



From the IBC Executive Director

Happy New Year!

As a reminder, certificates are now being emailed out. Did you know that IBC has not raised their certification or recertification rates for over 12 years? This move has helped us eliminate costs and enabled us to keep rates static for the time.

Peer Support Specialists, be sure to catch the article in this newsletter about our MHPSS and PRS credentials effective 6/30/18.

Be watching our website's home page for upcoming IBC trainings as well as updated news on this year's **C.A.R.E. Conference**...we're working with a terrific line-up of speakers!

Remember that certified professionals need to keep track of their certification validation dates. You are welcome to contact our office if you need another emailed certificate, and you can also find your expiration date on the IBC website.

Did you know that you can sign up for texts from us? We will utilize texting to relay important information you need to know. You can text EZTJJ83742 to 797979 to sign up.

And don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram - you can find the link at the bottom of this email.

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3rd Annual IBC C.A.R.E. Conference - Save the Date!

Be sure to save the date for our 3rd Annual C.A.R.E. Conference: September 28-29, 2018. More details will be put on the IBC website and sent out through email!

SAPST Training Coming Soon

The next Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST) is scheduled for February 28-March 1 (part 1) and March 28-29 (part 2) at the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center in Johnston, IA.

Costs for lodging and meals to attend the training are the responsibility of each agency/individual. Participants are required to attend all 4 days of training. This training will be cancelled if less than 15 people register.

For additional information and to register, click <https://counterdrugtraining.com> or contact Julie Hibben at julie.hibben@idph.iowa.gov.

IBC Training Series

IBC's Training Committee has developed a 6-part Training Series geared especially for new professionals, though it will also benefit a wide variety of seasoned professionals who may want to brush up on, expand or perfect their skills in a certain area. This series will cover a wide variety of topics and each will have its own registration so you're not obligated to attend all sessions. Our goal is to provide each session once/year, optimally in 2 locations of the state.

Session topics include:

1. Professional Boundaries and Dual Relationships - DONE
2. Assessment and Evaluation - DONE
3. Group Facilitation - DONE
4. ASAM Guidelines and Treatment Planning - DONE
5. Helping Individuals with Substance Use Disorders - **Date TBD**
6. Documentation: Progress Notes, Releases, correspondence, etc. - **Date TBD**

Registration forms can be found on the [IBC website](#).

41st Annual Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse

APRIL
18
WEDNESDAY

APRIL
19
THURSDAY

Veteran's Memorial-Community Choice Credit Union
Convention Center, Des Moines, IA

Keynote Speakers: Corey Waller, Kevin Hill
Early Registration: \$140

Registration to open mid-February at www.trainingresources.org
Contact becky@trainingresources.org for more information

Sponsored by the Iowa Department of Public Health,
Division of Behavioral Health



MHPSS - No New Applications after 6/30/18

IBC will be accepting new applications for MHPSS (Mental Health Peer Support Specialist) through June 30, 2018. Effective July 1, 2018 Peer Support Specialists will need to apply for the PRS (Peer Recovery Specialist) credential. The PRS requires 6 additional hours of ethics over and above the Peer Support training, plus some additional experience and supervision, and passing the IC&RC computer-based exam.

This does NOT affect current MHPSS's by 6/30/18, and those already certified as a MHPSS may continue to recertify with their MHPSS.

The PRS credential is reciprocal with other IC&RC states that also hold this credential (25 at this time) which allows a Peer Support Specialist to use the reciprocity process when moving to a new state. We also believe the PRS credential shows an additional level of experience, supervision and education, as well as expertise evidence by passing the international IC&RC exam.

Job Postings on the IBC Website

With our new website revisions, we have the ability to include job postings for a nominal fee and can send out your job information to our email contacts. If your agency would like to post a job opening with us, download the "Job Postings

Application" from our website and send it to us.

Questions? Call Deb Gilbert at 515-965-5509.

New Prevention Code of Ethics/Study Guides

IBC has updated its Code of Ethics for Prevention Specialists, and this can be found in the Prevention Handbook. IBC's past Board VP, Melissa Walker of ASAC in Cedar Rapids, served on a workgroup with other IC&RC representatives and was instrumental in revising the Code which other states are also now using.

Rhode Island and Tennessee have both completed a new Prevention study guide to assist Prevention Specialists with preparing for their exam...FREE! You can find these guides on the IBC website as well as on IC&RC's website.

