credentials, and develop your career. The focus on practice and applications make GACA's training programs useful and worthy of attendance for all who want to be more effective counselors.

For both new and seasoned counselors, this year's conference will bring an added one day focus on Court related services. In Georgia, our courts continue to develop new ways to integrate substance abuse counseling and treatment services with court processes. GACA is doing its part to prepare you for this change in our field. The Toccoa Conference will devote Monday to specific themes related to court services.

*"Conferences are not just about knowledge but also about a community of persons who are bearers of the traditions of health and recovery."*

### GACA Fall Training & Education Conference

#### TENTATIVE COURSE OFFERINGS:

**OPENING SESSION: Working with Drug Courts – John Zoller, Statewide Accountability Court Coordinator**

- Inspiration & Restatement of Addiction Counselor Goals •
- Core Skills for Working within the Drug Court System •
- Psychopharmacology for Addiction Counselors •
- Healthcare Initiative (Obama Plan) •
- ASAM Placement Criteria •
- Ethics & Boundaries •
- Team Approach to Management
- Skills for Drug Court •
- Writing to Heal •
- Clinical Supervision: TAP 21-A •
- Treatment Screening, Orientation & Intake for the Beginner •
- Medical Aspects of Addiction •
- CCS Tips & Update (Forum on Clinical Supervision) •
- HIV/AIDS For Substance Abuse Counselors •
- Introduction to Crisis Intervention

GACA has occasionally offered limited scholarships for its educational events. As of this writing there are some limited funds that will provide partial scholarships for persons who qualify. We have a bias in our scholarships for persons in process of certification or who are currently unemployed. We are aware many could use financial assistance, however, we can only provide to those in greatest need. We are grateful for a small grant for this benefit. You may contact our GACA office by phone or email and make your application.

One reason to attend the GACA conference is staying connected to your peers. We not only learn from each other but we get strength and encouragement from each other. Conferences are not just about knowledge but also about a community of persons who are bearers of the traditions of health and recovery. You improve our conference with your presence.

The peaceful surroundings at the Toccoa Conference Center will provide you a change of pace and the opportunity for rest and enthusiastic renewal. Join us October 9-13th for a great conference. Get your counseling APP this Fall. You'll be glad you did.

*Ewell Hardman is on the Board of Directors serving GA-at-Large and is the Director of Substance Abuse Services for The Summit Counseling Ctr/Mt Pisgah UMC, Sandy Springs One. Contact at [ewellhardman@gmail.com](mailto:ewellhardman@gmail.com).*

**SAVE THE DATES**  
**GACA Fall Training & Education Conference**  
**October 9 – 13, 2011**

**Georgia Baptist Conference Center**  
**Toccoa, Georgia**

**Check the GACA website Early August for Registration Information**

# Certification Board Report

*J. Randall Flanigan, MSW, LCSW, MAC, CACII, CCS*

Hi everyone!

I wanted to give you a brief update on the activities of your Certification Board. First, thanks for your continued support and confidence in GACA as the premier professional organization for addiction counselors. In spite of economic hardships in our country and the world, our membership numbers are remaining stable. The biggest issue that needs your attention is the trainings we are doing to educate clinical supervisors on the Case History component of our Certification. It is imperative for all active clinical supervisors to attend the training to become familiar with and have any questions answered to better aid new applicants. Thanks to the enthusiastic participants from the 2011 Spring Conference at Jekyll Island. We had a wonderful turnout for attendance. I look forward to seeing many of you in Toccoa. Contact Randy at [flanigancounsels@yahoo.com](mailto:flanigancounsels@yahoo.com).

## GACA Certification Board

J. Randall Flanigan, MSW,  
LCSW, MAC, CACII, CCS

J.J. Bremner, CACII, CCS

Neil A. Raffan, MEd, CACII,  
CCS

Curtis Lewis, BA, CACII, CCS

Janet Retterbush-Guerke, MS,  
MAC, CACII, CCS

George L. Sneed, PhD, NCACII,  
CACII, MAC, CCS

### ASSOCIATES

Calvin Nelson, Th.D.,  
NCACII, CCS, RTC, SAP

Barbara Sickmon, MS,  
CACII, NCACI, CCS

Charles E. Chuck Smith, CACII,  
NCACII, CCS

Frank P. White, Jr, BA,  
NCACII, CACII, CCS, SAP

## New Certifications & Recertifications

### New CACI

Emanuel Hargrove, Riverdale  
Dominic Johnson, Decatur  
Lettie Jordan, Warner Robins  
James Williams, Forest Park

