

American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders

A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear California Alcohol and Drug Counselor:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Academy, I am pleased to announce a **dual certification** for California alcohol and drug counselors, the Certified Addiction Specialist (CAS) certification offered by the American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders and the Registered Addiction Specialist (RAS) offered by the Breining Institute.

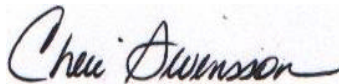
The American Academy was selected as one of ten agencies in California that would be recognized by the California Alcohol & Drug Program (CA ADP) for certification. The California regulations required these agencies to be accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA/NOCA). Although the Academy is continuing to work diligently through the accreditation process towards completion, it was unable to meet the CA ADP deadline of September 30, 2007.

As a result, all California non-licensed or non-certified alcohol and drug counselors providing counseling services in an AOD program and currently registered or certified by the Academy, in order to be in compliance, must re-register with one of nine approved agencies. The approved agencies and regulations affecting your current certification are posted at the CA ADP website: <http://www.adp.cahwnet.gov/lcb/lcbhome.shtml> .

The Breining Institute is one of the agencies that received NCCA/NOCA accreditation and is approved by the California Alcohol & Drug Program. Registration and information about the dual certification are available at the Breining Institute website: <http://www.breining.edu/aahcpandras.htm>

Thank you for your interest in providing high quality, credentialed services in the addictions field. We look forward to working with you towards receiving the Certified Addiction Specialist (CAS) and Registered Addiction Specialist (RAS) credential.

Best regards,



Cheri Swensson
Executive Director

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American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders

CAS/RAS DUAL CERTIFICATION

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the internationally recognized CAS credential, applicants must have supervised clinical experience and specialized training, and they must demonstrate a critical understanding of the central tenets of addictions treatment. Applicants must complete a two-phase certification process; the CAS Application Phase and the RAS Examination Phase.

Prior to applying to the Academy, interested applicants should review the following **Minimum Eligibility Requirements**:

Professionals with advanced or graduate degrees must have:

1. A master's or doctorate degree from an accredited health care training program;
2. Three years (6,000 hours) of post-graduate, supervised full-time experience providing direct health care services to those identified with an addictive disorder. Pre-doctoral or pre-masters internships at an approved site may be applied towards one year of clinical supervision;
3. A portfolio of clinical training with a minimum of 120 hours of clinical training in basic counseling skills including assessment, interviewing and diagnosis, **and** a minimum of 60 hours of current training in alcohol and 60 hours of current training in other drugs.
4. Specializations in sexual addiction, eating disorders and gambling addiction are available. Please contact the Academy for information;
5. Three professional recommendations; at least one referent must be a supervisor who is personally familiar with the applicant's work and can document his or her health care experience; and
6. A completed application with the non-refundable \$50 application fee.

Professionals with other degrees or without a degree must have:

1. A high school diploma or equivalent;
2. Five years (10,000 hours) of full-time supervised experience providing direct health care services to those identified with an addictive disorder;
3. A portfolio of clinical training with a minimum of 120 hours of clinical training in basic counseling skills including assessment, interviewing, and diagnosis, **and** a minimum of 60 hours of current training in alcohol + 60 hours of current training in other drugs.
4. Specializations in sexual addiction, eating disorders and gambling addiction are available. Please contact the Academy for information;
5. Three professional recommendations; at least one referent must be a supervisor who is personally familiar with the applicant's work and can document his or her health care experience; and
6. A completed application with the non-refundable \$50 application fee.

Continual changes in the field of addictions requires CAS's to be committed to lifelong learning by maintaining an awareness of research findings, changes in treatment techniques and therapeutic approaches. The Academy's 20-hour continuing education annual requirement is designed to ensure that CAS's are well-informed about contemporary addictions research and treatment information.

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION PROCESS - CALIFORNIA

The American Academy has elected to enter into an agreement with the Breining Institute (Breining) for use of Breining's Registered Addiction Specialist (RAS) examination. The Academy has determined that the use of the RAS exam is compatible with the purpose, standards, and objectives of the Academy's CAS certification. The American Academy acknowledges the high quality of the procedure used to develop, maintain, and administer the RAS exam. The Academy recognizes the research-based process for development of the exam has resulted in an assessment instrument for which applicants have adequate instruction for exam preparation.

