

January 17, 2012

Dear Prevention Professional and Friends of Prevention:

Welcome to the Prevention Specialist Certification Board of Washington (PSCBW) website. Our mission is the credentialing of prevention professionals and to create a standard of excellence in the field of Prevention. We are a member board of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC). By being a member board we are bound by the credentialing standards of IC&RC, which also means that our credential is portable throughout the United States, as well as internationally.

Prevention has moved into the forefront of Public Health, as exemplified by SAMHSA's new strategic initiative due to the passage of the Affordable Care Act that has brought an increasing emphasis on prevention. In fact SAMHSA's Goal 1.1 of the Strategic Initiative #1 states: *"With primary prevention as the focus, build emotional health, prevent or delay onset of, and mitigate symptoms and complications from substance abuse and mental illness."*

Although there have been budget cuts particularly over the past two years affecting prevention, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) received a \$600,000 one-year Strategic Prevention Framework-State Prevention Enhancement Grant (SPE) in 2011 to: strengthen and extend SAMHSA's national implementation of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF); strengthen and enhance DBHR's current prevention infrastructure to support more strategic, comprehensive systems of community-oriented care; and better address and adjust to the complexities of evolving health care initiatives.

In my role as the PSCBW President, I serve on the SPE Policy Consortium and am contributing knowledge and expertise, especially in the following SPE-specific goals areas:

1. Enhance State workforce development (e.g. training, support for licensure, credentialing, or accreditation).
2. Enhance State Policy development to support needed service system improvements (e.g. rate-setting activities, establishment of standards of care, development/revision of credentialing, licensure, or accreditation requirements).

Other PSCBW's activities and accomplishments during 2011 include the following:

- Training Grants – The PSCBW received a grant from DBHR to update the Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Training (SAPST) curriculum and to implement three SAPST workshops throughout Washington State. Workshops were held in Spokane, King and Pierce Counties. The PSCBW received another grant from the Western Regional Counterdrug Training Center/Washington National Guard and provided two trainings, one in Clallam County and one in Benton/Franklin Counties. A total of 98 individuals participated in the five SAPST workshops in 2011.

- Prevention Summit – The PSCBW had an active presence at the Washington State Prevention Summit. The Summit was held October 27-29 in Yakima. The PSCBW sponsored Thursday evening's Prevention Professionals Networking Soiree, which was attended by about 150 individuals. Marcia Via, our Certification Secretary, had special name tag ribbons created to designate our Certified Prevention Professionals. Board members distributed the ribbons during the Prevention Soiree, and it was a great success. The PSCBW also presented an informational session on the prevention credentialing process, which was attended by over 20 individuals. In addition, an exhibit table displayed PSCBW information during the Summit.
- King County's Support for Credentialing – In addition to assigning a staff member to participate as a PSCBW board member, King County dedicated local funds to support individuals seeking to obtain the Certified Prevention Professional Credential (CPP). This funding will support prevention training as well as application/testing fees associated with obtaining the credential. Qualifying individuals must work or volunteer at agencies in the King County prevention provider network. For more information, please contact Jackie Berganio by phone at (206) 263-8931 or via email at jackie.berganio@kingcounty.gov.

Looking Ahead to 2012

As we begin a new year, the PSCBW will continue to focus on credentialing prevention professionals and workforce development. We will continue to have a presence on the SPE Policy Consortium.

PSCBW once again received a grant from DBHR to implement SAPST workshops. The PSCBW Board will hold two regular SAPST workshops during February and March, and one Training of Trainers workshop in May. Please refer to our website, www.pscbw.com, for workshop details and the registration form.

We are also looking to enhance and increase our board membership. Please click on "Contact Us" on our website, if you are interested in joining the Board. Interested persons who do not yet hold a CPP have one year to obtain their certification, and we are always happy to assist in this process.

I wish you a HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL 2012.

Sincerely,



Gunthild Sondhi, PSCBW President