### New CACII

James Gorley, Eatonton  
Joshua Nation, Marietta  
Courtney Robbins, Suwanee  
Piedad Uribe, Savannah  
Peyton Waggener, Tucker

### Reciprocity CACI

Samuel Simmons, Jr.,  
Minneapolis, MN

### Upgrade CACII

Vincent Geoghagan, Port  
Wentworth  
Michael McDonald, Winder  
Jodi Watts, Bluffton, SC

### CAC Recertifications

Sandra Amador, Marietta  
Shana Anderson, Rome  
Bernard Anderson, Jr.,  
Washington, DC  
Cynthia Armstrong, Evans  
Lisa Artis, Roswell  
Ford Ash, Jr., Gainesville  
Jennifer Bartl, Atlanta  
James Bass, Snellville  
Starling Bridges, Helen  
Elaine Brockman, Macon  
Clarice Brodie, Thomaston  
Bernadine Brown, Atlanta  
Ethel Brown, St Mountain  
Doug Brush, Doraville  
Janet Carter, Waycross

Pamela Clark,  
McDonough  
David Clark, Snellville  
Oletha Cowart, Albany  
Rita Craven, Gainesville  
Cecilia Cumberland-  
Wright, Hephzibah  
George Dandy, New  
Castle, DE  
William Daniel,  
Chattanooga, TN  
Robert Davis, Auburn  
Scott Dunbar, Atlanta  
Kathy Durden, Metter  
Renee Eady, Carrollton  
Akisha Fedd, Valdosta  
Kay Fields, Cartersville  
Randy Flanigan, Athens  
Victoria Fletcher,  
Wilmington, NC  
Gwendolyn Fox,  
Accokeek, MD  
Judeth Garmon, Atlanta  
Mark Garno, Statesboro  
Connie Gibson, Temple  
Terri Giles, Cedartown  
Scott Glenn, Macon  
Iris Graham, Ft  
Oglethorpe  
Janie Green, Buford  
Brenda Griffin, Lithonia  
Jackson Gunby,  
Winterville  
Alford Hall, Hazlehurst  
Samuel Halstion, Dacula  
Donnie Harris, Covington  
Mary Hewell, Dahlonega  
Edwin Hill, Jr., Marietta

Marie Holliday, Durham  
Cindy Howard,  
Statesboro  
Demetrice Howard,  
Byron  
Vernon Howard,  
Statesboro  
Tyrone Hurst, East Point  
Tammie Hurt, Canton  
Jody Iodice, Atlanta  
Delma Jay, St Mary's  
Patricia Jefferson, Staten  
Island, NY  
Dianne Johns, Aiken, SC  
Rosalina Johns, Atlanta  
Henry Johnson, Midland  
Cleveland Jones,  
Augusta  
Linda Jones, Dublin  
Steve Jones, Macon  
Kathryn Kelley, Newnan  
Karen Kelly, Decatur  
Wendy Kelsey,  
Milledgeville  
Paula Kicklighter,  
Gainesville  
Chaiwon Shin Kim,  
Norcross  
Ronald Kincey, APO AE  
Medina King, Adel  
William King, Buckhead  
Valvice Knight, Molena  
Robert LaFrance,  
Augusta  
Barbara Larsen, Tucker  
Keith Lawson, Decatur  
Janet Lenard, APO AE  
Linette Leslie-Fondon,  
Midland  
James Lewis, Statesboro

Thomas Lorraine Bradenton  
Roger Macauley, Brunswick  
Marilyn Maddox, Atlanta  
Pierluigi Mancini, Norcross  
Robert Martin, Fayetteville  
Gina McDonald, Winder  
Rick McKain, Tucker  
William McLeod, Jr., Lawrenceville  
Jeanine Mele, Cartersville  
Glynn Melton, Dublin  
Bryant Miller, Union Point  
Kevin Miller, Ringgold  
Larry Mitchum, Grovetown  
Cynthia Mooney, Statesboro  
Prince Malcolm Moorman,  
Ellenwood  
Betty Morse-Carter, Hephzibah  
Don Musick, Savannah  
Rosemary Naples-Simmons,  
Cartersville  
Gail Natter, Marietta  
Merrill Norton, High Shoals  
Davina Overcash, Gillsville  
Ramon Pacheco, Jr., Berkeley Lake  
Kirk Phillips, Douglasville  
Sharon Philpot, Cedartown  
William Rainwater, Newnan  
Linda Robinson, Decatur  
Nancy Schulz, Barnesville  
Joyce Screws, Waycross  
Jane Sheldon, Lavonia  
Patrick Shinnick, Lawrenceville  
Raymond Silva, Athens  
Charles Smith, Ringgold  
George Sneed, Augusta  
Calvin Stephens, Dublin  
Mary Tallent, Marietta  
Charmon Talley, Marietta  
James Taylor, Decatur  
Bernard Tellis, Pelham

