

## ***The Connecticut Certification Board, Inc.***

### **eNews**

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#### **CCB Implements New CAC Credentialing Standards**

***Wallingford, CT*** – Effective July 1, 2010, the CCB will implement several new **CAC – Certified Addiction Counselor** credentialing standards which will apply to all new CAC applications. The new CAC standards will modify the existing requirements including work experience, education & training hours, qualifying supervisor credentials and practicum domains. In addition, several improvements will be made to the certification process and application materials for all CCB credentials. All of the changes being made to the CAC credential *meet or exceed* IC&RC standards and will not impact reciprocity of current or future candidates. ***CAC candidates with applications that have already met standards or are actively certified will not be impacted by the changes. The new standards will apply to all candidates that apply for CAC after the June 2010 deadline as well as those with a pending CAC application that have not yet met the standards for the credential.***

Over the last 18 months, the CCB staff and board members have been working to review current trends in the field of behavioral health care and consider improvements to the credentialing process. After reviewing numerous sources of information (regional and national workforce trends; common practices of other credentialing boards within the IC&RC and other organizations such as NBCC and NAADAC; government workforce programs and statistics; Connecticut provider and certified professionals feedback/recommendations, etc.), several areas were identified.

#### ***The following CAC credentialing changes will become effective July 1, 2010:***

***Training:*** 300 hours of addiction-specific training will be required with no more than 100 hours of content obtained in non-addiction-specific elective courses such as psychology and counseling courses.

***Training Domains:*** The training domain requirements (counseling theory & techniques, etc.) will be eliminated with the exception of 12 hours of CCB-approved ethics and replaced with recommended training domains to assist those interested in determining how best to prepare for the CAC written exam.

***Work Experience:*** Work experience requirements will now be tiered by level of college education, giving credit for those with a qualifying degree (behavioral health with addiction content) at the Associates, Bachelors and Masters level.

**Qualifying Credentials:** For the purposes of CCB certification, all individuals holding an active CAC credential with the CCB will now be allowed to document work experience and provide practicum training for CAC candidates. In addition, those holding an active LADC with Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) and/or a CCS or NCCS with the CCB will be eligible to document work experience and provide practicum training.

**8 Performance Domains:** The 8 performance domains identified in the **IC&RC ADC Candidate Guide & Job Task Analysis (2008)** will replace the 12 Core Functions in all CAC materials. The 8 performance domains contain all of the 12 Core Functions and include other competencies (professional & ethical responsibilities). The 8 performance domains will be used to document practicum training for all CAC candidates.

**CAC – Provisional Standards:** Several changes are also being made to the CAC-Provisional certification which is a non-reciprocal CAC credential offered by the CCB. The new CAC-P standards will modify the existing requirements including work experience, education & training hours, qualifying supervisor credentials and practicum domains. The CAC-P is intended only for those interested in becoming a reciprocal CAC within three years and cannot be used to apply for licensure or certification with the CT DPH as an addiction professional.

**Fees:** Due to funding challenges and economic conditions outside of the control of the CCB, several CCB fees will be increased as of July 1, 2010. However, every effort is being made to keep CCB fees as low as possible during these challenging economic times.

The new CAC credentialing standards and certification materials will be published in early July on the CCB website. Individuals with questions about the new standards and certification process are strongly recommended to attend one of the free **CCB Certification Process Overview** workshops or register for a **CCB Certification Process Coaching Session** offered by CCB staff. Information and registration forms for these sessions can be found in the current CCB Training Catalog.

For more information about the new CAC credentialing standards, please visit the CCB website at [www.ctcertboard.org](http://www.ctcertboard.org) or email [info@ctcertboard.org](mailto:info@ctcertboard.org) for assistance.