

WHO YA GONNA CALL:
**ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL NEED
IN ADDICTION TREATMENT
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

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ADDICTION: A DEFINITION

“Addiction is a primary, chronic disease of brain reward, motivation, memory and related circuitry. Dysfunction in these circuits leads to characteristic biological, psychological, social and spiritual manifestations. This is reflected in an individual pathologically pursuing reward and/or relief by substance use and other behaviors.”



THE MOUNTING PROBLEM

- Preexisting workforce deficits
- Preexisting access deficits
- The Affordable Care Act
- The Opioid Epidemic
- Decreasing stigma
- Public Health Emergency

More people presenting for services

*Critical
Workforce
Development
Needs*



A NATIONAL NEED

The U.S. BLS predicts a 20% growth in the demand for substance use and behavioral disorder counselors from 2016 to 2026, an addition of over 20,000 counselors.



A NATIONAL PRIORITY

“Developing the sector of the workforce trained to prevent and treat substance use disorders is one of SAMHSA’s highest priorities.”



THE NEED IN WEST VIRGINIA

- WV has the highest rate of opioid OD deaths in the country.
- WV has the highest rates of babies born physically dependent on opioids (neonatal abstinence syndrome).

And yet.....

- 21% of all WV counties have no counselor.
- WV has only 36% of the national average number of counselors per 100,000 population (40.7 for WV vs. 112.1 for US).

ADDRESSING WEST VIRGINIA NEEDS THROUGH THE WVU DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING

Respond to the WV state-wide workforce development initiative by establishing a plan for specialty education/training to prepare students in the knowledge, skills and attitudes of addiction counseling for application in a broad array of professions.

VISION

- Develop an undergraduate minor in Addiction Studies.
- Develop online offerings for access across the state.
- Develop a certificate program for current mental health professionals.
- Develop an addiction studies concentration in the Master of Arts in Counseling program.

STEP 1: THE ADDICTION STUDIES MINOR

- Clinically based
- Available to all majors, with a focus on Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, Public Health, Nursing, Education, Sport and Exercise Psychology, Multidisciplinary Studies and the Regents Bachelor of Arts.
- Service component
- 5 courses/15 credit hours

ADDICTION STUDIES COURSES

- Introduction to Addiction Studies
- Addiction Screening & Assessment
- Addiction Counseling Techniques
- Families & Addiction
- Addiction Studies Capstone

IMPLEMENTATION

- *Introduction to Addiction Studies* first offered FA17.
- *Introduction to Addiction Studies* and *Addiction Screening & Assessment* will both be offered in SP18.
- Minor will be available for adoption by students FA18 [final approvals pending].
- First cohort of students could complete as early as May 2019.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Be part of the solution!