Liberty Thomas, St  
Mountain  
Serena Thomas,  
Savannah  
Samuel Thomas, Macon  
Raquel Vereen, Conley  
Jane Wade, Demorest  
Amanda Waldrep,  
Helen  
Tom Watkins,  
Gainesville  
Irene Westenberg,  
Statesboro  
Virginia White, Hinesville  
Jon Wiesner, Dahlonega  
Don Wilkinson, Macon  
Ardria Williams,  
Thomasville  
Carol Williams,  
McDonough  
Stephanie Willner,  
Woodstock  
Carla Wright, Acworth

## Board of Directors Reports

### **Region 4 East GA – Cindy Armstrong, LPC, MAC, CACII, CCS**

It is a privilege to again serve on the GACA Board of Directors and to represent Region 4. I reside in the Augusta area and am the clinical director of the Army substance Abuse Program at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. I have been a member of GACA since 1994. I will serve as the Membership Committee Chair and it is my goal to help recruit new members to GACA and to help provide services that our members want and deserve. It is also my goal to insure that members continue to be recognized through awards and the Newsletter for their service and accomplishments and to help plan and coordinate recreational activities at training events! Cindy Armstrong. Reach Cindy at [cindyleea@hotmail.com](mailto:cindyleea@hotmail.com)

### **Region 5 Middle GA – Denise Dobbins**

Denise is the founder/CEO of Promise of Hope, Inc., a long-term faith based recovery residence in rural Middle Georgia. Founded in 1999, Promise of Hope has campuses in Dudley and Baxley. Denise is a long standing member of GACA, served on the Board of Directors of GARR in 2003, and is a member of AACC. She studied addiction education with Circle of Recovery, GARR and GACA, as well as other venues across GA. Denise has been instrumental in bringing Voices of Recovery to the Middle GA area through events celebrating September National Recovery Month. Her focus has been presenting programs that are educating on the disease concept, while encouraging families to get involved and get healthy as well. Denise's goals for her service to the GACA board are to help increase awareness of the benefits of sustaining membership, or becoming a GACA member. Denise resides in Dublin. Denise can be reached at [denise@promiseofhopega.org](mailto:denise@promiseofhopega.org)

### **Region 6 West GA – Wayde Washburn, MDiv, NCACI, CACII**

Wayde has recently opened a private counseling office in LaGrange. For nearly nineteen years, he worked for a community behavioral health organization providing counseling and directing human resources for 400 employees. He coordinated SA programs for multiple counties and state regulatory surveys. For over 10 years, Wayde served as an International Surveyor for CARF. Wayde earned his bachelor's from Auburn University and his Master's from Emory University. This is Wayde's third service on the Board of Directors. Goals for Region 6: 1. Advocacy for the person with addiction issues: I would like to see GACA and Region 6 work more toward as an advocate for persons with addiction issues including more activity in the political arena and in social networking; 2. Better informed membership: GACA, as an organization and through its members, does a lot of good work. I would like to improve communication to share this good work between the organization and its corporate structure and the membership of the organization; and 3. Improved services available: Through more viable advocacy and better informed organization, services can improve. By focusing on advocacy and information sharing, quality can move us beyond complacency and out of the routine. Wayde can be reached at [wayde@addictionrecoverylagrange.com](mailto:wayde@addictionrecoverylagrange.com)

### **Region 8 South GA – Chuck Yzenski, CACII, CCS**

I have been a member of GACA since 2003. I am currently employed by the Georgia Department of Corrections and am the Lead Counselor and Clinical Director of the Tifton Day Reporting Center. It is an intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment program for probationers with Substance abuse and Criminal histories. My goal as the region 8 GACA board member is to help GACA continue its long history of developing, training and certifying the best Addiction counselors in the state and continue to be the best Certified Association in the state. It is a privilege to serve the South Georgia region and it is also my goal to present any concerns from South Georgia to the Board for consideration. You can contact me at [cyzensk@live.com](mailto:cyzensk@live.com). God bless, Chuck