The American Academy's continuing commitment is to establish and maintain eligibility requirements and application procedures that reflect and foster the highest standards of professional ethics and professional credentialing to ensure the competency of health care providers in the addictive disorders.

Examination Development and Standard Setting Procedures

Test items selected on the national certification examination are developed by the Breining Institute RAS Examination Review Board. Board members are Registered Addiction Specialists practicing in a variety of settings. Items are edited extensively and reviewed to confirm the accuracy of the item in the current literature.

A statistical analysis of the results for each item is performed following the administration of each examination. Items performing poorly or answered incorrectly by a substantial portion of exam participants are flagged for review by the Examination Review Board. The Board also reviews any items that were substantively critiqued by exam participants. If the Board determines that an item is defective; for example, ambiguous wording, more than one correct answer, the item may be deleted from final scoring, or more than one answer may be counted as correct.

The RAS Examination is a multiple-choice examination. There is no oral examination, and there are no open-ended questions on the written exam. The Examination was developed to objectively measure the knowledge and practical skills required of professionals working in the field of addictions. The examination questions are based upon counselor competency standards identified by national industry experts, including those established by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism – *Development of Model Professional Standards for Counselor Credentialing* (1984), Birch and Davis, Inc. – known as the "Birch & Davis" study; by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium / Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse ("ICRC") study and the 1991 publication of the *Twelve Core Functions of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Counselors*; and by the US Department of Health and Human Services, which published – within its Technical Assistance Publication Series, No. 21 (1998) – the *Addiction Counseling Competencies: The Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes of Professional Practice* (known as the "TAP 21" competencies). More specifically, the Examination includes coverage of the following:

- The curriculum contained in the *TAP 21* counseling competencies study;
- Provision of services to special populations such as aging individuals, individuals with co-occurring disorders, individuals with post traumatic stress disorder; individuals with disabilities, diverse populations, individuals with cultural differences, individuals on probation/ parole, etc.;
- Ethics;
- Communicable diseases including tuberculosis, HIV disease and Hepatitis C;
- Prevention of sexual harassment.

(These topics satisfy those required by the California counselor certification law, Cal. Code of Regs., Title 9, Sections 13000, *et seq.*)

The Registered Addiction Specialist 100-question multiple-choice examination will test on following areas - Understanding Addiction (20 items); Treatment Knowledge and Application to Practice (40 items); Professional Readiness (20 items); and Professional Practice Dimensions (20 items)

Academy applicants who have successfully completed the CAS application process will receive an Examination Admission letter from the Academy verifying that they are eligible to take the Academy/RAS exam. Upon receiving this letter, the applicant may contact the Breining Institute, <http://www.breining.edu/aahcpandras.htm>, to schedule the examination.

Prior to scheduling, Breining will require the Examination Admission letter and completion of the Breining examination application. Each eligible candidate will receive a comprehensive study guide from Breining Institute - *The Addiction Professional: Manual for Counselor Competency* (418 pages) - and a DVD Tutorial, together with practice examination questions. Every question on the examination is derived from the information contained in the *Manual* and the references cited therein.

Applicant Preparation & Process

Once the completed application and the \$50 application fee are received and approved by the Academy, applicants may apply to Breining Institute for the RAS examination.

Steps to Certification:

- Upon successful completion of the RAS exam, the applicant will be awarded Certified Addiction Specialist (CAS) certification.
- A letter confirming certification, a certificate for framing, and a membership card will be mailed.