As a reminder, Prevention Specialists may take any type of ethics training for the 3 hours required for recertification. The approved Prevention Ethics training must be taken for new Prevention Specialist applicants.



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Important Reminder About Recertifying

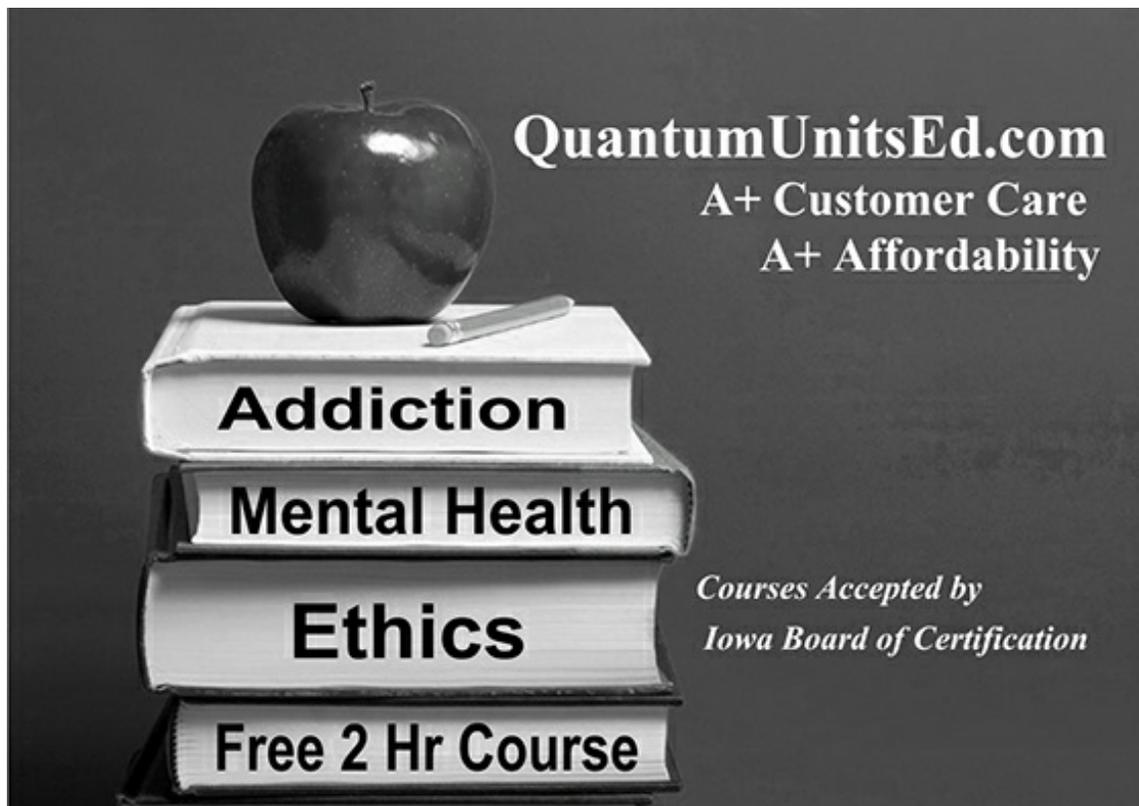
Don't forget that recertification applications are available on our website in a fillable format - simply complete it, save it to your computer and then send as an attachment in an email to the IBC office. Payment then needs to be made via check, cash or with Dwolla. **Please note that if we find incorrect dates for trainings, or if we cannot easily read your forms, you may be asked to provide copies of your certificates of completion.**

Be sure to review your certificates of completion carefully when completing your recertification application. Certificates will indicate "IBC Approved" if the

training has been approved by us. Non-approved trainings and online trainings need to be indicated on the bottom half of the second page of the recertification application, and approved trainings on the top half. The IBC office checks every "approved" training indicated on the application by date and title of training.... ***if you indicate an incorrect date or training title, or if you indicate a training was approved when it was not, we will contact you to let you know you owe the \$15.00 CEU Approval fee for that training.***

If you would like to attend a training that is not IBC approved, we encourage you to contact the training sponsor to request that they complete the "Application for CEU Approval" which can be found on the IBC website. Approved trainings can be found on the IBC website under the "Continuing Ed" tab.