### **Georgia-at-Large – Ewell Hardman, MDiv, MAC, CACII**

I grew up in Lithonia. My previous work includes United Methodist pastor since 1976, serving at MARR, Inc. for 19 years, most recently as Clinical Director, and now occasional lecturer at Emory School of Medicine, Private Practice in addiction counseling, and staff at The Summit Counseling Center, Alpharetta, where my role is Director of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services. I recently developed and implemented the Forsyth County Diversion Program. I enjoy the work of counseling, consulting, and training on addictions, recovery and integration of spirituality in counseling. I am also currently serving as Chair of the Training and Education Committee for GACA. Goals for the Board of Directors 2011: 1. Improve the functioning of GACA; 2. Increase reasons for addiction counselors to become members of GACA; 3. Increase reasons for addiction counselors to be certified through GACA; and 4. Balance the budget of GACA. Ewell can be reached at [ewellhardman@gmail.com](mailto:ewellhardman@gmail.com)

***Future issues of the Professional Update will feature other members of the Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact your regional representative or officers with goals or issues you would like to see addressed by your member representatives.***

**Nominations are now being accepted for the GACA Board of Directors.  
See Page 7 for Nomination Requirements and Deadline.**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION 2011

GACA, a non-profit professional association of 525+ members, is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Your Board is again seeking members to assist in the effective and efficient management and growth of this member-driven association. Your expertise, energy, and excitement are invaluable in preserving advocacy for addiction professionals and the people they serve.

### General Requirements:

1. Candidate must be a GACA/NAADAC member in good standing
2. Individual making nomination must be a GACA/NAADAC member in good standing
3. Regional nominees must live or work in the region to be represented
4. Members in good standing may fax, mail or e-mail an official Nomination Form which is available on the website at [www.gaca.org](http://www.gaca.org) or by calling the office. Nomination must be received in the GACA office on or before August 15, 2011. It is the responsibility of the nominee or candidate to ensure that his or her nomination has been received. No verbal nominations will be accepted.

### Seats Open on the Board of Directors for Election 2011 are:

<b>Region 8-South GA</b> <b>Incumbent: Chuck Yzenski,</b> <b>Eastman</b>	<b>REGION 1 – Northwest GA</b> <b>Incumbent: Jon Wiesner</b>	<b>Georgia-at-Large</b> <b>Incumbent: Ewell Hardman,</b> <b>Lithonia</b>
Term: 3 years Represent Jackson, Madison, Elbert, Barrow, Clark, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Wilkes, Lincoln, Walton, Morgan, Green, Taliaferro, Warren, McDuffie, Columbia, Glascock, Richmond, Jefferson, Burke, Emanuel, Jenkins, and Screven Counties	Term: 3 years Represent Dade, Walker, Catooga, Whitfield, Murray, Fannin, Gilmer, Chattooga, Gordon, Pickens, Floyd, Bartow, Cherokee, Polk, Paulding, Haralson	Term: 3 years General representative for state members

Election bylaws require board nominations to be received by August 15, 2011. Following confirmation of eligibility of each candidate, the BOD Election Ballot 2011 will be distributed to all members in good standing on September 1, 2011. Deadline for ballots is on or before midnight October 1, 2011. If you have questions, please call Sue Otts in the Administrative Office at 770-434-1000 or e-mail to [gaca@gaca.org](mailto:gaca@gaca.org)

### *Tribute To A Colleague – Askew Jackson, Jr., NCACII, CACII, CCS*

Askew Jackson, past President of Georgia Addiction Counselor Association (1990-1992), passed away on June 1, 2011. We have lost a true warrior in the field of addiction counseling and recovery. I was on the Board of Directors with Askew when he was president. Again, in the late 1990's our professional pathway crossed when he and his wife operated Viewpointe of Atlanta, a recovery residence for women. Askew loved his recovery and loved those in it. He was very instrumental in affecting the lives of many including professionals and clients alike. His passion was helping others in their own path of sobriety, always giving to others that enriched their life. They would say it was he who helped them; but Askew always lived his life that in helping others he was blessed. From the friends of Georgia Addiction Counselors Association, we extend our deepest sympathy and regrets. Our field has experienced a lost with his passing.