Instructions for Completing the Certified Addiction Specialist Application

- _____ Review the **Minimum Eligibility Requirements** before completing the application form.
- _____ Complete the forms with all requested information.
- _____ Forms must be typewritten or clearly printed, in ink. Illegible applications will be returned. If additional forms are necessary, you may copy any original contained in this packet.
- _____ Applicant's resume/ curriculum vitae.
- _____ Submit copies of all diplomas, licenses, and certifications.
- _____ Include documentation stating that a minimum of 120 hours of training in basic counseling skills, including assessment, interviewing, and diagnosis has been completed.
- _____ Documentation of a minimum of 60 hours of current clinical training in alcohol + 60 hours of current clinical training in other drugs.
- _____ Each applicant must submit a minimum of three recommendations from professionals who are familiar with the applicant's clinical work. At least one professional referent must be a direct clinical supervisor and be able to document the required amount of clinical experience as detailed in the Minimum Eligibility Requirements.
- _____ Applicants must provide referents with a self-addressed stamped envelope for returning their completed Clinical Supervisor Recommendation Form. After completing the form, notarizing, and sealing it in the envelope provided, referents must sign their name across the seal and return it to the applicant.
- _____ Clinical Supervisor Recommendation Forms must be notarized, document the required amount of clinical experience, and include a copy of the supervisor's resume, curriculum vitae, or letter outlining his/her training and experience specifically in the treatment of addictive disorders. This is to determine that the supervision was provided by a qualified clinician with appropriate clinical expertise.
- _____ Submit the sealed envelopes containing Clinical Supervision Recommendation forms, the signed & notarized application, complete portfolio, and fee. Incomplete applications will be returned.
- _____ Include a check or money order for the \$50 application fee made payable to the American Academy. The application fee is non-refundable. Applications will not be accepted without payment of the application fee. Incomplete applications/portfolios requiring additional review will be subject to a \$25 fee per review.

The Academy will notify the applicant of acceptance status within six weeks of receiving the application.

Definitions

Accredited health care training program: Programs accepted for certification requirements are those degree-granting educational institutions that are accredited by the appropriate regional accreditation board and those that receive such accreditation within six years of the date of the applicant's awarded degree.

Direct health care services: The applicant must have provided supervised direct health care services to those identified with addictive disorders in a licensed clinical setting. Health care services include, but are not limited to, assessment, diagnosis, and approved therapeutic (medical or psychological) interventions.

Certifiable internship program: An internship program is comprised of a minimum of 1,500 working hours and must be completed within 24 consecutive months. Internship experience considered certifiable are those whose training programs and supervision are approved by the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychoanalytical Association, the National League of Nursing, the National Association of Social Workers, and those licensed or certified by local state agencies. These programs generally require the applicant's status to be considered as an intern, trainee, or fellow.

Clinical Supervisors: Clinical supervisors must be licensed or certified in their respective fields. The experience, credentials, and activities of the supervisor must be appropriate to the supervision provided.

Current Clinical Training – training must be current and not to exceed five years.

American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders

CAS/RAS DUAL CERTIFICATION

Application Form

Name _____ Date _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State ____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (home) _____ (office) _____ fax _____

Email Address _____

Employer _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Current Certification/Licensure:

License _____ Number _____ Date first licensed _____ State _____

Certification _____ Number _____ Date first certified _____

Certifying body _____

Highest degree earned _____ Institution _____

Graduation Date _____ Department _____

Major field or program _____

Other degrees earned _____ Institution _____

Graduation Date _____ Department _____

Major field or program _____

Supervised Health Care Experience in the Addictive Disorders:

Please list the most recent first.

1. Name of facility _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Dates: From Month/Year _____ to Month/Year _____ Part-time Full-time Hours per week _____

Your title or position _____

Nature of duties including primary clinical population(s) served.

Please specify the percentage of your caseload identified with specific addictive disorders (e.g. 30% alcohol, 40% drug addicted, 30% dual diagnosed)

Please list separately each supervisor and period of supervision:

Name of supervisor _____

Degree _____ Title _____

Dates of supervised health care experience from month/year _____ to month/year _____ = _____ months

Name of supervisor _____

Degree _____ Title _____

Dates of supervised health care experience from month/year _____ to month/year _____ = _____ months

2. Name of facility _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Dates: From Month/Year _____ to Month/Year _____ Part-time Full-time Hours per week _____

Your title or position _____

Nature of duties including primary clinical population(s) served.

Please specify the percentage of your caseload identified with specific addictive disorders (e.g. 30% alcohol, 40% drug addicted, 30% dual diagnosed)

Please list separately each supervisor and period of supervision:

Name of supervisor _____

Degree _____ Title _____

Dates of supervised health care experience from month/year _____ to month/year _____ = _____ months

Name of supervisor _____

Degree _____ Title _____

Dates of supervised health care experience from month/year _____ to month/year _____ = _____ months

3. Name of facility _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Dates: From Month/Year _____ to Month/Year _____ Part-time ___ Full-time ___ Hours per week _____

Your title or position _____

Nature of duties including primary clinical population(s) served.

