

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

John G. Rowland
 Governor

A Healthcare Service Agency

Thomas A. Kirk Jr., Ph.D.
 Commissioner

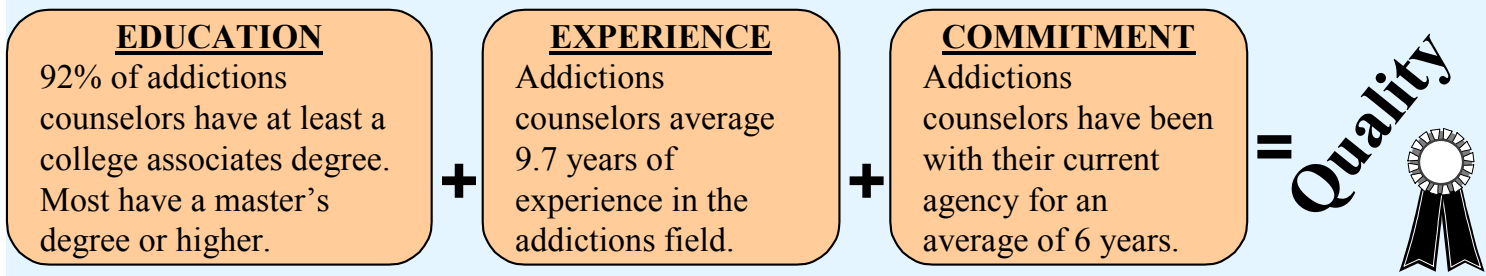
Connecticut's Addictions Counselors...Thank You

The State of Connecticut and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), are joining other states and organizations during National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, to recognize the important role played by Addictions Counselors in the lives of people recovering from substance use disorders. **Governor Rowland** has proclaimed September 25, 2002 as **National Addictions Counselor Day** in Connecticut "to recognize and honor the work of addictions counselors and to educate the public and policymakers about the **effectiveness of treatment...**"

Connecticut has every reason to be proud of the counselors, clinical supervisors and administrators who are in the frontlines of helping to reduce the demand for alcohol and drugs in Connecticut, and who are indispensable in supporting persons with addictive disorders to manage their recovery.

A recent survey* of programs that are operated or funded by DMHAS to treat substance use disorders, provides additional evidence of an experienced, well-educated and increasingly ethnically diverse workforce. Today's addictions counselors are committed to evidence-based treatment, life-long learning and finding fulfillment in their work through the excellence of their practice.

**80% of programs responded to the survey.*



*PAACT 2002 Participants
 Ethnicity*

African Origin	14
Latino/Hispanic	13
Caucasian	2
Asian	3
Native American	2
Portuguese	1
Total	35

Update on the Project for Addictions and Cultural Competency Training (PACCT) The June 2002 issue of *Information...* featured DMHAS' exciting new initiative to enhance the diversity of Connecticut's behavioral health clinical workforce in treating persons in New Haven, Hartford and Bridgeport. **PACCT is a comprehensive recruitment, training, mentoring, and internship program.** It is funded for four years by the Byrne Memorial Grant Program which is administered by the state Office of Policy and Management.

PAACT 2002 Participants
 Urban Centers*

New Haven	9
Hartford	15
Bridgeport	11
Total	35

**19 of 35 are in recovery.*

Since June, the initial cohort of 35 counselor trainees were selected from a pool of 195 applicants; training begins September 21, 2002. As these trainees move into supervised field placements and, upon completion of training, into professional practice in the addiction services field, they will further strengthen the cultural competence of DMHAS' behavioral healthcare services.