*Diane Sherman, PhD, NCACII, CCS*

## GACA 2011 COUNSELOR AWARDS NOMINATION

Nominations are now being accepted for The New Counselor of the Year Award and The Bernard Carter Humanitarian Award. We know you work with someone who deserves to be recognized for his/her dedication and commitment to this field. Nominees need to meet the eligibility requirements below. All nominations must include: which award you are nominating someone for; name of nominee; name and membership expiration of person submitting nomination; explanation as to why you feel this individual is deserving of an award. Deadline for nominations is October 1st, 2011. Nominations may be sent via email to [gaca@gaca.org](mailto:gaca@gaca.org) or via fax to GACA at 770-434-3144. The awards will be presented at the fall conference in Toccoa.

### Nomination Eligibility Requirements

#### The New Counselor of the Year Award

The New Counselor of the Year Award is presented to a GACA member who is relatively new to the profession of addiction counseling. Eligibility for this award is based on the following criteria:

- a. Be currently employed as an addiction professional;
- b. Be an active member of GACA in good standing;
- c. Be certified as a CACI or CACII within the past two years;
- d. Demonstrated full compliance and support of the Association Code of Ethics and competence and expertise in the Counselor Skill Groups;
- e. Candidates Supervisor must submit a letter of recommendation as to why he/she feels this person is worthy of this award.

#### The Bernard Carter Humanitarian Award

The Bernard Carter Humanitarian Award is presented to a GACA member who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession of addiction counseling. Eligibility for this award is based on the following criteria:

- a. Be a GACA member in good standing;
- b. Have a minimum of fifteen (15) years in the addiction counseling profession and/or administration;
- c. Possess a strong dedication to the addiction profession as demonstrated by his/her involvement in and commitment to a variety of key organizations.

### Past Award Recipients

New Counselor of the Year	Bernard Carter Humanitarian
Marc Pimsler	Diane Sherman
Allen Burris	Doug Brush
Vernon Howard	Leon Clymore
	Faye Brown-Sperling
	Monroe Abram

(Legislative Update continued from page 3)

is Judge Tate. Unfortunately it did not receive review by the House Human Health and Human Services Committee as several issues were brought up by the Sheriffs Association and Hospital Association. Assigned to House Health and Human Services and meetings will be held during the rest of the year to work on the bill.

**Criminal Justice Reform: HB 265** – Legislation has been sponsored by Rep. Jay Neal to create a joint committee, ***Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform for Georgians***, to study the criminal justice system and alternative to incarceration with strong bi-partisan support from many legislative leaders and the Governor. The bill moved through the House quickly and was approved by a vote of 169-1. It was then assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee which moved a due pass motion. The bill awaits assignment to the Senate for a vote by the Senate Rules Committee.

**Crisis Stabilization: HB 343** - Rep Sharon Cooper introduced a bill for crisis stabilization and community detoxification services to help the state comply with the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement. The bill experienced some refinement along the way to address the concerns of the Hospital Association. It easily passed the House 150-5 on March 14, 2011. It was then assigned the Senate Health and Human Services Committee where it reviewed and passed out of the committee on March 28, 2011.

**Pseudoephedrine Possession: HB 437** – Rep. Jay Neal has sponsored along with several other legislators a bill to regulate the possession of pseudoephedrine drugs to get a tighter grip on the meth epidemic. Assigned to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**Drug Screening of Welfare Recipients: HB 464** – on March 3, 2011 Rep. Michael Harden introduced a bill that would require random drug testing for recipients of specified public assistance program. The bill defines programs that are state public assistance or state administered federal public assistance by the Department of Human Services, not to include public assistance related to medical care or for children under 18 years old. It directs DHS to cancel public assistance for individuals who fail a drug test or refuse to take a drug test. The cost of the drug test is born by the recipient in the bill. Assigned to House Judiciary but no committee meetings have occurred to consider the bill yet.