Please specify the percentage of your caseload identified with specific addictive disorders (e.g. 30% alcohol, 40% drug addicted, 30% dual diagnosed)

Please list separately each supervisor and period of supervision:

Name of supervisor _____

Degree _____ Title _____

Dates of supervised health care experience from month/year _____ to month/year _____ = _____ months

Name of supervisor _____

Degree _____ Title _____

Dates of supervised health care experience from month/year _____ to month/year _____ = _____ months

Internship Training Experience:

Please list the most recent first.

4. Name of facility _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Dates: From Month/Year _____ to Month/Year _____ Part-time Full-time Hours per week _____

Your title or position _____

Nature of duties including primary clinical population(s) served.

Please specify the percentage of your caseload identified with specific addictive disorders (e.g. 30% alcohol, 40% drug addicted, 30% dual diagnosed)

Your title during training _____

Name of supervisor _____

Degree _____ Title _____

Please total the months of supervised health care experience including any internships.

Total Months of Supervised Experience Time = _____ months

Please note any other training/experience relevant to this application that will assist the Academy Certification Committee's review of your credentials for certification as a C.A.S.

Have you previously applied to the American Academy? Yes No

I hereby attest that all of the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that the certification program of the Academy is entirely voluntary and agree to be bound by its policies and procedures, as they now exist or as they may be amended in the future. I agree to make no claim against the Academy for action taken by it in accordance with those policies and procedures. I authorize the Academy to contact any of the supervisors listed in my application and request that each of the supervisors so contacted fully and frankly respond to all inquiries made of him or her by the Academy regarding my application.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Notary

This completed form must be accompanied by the non-refundable application fee of \$50.

Applications should be mailed to:

The American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders
314 West Superior Street, Suite 508 Duluth, MN 55802
218-727-3940 fax 218-722-0346 email info@americanacademy.org

American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders

CAS/RAS DUAL CERTIFICATION

Clinical Supervisor Recommendation Form

To be completed by the applicant:

Applicant Name _____

To the Clinical Supervisor:

The applicant named above has requested certification from the American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders. One criteria for certification is supervised experience providing health care services to those identified with addictive disorders. Applicants with a graduate or doctorate degree must document at least **three** years of supervised experience while applicants with an undergraduate degree or no degree must document at least **five** years of supervised experience. You have been identified by the applicant as having been his/her clinical supervisor for all or some of this time.

Please complete this Clinical Supervisor Recommendation Form and sign it before a notary public. Please include a copy of your curriculum vitae or resume with your completed form. This form must be sealed in an envelope with your name signed across the seal. Forms should be returned to the applicant. The applicant may not submit his/her applicant without this form.

By signing this form you are recommending that this applicant be designated as a Certified Addiction Specialist for the specialties of alcohol and other drug counselor. Your recommendation represents an endorsement of the applicant's training, experience, and competence as a health care provider in the addictive disorders.

To be completed by the supervisor:

Supervisor's Information:

Name _____ Title/Position _____

Organization/Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Your Specialty Field (Check all that apply)

Alcohol _____ Other Drugs _____ Other _____

Your Degree _____

Your State License(s)/Certifications _____

Specialty Boards _____

Are you a Member of the American Academy of Health Care Providers? ____ Yes ____ No

Dates of supervision with the above named applicant: Month/Year _____ to Month/Year _____

Hours applicant worked per week _____

Number of direct (face to face) supervision **hours each week** for the period listed above _____

Name of facility where supervision was conducted _____

Your position at the time of supervision _____

Applicant's position at the time of supervision _____

Please continue on next page ...

Comments about the applicant:

I believe this applicant is qualified to be certified in the following the specialty areas of alcohol and other drugs.

I attest that all of the information above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____

Title _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Date _____

Please have this form notarized and return to the applicant in a sealed envelope with you signature across the seal.