While we encourage you to always hang to your original copies of certificates of completion, ***you do not need to send copies to us unless we notify you (via email) that your recertification was chosen for an audit.***



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Inactive Request Form

Rather than needing to send IBC a letter requesting Inactive Status, a new "Inactive Request" form is now available for each credential and is included on our website.

This form will make requesting Inactive Status more convenient for applicants, and we are no longer accepting hand-written letters of request.

Certification/Recertification Timelines

For New Applications:

- The application must be complete within one year of IBC receiving any portion of

- the application (not including transcripts) - this includes all forms completed, fees paid, meeting all education, experience and supervision requirements.
- Once the application is complete, IBC will pre-register the applicant for the exam - the applicant must pass the exam within one year of the date they were pre-registered
 - If the applicant fails the exam, it may be re-taken every 90 days

For Recertifications:

- Applications and applicable fees must be postmarked on or before the expiration date in order to avoid the \$50.00 late fee. The recertification application may be emailed to IBC with a check mailed and postmarked on or before the expiration date (or payment on the IBC website on Dwolla). Any applications or payments postmarked/emailed after the expiration date will require the late fee.
- A 45-day probationary period begins the day after the expiration date and ends on day 45. During this probationary period, the \$50.00 late fee is due and the recertification must be complete in the IBC office no later than day 45 - this means that both pages of the recertification (along with copies of certificates of completion if requested) and all applicable fees must be in the IBC office by day 45 or the certification will lapse, the file will be closed and the individual must start the application process over again to become certified.

Certification & Ethics Info for your Agency

IBC's Executive Director, Debbie Gilbert, is available to speak to employees at your agency regarding any of IBC's credentials and to assist them in the certification process. She also does a 3-hour Ethics training using real-life ethics examples to spark participant involvement.

If interested, give Debbie a call at 515-965-5509 or email her at info@iowabc.org.

Online Training

While online trainings may be used for initial certification applications with no extra fee owed, when using **ANY** online training for recertification, the \$15.00 CEU Approval fee is due for each training being submitted.

Remember that just because an online training certificate may indicate that IBC accepts their training, or that it's NAADAC approved (IBC is not a member of NAADAC), or you find the online training organization on the IBC website, does not mean we have "approved" it. You may use it but you need to be sure to include the approval fee. A maximum of 20 hours of online training may be used per 2-year recertification period.

Ethics Sanctions

The following individuals have had sanctions placed upon them by an IBC hearing panel over the past few months. The public is able to view the status of any IBC certified individual through our "Verify Certifications" link on our website.

- Christina Halleen - Sanctions

- Mark Garlick - Permanent Revocation
- Krista Lindholm - Sanctions

IC&RC Practice Exams

Practice exams are available for those preparing to become certified as a CADC/ IADC, CPS, PRS or CCS. Practice exams were developed in conjunction with IC&RC's testing company to mimic the exact look and feel of IC&RC's Computer Based Testing (CBT) platform. Each practice exam has 50 questions which candidates have 60 minutes to complete. After completing the practice exam, candidates will receive a score report identifying their areas of strength and weakness. The cost of the exam is \$49.00 and is paid directly to IC&RC online.

For more information, go to www.internationalcredentialing.org; click on "Are You a Professional," then click the "Exam" tab and "Prep."

Who & What is IC&RC?

The Iowa Board of Certification is a proud member of IC&RC (the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium). You may know about IBC's membership with IC&RC, but do you know what this means for Iowa's certified professionals? Through our annual dues to IC&RC, IBC is able to provide testing and reciprocity with other members of IC&RC; our membership also allows us to collaborate with other states/countries/jurisdictions on best practices.

IBC's Executive Director, Debbie Gilbert, was elected four years ago to serve as Administrator's Representative for IC&RC, which also allows her to serve on IC&RC's Executive Committee. The Administrator's Rep serves as a liaison between other state's/country's executive directors and IC&RC's Executive Committee. Prior to this position, Debbie held the position of Marketing Chairperson for 7 years which also allowed her to serve on IC&RC's Executive Committee. In this way, she has had a unique role in advocating for Iowa's certified professionals. As Administrator's Rep, Debbie chairs monthly conference call meetings with other board administrators, and attends two IC&RC meetings each year, many times along with IBC's Board President.

IC&RC is the global leader in the credentialing of prevention, addiction treatment and recovery professionals. Organized in 1981, IC&RC provides standards and examinations to certification and licensing boards in 25 countries, 47 states and territories, 5 Native American regions and all branches of the U.S. military.

