

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION SERVICES

Prevention as a profession – why credentialing?

SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's National Advisory Council provides the following findings and considerations:

- A specialized, highly trained, robust prevention workforce is essential in promoting and supporting the behavioral and physical health of the nation. There is clear evidence that the distinct scope of prevention work offers a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of the nation.
- Opportunities exist for promoting and enhancing workforce development partnerships, training opportunities, and employment focused on the implementation of prevention best practices. Prevention practice takes place across a wide range of professions and types and levels of education. Many professions appear to be positioned to offer training in prevention as part of their curricula and have developed competencies associated with this scope of practice.

A few facts about prevention credentialing and states

- 45 of 50 states have Prevention Certification credentialing
- 2 out of 3 current Certified Prevention Specialists (CPS) are 45 or older
- 3 out of 4 are female
- 1 out of 4 are non-white/Caucasian
- 87% have Bachelor's or Master's degree
- Over 2 out of 3 required to have CPS for employment
- The state of California only has 70 CPS

Pros and Cons

Advantages to States for this requirement

- Appropriate and consistent skill levels
- Accountability to taxpayers
- Ensuring professionalism
- Code of Ethics

Reasons for not requiring

- Concern about creating hiring barriers
- Concern about costs to individuals to become credentialed
- Limited capacity in prevention funding to adequately compensate credentialed vs non-credentialed professionals.

- CSAP, NAC Recommendation –

“Collaborate with Single State Authorities (SSA) to develop and utilize prevention workforces that are credentialed and diverse, and within their states, have access to sufficient inventories of training and continuing education opportunities in line with current and emerging skill needed in the changing landscape of prevention.”

- The CSAP National Advisory Council’s #1 potential strategy is –
Develop and implement a strategy of requiring SSAs to require prevention certification of prevention professionals implementing programs funded by SAMHSA dollars.