

Experience the Reward~Accept the Challenge

Becoming a Certified Chemical Dependency Professional

What are Certified Chemical Dependency Professionals?

Certified Chemical Dependency Professionals (CDPs) help people who are addicted to substances such as alcohol, prescription, and illicit drugs. Addiction or substance abuse counseling helps patients identify the behavior problems and patterns associated with their addiction. As a CDP you may work with individuals, families or groups of people who are somehow connected to the same problem.

There is great satisfaction in making a positive difference in another person's life. As a CDP, you will have that opportunity every day.

What is the current need for CDPs?

There has never been a better time to become a CDP, because there is a critical shortage of CDPs in Washington State. A 2006 survey commissioned by the Washington State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse revealed the following:

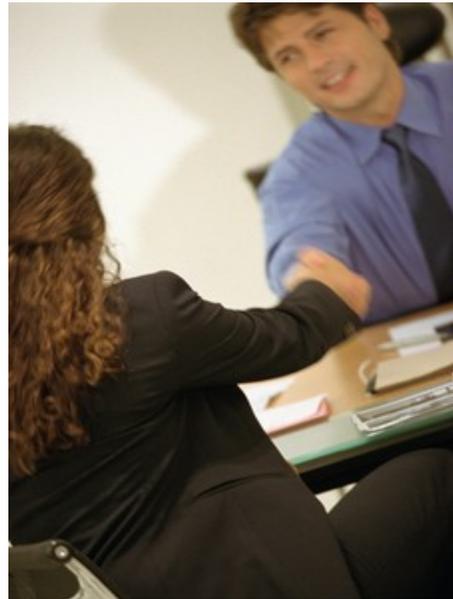
- 40% of treatment directors reported that their agencies are understaffed.
- 24% reported that they would still be understaffed if all budgeted positions were filled, due to the increased demand for CDP services.
- The field is "aging out" -- 37% of clinicians are in their 50's, and a significant number will soon be retiring.

What are the employment and financial opportunities for CDPs?

There are jobs in many areas of public and private social and health services:

- Residential and outpatient treatment agencies.
- Schools.
- State and county probation and corrections departments.
- Mental health agencies.
- Drug prevention/intervention programs.
- State and county social and health services programs.

Salaries and benefits vary based on the agency, experience, and education. In general, salaries are increasing and health benefits are included in 80% of treatment agencies.



“My counselor made a difference in my life through her inspiration, motivation and by just being there. I can now make a difference in my children’s lives by staying healthy and being there for them.” – A mother of four

What Are the Career Options in the Chemical Dependency Profession?

There are two classifications for providing chemical dependency treatment:

- A Chemical Dependency Professional (CDP) is a certified professional who has completed the required education, experience and testing to be certified by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).
- A Chemical Dependency Professional Trainee (CDPT) is a registered counselor, but does not yet meet the training and experience requirements for a CDP. A CDPT provides chemical dependency services under the direction of an approved supervisor.

What are the education, experience and licensing requirements?

The Washington State Department of Health is the agency responsible for registering and certifying Chemical Dependency Professionals. To get detailed information about education, experience, and licensing requirements, click here:

https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/hpqa1/hps7/Chemical_Dependency/default.htm

For a step-by-step guide to becoming a CDP, click here:

<http://www.cdpcertification.org/steps.asp>

For a list of colleges in Washington offering CDP programs and tuition assistance, click here: <http://www.cdpcertification.org/education.asp>

Work Force Development Resources

[NFATTC Workforce Development Survey Report 2006](#) (PDF)

[DASA Workforce Development Presentation 2006](#) (PPT)

[Annapolis Coalition: History of Planning Process and Overview of WFD Plan](#) (PPT)

[Annapolis Coalition: A Thousand Voices - National Action Plan on Behavioral Health WFD](#) (PDF)

[Annapolis Coalition: A Framework for Discussion - Action Plan for Behavioral Health WFD Executive Summary](#) (PDF)

[Annapolis Coalition: A Framework for Discussion - Action Plan for Behavioral Health WFD](#) (PDF)

[Department of Health Chemical Dependency Forum Results](#) (Word)

[Department of Health Chemical Dependency Advisory Board Minutes](#) (Webpage)

[NAADAC Workforce Development Presentation](#) (PPT)

[SAMSHA Substance Abuse Workforce Development Environment Scan](#) (PDF)

[Ohio Workforce Development Article](#) (PDF)

WASHINGTON STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Committee Name	Contact Information
DASA Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) On Alcoholism and Drug Addiction	Sally Cassella golfduke@msn.com
Adolescent Coordination Treatment Grant <u>Certification, Licensing and Standards of Care Subcommittee</u>	David Jefferson jefferd@dshs.wa.gov (360) 725-3814
Chemical Dependency Professionals of Washington State (CDPWS)	Dave Harris (253) 740-4067 soundcounselinginc@hotmail.com Website: http://www.cdpws.org
Northwest Coalition of Chemical Dependency Educators (NCCDE)	Irene Bittrick ibittrick@mail.ewu.edu

For more information contact:

Robin Roberts, Treatment and Prevention Program Manager
DSHS - Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
(360) 725-3734 or roberrl@dshs.wa.gov