Quality and integrity are the foundation of IC&RC's work. IC&RC's credentials use the latest research on evidence-based practices, and they are updated every 5 years and subjected to an extensive process of peer review. IC&RC examinations are based on formal Job Analyses, written by subject matter experts, and supported by current references. Member boards are audited regularly to ensure compliance with international standards.

With more than 45,000 professionals in prevention, alcohol and drug counseling, clinical supervision, criminal justice addictions, and co-occurring disorders, IC&RC represents up to half of all substance abuse professionals in the U.S.

You can learn more about IC&RC at their website at www.internationalcredentialing.org.

Like us on Facebook & Follow us on Instagram

Did you know that IBC has a Facebook page? It's great social media that helps us keep you informed of news. So like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram, and keep up to date with what's new! You can also text EZTJJ83742 to 797979 to receive news from IBC. You can find the links below.

News from IC&RC

Last month, the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis issued its final report. A 123-page document, it sought to address the opioid epidemic from top to bottom, considering as many factors as possible. IC&RC submitted comments to the commission twice, emphasizing the need for workforce training, recruitment, and retention. The commission took our recommendations seriously, and included many of them in their final report.

Our first recommendation focused on recruitment. The commission agreed with our need for emphasis on this front:

*By the year 2025, workforce projections estimate that there will be a workforce shortage in the fields of substance abuse and mental health treatment of approximately 250,000 providers across all disciplines. Workforce needs include addiction psychiatrists, physicians specializing in addiction medicine, **counselors, recovery coaches, and other behavioral health providers**. There are simply too few physicians and other clinicians with the requisite training to meet the demands of the estimated 19.4 million Americans suffering from untreated SUDs. Expanding the workforce to meet treatment demand will require a comprehensive federal, state, local, public and private effort to develop the workforce pipeline.*

The Commission recommends the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) prioritize addiction treatment knowledge across all health disciplines. Adequate resources are needed to increase the number of addiction-trained physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, physician assistants, and community health workers and facilitate deployment in needed regions and facilities.

Just as important, we wanted the commission to understand the need for retention. The high rate of turnover is due in large part to pay that is not commensurate with other health professions. The commission, as a result, published the following:

*Reimbursement rates for SUD treatment services are typically lower than those for other health conditions. Private and public insurers complain that they cannot find enough quality providers for their networks. The provision of SUD treatment, often in the form of counseling and psychosocial services, has a different business and service model than other health conditions. However, rates are not structured to reflect this model or to support a viable revenue stream to incentivize new entrants to the addiction workforce. **Lack of sufficient reimbursement additionally impedes the ability of professionals and practices to implement high-quality and consistent care**, including but not limited to the use of EHRs, the implementation of evidence-based practices, and the routine use of quality metrics.*

The Commission recommends HHS review and modify rate-setting (including policies that indirectly impact reimbursement) to better cover the true costs of providing SUD treatment, including inpatient psychiatric facility rates and outpatient provider rates.

Finally, we wanted support from the commission to grow the peer workforce.

Peer recovery specialists/coaches are CHWs who are in recovery from an SUD. New programs are emerging across the country to use CHWs and recovery coaches in a range of settings, including hospitals, to provide immediate and ongoing support and treatment linkages to individuals who have overdosed from opioids, or support individuals newly in recovery. These programs can address alarming levels of readmissions due to overdose. In addition, recovery workers are supporting law enforcement, fire departments, and other community partners addressing the opioid overdose epidemic. The use of these types of care extenders can help address the workforce shortage, but more of them are needed.

The Commission recommends the Federal Government partner with appropriate hospital and recovery organizations to expand the use of recovery coaches, especially in hard-hit areas. Insurance companies, federal health systems, and state payers should expand programs for hospital and primary case-based SUD treatment and referral services. Recovery coach programs have been extraordinarily effective in states that have them to help direct patients in crisis to appropriate treatment.

IC&RC will continue to keep you posted on developments as they occur. At this point, these are only recommendations from the commission. Our next step is to have Congress authorize programs that will implement these changes, and of course, then provide the funding to make them a reality.

By Andrew Kessler, IC&RC federal policy liaison
November 2017

Contact Us

Has your work or home address/contact information changed? Did you take a new job? Change your name? Be sure to send us an email, or call us, with the new information so we can keep your records up to date. You can call us at 515-965-5509 or email us at info@iowabc.org.

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