**BUDGET:** The Amended FY 2011 Budget was completed without a Conference Committee and awaits the Governor's review and signature. FY 2012 Budget (HB 78) was passed by the House (132-33) on March 11<sup>th</sup> and the Senate (47-4) on March 30<sup>th</sup>. All recommendations for funding to comply with the DOJ Settlement Agreement remained throughout the process. Additional funds were added for children aging out of the foster care system and needing a waiver for developmental disability services. Conference Committee members were appointed March 31<sup>st</sup>. House Conference Committee members are Appropriations Chairman Terry England, Speaker Pro Temp Jan Jones and Majority Leader Larry O'Neal. While on the Senate side the Lt. Governor broke with tradition appointing two new Senators to conference, they are Senators Renee Unterman and Ross Tolleson with Appropriations Chairman Jack Hill.

Scott Maddox is on the Board of Directors, Region 3 – Metro Atlanta and is the Executive Director of Alpha Recovery Centers in Atlanta & Brunswick. Contact at [j.scott.maddox@alpha-recovery.com](mailto:j.scott.maddox@alpha-recovery.com).

## LINKS TO LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT

Keep up-to-date via the **Georgia General Assembly Website:** [www.legis.ga.gov](http://www.legis.ga.gov). Some items at this site: Notes From the House of Representatives - To View the House Reapportionment Committee Meeting; Notes From the Senate - For a list of bills signed by the Governor.

### Advanced Search:

Find your Legislator  
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### Live Broadcasts:

Both Chambers  
House Chamber  
Senate Chamber  
Room 341  
GPB Lawmakers

Click on "Legislation" to see how to Track Legislation Through the General Assembly

The **NAADAC e-Advocacy Center** allows you to receive free e-mail action alerts and updates on current legislation and policy proposals. Our alerts will give you the background information you need and allow you to contact your members of Congress in a few quick clicks of a mouse. There is no easier way to stay informed and take action. [Click here](#) to sign up today--all are encouraged to subscribe. In addition to our regular e-alerts, the [e-Advocacy Center](#) is a valuable resource--take a look! It can help you:

- Identify your [elected officials](#).
- Find background information on key [legislation](#).
- See how your members of Congress voted on key bills using our [Congressional Scorecard](#).
- Even [register to vote!](#)

## TRAINING & EDUCATION PROVIDERS

*REMINDER: NAADAC providers headquartered in Georgia must also have a GACA Provider Number to guarantee acceptance toward Certification/Recertification. NAADAC providers out-of-state are not required to have a GACA Provider Number but do not satisfy certification/recertification requirements listed as "must have GACA Provider Number." (but can qualify as other providers). Training advertised as "GACA approved" may not equate to having a GACA Provider Number. It is the participant's responsibility to verify GACA Provider Numbers for each training. The following Education Providers have received a GACA Provider Number for specific courses. Please contact the provider for training details and to verify courses with GACA Provider Numbers.*

### ATLANTA AREA

Addiction Solutions Training (Cartersville) 770-714-7605  
 Atlanta Intervention Network (Tucker) 770-602-1979 - [www.drdavidclark.com](http://www.drdavidclark.com)  
 Circle of Recovery (Decatur) 404-243-5576 - [www.circleofrecovery.com](http://www.circleofrecovery.com)  
 Diane Sherman (Marietta) 678-522-7132 - [training@actsconsultinginc.com](mailto:training@actsconsultinginc.com)  
 Divine Exchange Ministry (East Point) 404-647-1639/202-561-9903 - [info@divineexchange.com](mailto:info@divineexchange.com)  
 Georgia Association of Recovery Residences (GARR) (Decatur) 404-459-0759  
 Georgia Intervention Alternatives (Covington) 770-396-4146  
 High Impact (Atlanta) 404-523-6074  
 Houston Harris Associates (Atlanta) 678-668-5295  
 IMANI Associates, Inc. (Atlanta) 404-584-6288 - Rhonda James - [www.imaniinc.com](http://www.imaniinc.com)  
 Margaret House (Rockmart) 678-622-3736  
 Pat Brown (Decatur) 404-217-2722  
 Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc. (Decatur) 404-289-0313  
 Ridgeview Institute (Smyrna) 770-434-4567 - [www.ridgeviewinstitute.com](http://www.ridgeviewinstitute.com)  
 Talbott Recovery Campus (Atlanta) 678-232-3402 - [www.talbottcampus.com](http://www.talbottcampus.com)  
 The Meehan Institute (Roswell) 770-889-1399

### COASTAL GEORGIA

Recovery Place Inc. (Savannah) 912-790-6239

### MIDDLE/EAST CENTRAL/WEST CENTRAL GEORGIA

Fort Valley State University College of Graduate Studies & Extended Education (Warner Robins) 478-953-7423  
 James A. Vaughns (Centerville) 478-955-4543

