

OUR DREAM

By Stephanie Abbott

We have a dream at NACoA. We visualize every American understanding the nature of parental addiction and how it affects children. We visualize them reaching out effectively to give hope and help in whatever the context of being with those children.

For counselors, social workers, and psychologists, we imagine good training in addiction studies – including training in the impact of growing up with addiction in the family – so that they are well equipped to deal with a problem that statistically is a very large part of their practice.

For doctors, dentists, and all in health care professions, we hope for training in recognizing the effects of alcoholism on the family, so that they are equipped to do appropriate interventions.

For the faith community, we can see all clergy having the information they need to counsel and refer effectively, to welcome twelve step groups to their houses of worship, and to educate their parishioners on the nature of addiction, and the needs of the children.

For teachers, we imagine them knowing the community resources, how to communicate with children of alcoholics with helpful messages, and how to encourage parents to use the help available.

As we work toward this dream we cooperate with other agencies with the same goal. This greatly extends our ability to affect systems that affect children. Part of our work has resulted in Kits for professionals who are interested in children and families hurt by alcoholism, one for parents,

and one for the kids themselves. All of these Kits are full of useful information and “how-tos,” resources and referrals.

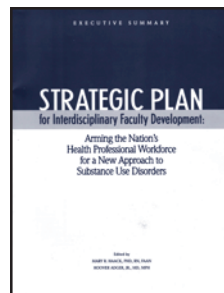
Right off the press is our latest Kit, the colorful *Kit for Early Childhood Professionals*. As always, we encourage reproduction of the publication so the information will reach as many people as possible.



We believe in our dream.

PLAN FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

- Arming the Nation's Health Professional Workforce for a New Approach to Substance Use Disorders, has been



adopted by multiple health professional organizations following two years of development.

The plan, developed by the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA), is designed to bring about the systemic changes needed to prepare health professionals to take on an expanded role in addressing the Nation's substance use disorder problems. It includes essential “core competencies” and numerous references to addressing the needs of children affected by parental substance use disorders. The full document is available at www.amersa.org

VIDEO SHELF

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Two videos have been released recently featuring Claudia Black, Ph.D. One is new, the other is a re-release.

Double Jeopardy: Addiction and Depression, Viewing the World Through Clouded Lenses

In this video, Dr. Black explains clinical depression and how it can interact with addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling, violence and sex. She uses a lecture format and covers the key points of the cause and treatment of depressive illness, the importance of abstinence from addictive behaviors and substances, the problem of relapse, and the use of anti-depressants.



The second video is a revised edition of **Children of Denial: Growing Up With Addiction** which demonstrates the three basic rules of a troubled family system: Don't Talk,

Don't Trust, and Don't Feel.

Dr. Black is a lecturer, author, clinical consultant, and trainer who has expanded her work with family systems and addictive disorders to develop models of intervention and treatment for multi-addictions, anger, family violence and relapse.

For more information go online to www.claudialblack.com or call (800) 698-0148.

THE RED ROAD TO WELLBRIETY

In the Native American Way, was released in September.

The book draws on the philosophies and practices of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous – and is available at www.whitebison.org.