Notary Stamp or Seal

Notary Signature

Certified Addiction Specialist Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

Professionals with advanced or graduate degrees must have:

1. A master's or doctorate degree from an accredited health care training program;
2. Three years (6,000 hours) of post-graduate, supervised experience providing direct health care services to those identified with an addictive disorder. Pre-doctoral or pre-masters internships at an approved site may be applied accounting for one year;
3. A portfolio of clinical training with a minimum of 120 hours of training in basic counseling skills including assessment, interviewing and diagnosis, and a minimum of 60 hours of current clinical training in alcohol + 60 hours of current clinical training in other drugs for which the applicant is seeking certification;
4. Specializations in sexual addiction, eating disorders and gambling addiction are available. Please contact the Academy for information;
5. Three professional recommendations; at least one referent must be a supervisor who is personally familiar with the applicant's work and can document his or her health care experience; and
6. A completed application with the \$50 application fee.

Professionals with other degrees or without a degree must have:

1. A high school diploma;
2. Five years (10,000 hours) of supervised experience providing direct health care services to those identified with an addictive disorder;
3. A portfolio of clinical training with a minimum of 120 hours of training in basic counseling skills including assessment, interviewing and diagnosis, and a minimum of 60 hours of current clinical training in alcohol + 60 hours of current clinical training in other drugs for which the applicant is seeking certification;
4. Specializations in sexual addiction, eating disorders and gambling addiction are available. Please contact the Academy for information;
5. Three professional recommendations; at least one referent must be a supervisor who is personally familiar with the applicant's work and can document his or her health care experience; and
6. A completed application with an \$50 application fee.

American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders

CODE OF ETHICS

Since Hippocrates wrote his oath more than 2000 years ago, health care providers have sought to establish standards for ethical and competent medical and psychological treatment. The American Academy itself was created to establish such a standard in the field of addiction treatment, which it succeeded in doing with the creation of the Certified Addictions Specialist (C.A.S.) credential. The C.A.S. credential reflects the highest and most comprehensive standard in the field today, a standard that is based both on the acquisition and demonstration of a body of knowledge in the area of addiction treatment and on the adherence to the strict ethical standards set forth below.

The Academy's membership is comprised of clinicians from a variety of disciplines and treatment modalities who include nurses, doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, forensic counselors and counselors, unified in their commitment to providing the highest quality of health care to individuals suffering from addiction. Our diverse membership is also unified in their recognition of the ethical standards and considerations that are specific to this field.

This code is meant to provide only a very general outline of the principles for those health care providers specifically treating the addictions and is **in no way** exhaustive of the ethical responsibilities of our membership. Since our members come from a variety of disciplines and may carry multiple credentials, the principles set forth here should not be viewed as in anyway supervening or abrogating other ethical codes to which our members might be bound. On the contrary, the Academy's code is meant to supplement or compliment other standards, both legal and ethical, while setting forth a code of conduct that addresses the issues that are unique to working with individuals with addictions. This code is also meant to serve notice to the public as to the standards of health care and treatment that they can expect from Academy members.

Academy members are bound by the Academy's ethical code and will be held to the letter and spirit of this code. The membership of those violating this code will be subject to inquiry and review, resulting in possible suspension or revocation of the credential.

It is important to note that addiction treatment has historically been an area in which professional standards have been inconsistent; this code is meant to set forth a crucial, consistent, ethical standard.

PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

I. Competence

Academy members recognize both the strengths and limitations in their ability to treat addictions. They continually seek to stay abreast of innovations in the understanding and treatment of addiction. They also only treat addictions about which they are knowledgeable and capable of treating. As a corollary to this, they only offer treatment services which are within their realm of competence and said competence is determined on the basis of their education, clinical supervision, and experience.

II. Maintenance of Competence

Because of the continual changes in the field of addiction treatment, Academy members strive to maintain awareness of research findings and changes in treatment techniques and approaches, which is necessary to maintain their competence in this field.