### NORTH GEORGIA/CHATTANOOGA

Jay A. Cory, Addiction Counselor Training (Jefferson) 706-354-5560 - [jaycory@bellsouth.net](mailto:jaycory@bellsouth.net)

### SOUTH GEORGIA

Darton College 229-317-6895  
 A Family Thing (Thomasville) 888-437-9284

### HOMESTUDY

*Homestudy courses related to counseling are accepted for certification/recertification by GACA, but are counted in the "Other" provider category. They do not count towards the 24 training hours that must have a GACA provider number, be addiction specific and be classroom face-to-face.*

California Quantum Units Education 877-665-3311  
 Contemporary Teaching 800-365-5950  
 Labans Training 800-795-5278

# SAVE THE DATE

**5th Annual  
 Georgia School  
 of Addiction Studies**

**August 29 - Sept. 2, 2011**

**Hyatt Regency Savannah  
 Savannah, Georgia**

**Moving Forward  
 Together,  
 the Time is NOW:  
 Prevention,  
 Treatment,  
 and Recovery**



**[www.thegeorgiaschool.org](http://www.thegeorgiaschool.org)**

## Georgia Addiction Counselors Association

The Georgia Addiction Counselors Association (GACA) is a non-profit association dedicated to high standards for professionals who provide addiction counseling. Established in 1980 to provide a statewide association of addiction counselors and other persons interested in addiction, GACA is comprised of a volunteer Board of Directors elected by its membership and a volunteer Certification Board appointed by the Directors with the sole purpose of carrying out the mission of the Association. Our express concern was, and remains, the welfare of persons who are chemically dependent or abusing mood-altering chemicals in the state of Georgia.

4015 South Cobb Drive  
Suite 160  
Smyrna, GA 30080  
770-434-1000  
770-434-3144  
gaca@gaca.org

Find us on the Web:  
[www.gaca.org](http://www.gaca.org)

## 2011 CAC Certification Application and Testing Deadlines

The certification process takes approximately 4 months from submission of initial application. For instance, candidates submitting new application on 1/08/11 which meets minimum requirements, who then successfully pass written testing and submit an approved case history, could be credentialed as a Certified Addiction Counselor by mid-May 2011.

### New CAC Applications

New Applications for CACI and CACII are accepted the first Saturday of each month and reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Certification Board. Upon approval, written notifications are sent with instructions and a Written Test application. To sit for Written Examination, test applications and testing fees must be received by the appropriate testing deadline. Deadlines are approximately 6 weeks prior to the written exam. For example, applications submitted by May 7, 2011 and approved would be eligible to test September 10-17, 2011, if test application and fee is RECEIVED no later than July 28, 2011. Following successful passing of the written exam, applicants submit a written case history (based on format provided by GACA) no later than November 5, 2011. For incomplete applications, notification of discrepancies and instructions to proceed will be provided.

	Submission Deadline	Submission Deadline	Submission Deadline
<b>Second Quarter 2011</b>			
New Application	April 2, 2011	May 7, 2011	June 4, 2011
Written Exam Application	April 28, 2011	July 28, 2011	July 28, 2011
Written Examination	June 4-12, 2011	September 10-17, 2011	September 10-17, 2011
Written Case History	August 6, 2011	November 5, 2011	November 5, 2011
<b>Third Quarter 2011</b>			
New Application	July 4, 2011	August 6, 2011	September 3, 2011
Written Exam Application	July 28, 2011	October 28, 2011	October 28, 2011
Written Examination	September 10-17, 2011	December 3-10, 2011	December 3-10, 2011
Written Case History	November 5, 2011	February 4, 2012	February 4, 2012
<b>Fourth Quarter 2011</b>			
New Application	October 1, 2011	November 5, 2011	December 3, 2011
Written Exam Application	October 28, 2011	January 28, 2012	January 28, 2012
Written Examination	December 3-10, 2011	March 2012	March 2012
Written Case History	February 4, 2012	May 2012	May 2012

\*(Written Exam Application By Board invitation only following approval of application)

### New CCS Applications

New Applications for Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS) are accepted the first Saturday of each month and reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Certification Board. Upon approval, written notifications are sent with instructions and dates the CCS Written Examination will be offered (approximately every other month). Upon successful passing of the written examination for CCS, a credential will be issued.