



NEWSLETTER



Executive Director's Welcome

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST STAKEHOLDER'S NEWSLETTER!

A successful organization depends on many different facets and they all must work together to be successful.

I would like to take this time to thank all our stakeholders, board of directors and our staff for their dedication to IC&RC. The strength of our organization comes from you!

Looking forward we plan on building stronger communication, stronger support, and collaborating with our stakeholders to continue leading the field in credentialing.

I am very grateful to be associated with IC&RC and I look forward to working with all of you.

The best of IC&RC is yet to come!

Sincerely,

Mark Attanasio

About the Chair, Tim Cesario

Tim Cesario (Kentucky) is the Chairman of IC&RC's Board of Directors. He has been in this position since May of 2021. Tim has been a member of the Kentucky Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors since 2014 and has served as board chair



since November of 2018. He also serves as chair of the Kentucky Agency for Substance Abuse Policy, a role he has held since August of 2020. He has worked in the field of Substance Abuse Counseling since 1990 as a counselor, clinical supervisor, team leader and program director and currently serves as the Director of Recovery Services for Cumberland River Behavioral Health, Inc. During his time as director, Tim developed programs to meet the needs of people with Substance Use Disorder in underserved areas of Southeastern Kentucky. He has promoted Peer Support as an option for people in early recovery. Developed intensive Outpatient Treatment Programs, overseen the implementation of MOUD in the treatment of Pregnant Women to reduce Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, initiated Quick Response Teams and developed a Crisis Stabilization Unit specifically for people with Substance Use Disorder. In 2012, he founded TJC Consulting, LLC and provides consultation to organizations seeking to develop treatment programs, assist with grant writing and provides trainings throughout Kentucky and several other states.

Tim's involvement with IC&RC began in 2019 when he participated in the Spring Meeting in Louisville. Later that year he was one of the members of the task force which revised the IC&RC bylaws and restructured the organization. Tim has a passion for the profession and advocates for all professionals working in the field. He was instrumental in the process of adding the Peer Recovery Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor and Clinical Supervision credentials in Kentucky. He worked with Kentucky Legislators to bring the commonwealth's statutory requirements for credentialing into alignment with the IC&RC standards.

Tim is a native of Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania and has lived in Kentucky since 2001. He is a graduate of Gettysburg College (BA) where he was a member of the Men's Basketball Team and California University of Pennsylvania where he earned a Master of Science in Community Agency Counseling. He earned his CAC and CAC Diplomate in Pennsylvania which he transferred to Kentucky through reciprocity. He has been married to his wife Kim since 2003 and is the proud father of two teenagers who recently earned black belts in Tae Kwon Do.

In his spare time, Tim enjoys reading, weightlifting and traveling with his family, often to attend hockey games and college football games.



Advocacy Liaison, Andrew Kenler

In an historic moment, President Joseph Biden took time in his recent State of the Union address to recognize the 23 million Americans in recovery from substance use disorders.

"There is so much we can do, increase funding for prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery. Get rid of outdated rules that stop doctors from prescribing treatments. Stop the flow of illicit drugs by working with state and local law enforcement to go after the trafficker. And if you're suffering from addiction, you know you know you're not alone. I believe in recovery, and I celebrate the 23 million, 23 million Americans in recovery."

Accompanying the president's remarks was a plan released by the White House to invest in SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery, as well as in mental health. The Biden administration plans to make major investments in behavioral health, which will be outlined in the upcoming FY 2023 budget, to be released by the White House this month. They include:

Expand and strengthen parity. The 2008 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act called for mental health care benefits to be covered at the same level as physical health care benefits. The President's fiscal year 2023 (FY23) budget will propose that all health plans cover robust behavioral health services with an adequate network of providers, including three behavioral health visits each year without cost-sharing.

Expand access to tele- and virtual behavioral health care options. The use of telehealth to address mental health and substance use needs rose dramatically during the height of the pandemic and has remained above pre-pandemic levels even where COVID has waned. These tele-mental health services have proven both safe and effective, while reducing barriers to care. To maintain continuity of access, the Administration will work with Congress to ensure coverage of tele-behavioral health across health plans and support appropriate delivery of telemedicine across state lines. At the same time, the HHS will create a learning collaborative with state insurance departments to identify and address state-based barriers, like telehealth limitations, to behavioral health access. And the United States Office of Personnel Management will facilitate widespread, confidential, and easy access to telehealth services, in part by strongly encouraging Federal Employees Health Benefits Program carriers to sufficiently reimburse providers for telehealth services.

Embed and co-locate mental health and substance use providers into community-based settings. Expanding pathways to care also means creating new, low-barrier access points, in settings where Americans already live, work, and play. To that end, the President's FY23 budget will include \$50 million to pilot models that embed and co-locate behavioral health services into non-traditional settings like libraries, community centers, schools, and homeless shelters. Community-based services are a central tenet of Faces and Voices, and our ARCO network. We plan to make this aspect of the President's plan a key part of our advocacy for the next year.

Increase behavioral health navigation resources. Finding the right care or an available provider can be a frustrating experience. We need to make it easier for Americans both to find help, and to receive it. To meet this need, the Administration will build new easy-to-access, user-friendly online treatment locator tools – starting with a redesigned and refurbished mentalhealth.gov – so Americans can find care when they need it, where they need it, with the click of a button. This is a role often filled by peer professionals. IC&RC will continue its work to increase the number of peers in the workforce, and to clearly define their professional roles and responsibilities.

IC&RC is encouraged by the President's recognition of Americans in recovery and looks forward to supporting this ambitious agenda.

Decredentialing Services Chair, Dr. Brandee Isquendo

The IC&RC's credentialing services committee is pleased to inform you that our in-person credentialing job analysis process has resumed. We are currently moving forward with job analyses of the Prevention Specialist (PS) and the Alcohol & Drug Counselor (ADC). PS subject matter experts will be on-site in Dunedin, Florida, April 12-13th and will participate in examination item writing. Additionally, ADC subject matter experts will begin the virtual process of item bank reviewing to ensure that the most up to date EBP resources are reflected in the core competencies of the ADC. Once this process is complete, ADC subject matter experts will be on-site in Dunedin, Florida, May 5-6 for examination item writing.



The credentialing services committee also recognizes the need to revisit the Advanced Alcohol & Drug Counselor (AADC) cut scores and is currently reviewing material necessary to analyze the current landscape of this credential. In parallel to the aforementioned processes, the credentialing services committee, within the next month, will begin to identify subject matter experts and availability for the Peer Recovery (PR) job analysis.

Stay tuned for updates and please be on the look out for dissemination requests from IC&RC staff. We rely on members boards as a catalyst to resources and credentialled participants which provide feedback and input during the job analysis process.

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

With Sincere Gratitude,
Dr. Brandee Isquendo
IC&RC Credentialing Services Chair