III. Nondiscrimination

In their work in the addictions, members of the Academy do not discriminate against their clients or co-workers on the basis of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or national origin. They also do not unfairly discriminate on the basis of addiction or the medical complications of addiction. While alcoholism and drug addiction are recognized by the federal government to be disabilities and individuals suffering from such addictions are protected from discrimination under the Federal Rehabilitation Act, Academy members do not restrict their nondiscrimination practices to these individuals, but extend them to all people suffering from addiction, recognizing that all such addictions are debilitating.

a) Academy members are knowledgeable about the unique or special issues that face the individuals that they are treating both on the basis of their individual situations and on the basis of the addiction from which they suffer.

b) Academy members are able to recognize instances in which individual differences between themselves and their client affect their ability to provide the highest quality health care. In such cases, Academy members take the necessary steps to become competent in these areas or they make referrals to agencies or individuals who can best address their client's needs.

c) Academy members recognize those personal issues and conflicts that might affect their ability to provide their clients with the best possible health care. In such instances, they will refer the patient to someone better able to deal with him/her, or will refrain from treating the patient until the Academy member has adequately resolved these issues.

d) Academy members recognize that there are individuals who suffer from multiple addictions. In such cases, Academy members will only treat the addictions that they are competent to treat. With regard to the other addictions, they will either take the steps necessary to become competent in these areas or will make referrals to agencies or individuals who can best address them.

e) Academy members recognize that many clients suffering from an addiction suffer from other mental disorders as well. Academy members treat only the problems that they are competent to treat. In complicated cases in which several disorders must be treated simultaneously,

Academy members will seek the requisite support and consultation and, if this is not available, will refer the client to the appropriate agency or clinician.

f) Academy members recognize that many clients seeking treatment for addiction may also suffer from medical complications and/or viral infections, e.g., HIV, TB or hepatitis, that eventuate from their addiction. In such cases, Academy members will treat only the aspects of the illness that they are competent to treat. If they are not competent to work with such clients, they will either take the necessary steps to become competent, or they will consult with others and make referrals to the agencies or individuals that can best address the client's needs.

IV. Harassment

Academy members do not engage in any type of harassment, sexual or otherwise, in the work place.

a) The Academy considers sexual harassment to be any activity that demeans or creates a hostile environment for an individual through sexual behavior or language. This includes unwelcome or unwanted advances of a sexual nature, verbal and nonverbal behavior of a sexual nature that would be deemed inappropriate by a reasonable person, and soliciting sex within the context of one's professional responsibilities.

b) Academy members do not engage in any other forms of harassment in the work place. This includes activities that involve the exploitation or denigration of others, or, otherwise create a hostile work environment for others.

V. Conflicts of Interest

Because of the potential legal conflicts inherent in treating addiction, Academy members are familiar with the laws concerning their responsibilities and they are able to anticipate those responsibilities that might potentially conflict with their role as health care provider. In cases in which the conflicts might be too great, the Academy member does his/her best to avoid such dual-roles.

VI. Confidentiality

Because of the popular stigmatization of addiction and the legal implications that it often has, Academy members regard the patient-client confidentiality agreement very seriously and take considerable precautions to ensure it. Because of the potential limitations on confidentiality (as suggested in Principle V), Academy members are careful to apprise their clients of the limits of confidentiality. In addition, Academy members agree to protect their clients' rights to confidentiality in accordance with Part 2, Title 2, Code of Federal Regulations.

VII. Clients Receiving Services Elsewhere

Individuals being treated for an addiction often receive health services from other sites. In considering whether to treat such individuals, Academy members consult these other services to determine whether the client is best served in this manner. Academy members also anticipate and attempt to resolve potential conflicts that might arise from this arrangement.

VIII. Making Referrals

In making referrals, Academy members consider the best possible placement for their clients. Such referrals are always based on the best interests of the client and **never** on the financial interests of the clinician. Academy members attempt to familiarize themselves with a particular treatment site before making a referral to that site.

IX. Assessment Tools

Because definitions of addiction have changed radically in the past several years, Academy members are careful to use up-to-date assessment tools which are compatible with contemporary theories of addiction when diagnosing addiction.

X. Relapse

Since relapse is a critical part of addiction, Academy members are familiar with the facts concerning relapse and include relapse prevention as part of their treatment approach.

XI. Impaired Professionals

As a corollary to Principle I, but one worth mentioning in its own right, Academy members who develop their own addiction-related difficulties will refrain from providing treatment until such time as they have adequately addressed and resolved these difficulties and are once again able to provide competent treatment.

I agree to be bound by and to comply with the Code of Ethics as set forth by the American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders.

Signature

Name (printed)

RAS Registration Number

Date: