

Other Materials Available from CETP



Our Partners

NACoA partnered in the first phase of the CETP with the Johnson Institute. Subsequently, the CETP has partnered with:

- ❖ the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the Fetzer Institute to initiate the development of seminary curriculum modules based on the Core Competencies
- ❖ the American Association of Pastoral Counselors in the development of a clergy training tool kit, and materials and training for congregational leaders in targeted communities
- ❖ the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and its Core Competencies Task Force in the development of modules for infusion into clinical pastoral education (CPE) training
- ❖ Denominational and State/regional entities to ensure the effective use of the project's curricula, handbooks and training packages for use in educating faith leaders. The CETP also has developed resources that can be used by clergy in their churches, synagogues, temples and mosques.

For more information on the CETP or for copies of the reports and materials, go to the Clergy section of NACoA's website, www.nacoa.org or contact us at:



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Breaking Down the Wall of Silence

The Clergy Education and Training Project®



National Association for Children of Alcoholics

Alcohol and drug dependence exact a huge economic, physical, and emotional toll on the lives of many people. The effects extend well beyond the toll on the individual who is misusing alcohol or drugs. Many families live in fear and confusion, not knowing where to turn for help. Often, when they do reach out for help, they first turn to their communities of faith. Unfortunately those seeking help often face a wall of silence.

Over the years, I would estimate that two thirds of the human hurt I have encountered in the people I serve has been hurt directly resulting from active addiction—or from living or having lived with an addicted person.

*Father F. Anthony Gallagher, Pastor
St. Patrick Church, Grand Rapids, OH*

Faith communities provide a unique opportunity to help families and individuals affected by alcohol or drugs and to support continuing recovery. However, many clergy lack the knowledge and skills to provide support for those affected by alcohol and drugs.

Research studies on the role of clergy in dealing with alcoholism and addiction in their congregations estimate that:

- ❖ 94.4% of clergy surveyed consider alcohol and other drug abuse and addiction important issues in their congregations, yet only 12.5% received any coursework on this issue during their studies in seminary (CASA, *So Help Me God!* 2001)
- ❖ Referrals from clergy have represented only 4% of the total referrals to Al-Anon and Alateen in recent years (Al-Anon studies,

1988 – 2003); yet these mutual support programs have a 50-year history of helping affected family members recover and are available free of charge in almost every community.

The pastor has a significant role . . . Greater familiarity with the problem is necessary. This can be achieved by enhancing the curricula of seminaries on this subject and by post-graduate seminars.

*Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, MD, Founder
and Medical Director Emeritus, Gateway
Rehabilitation Center, Aliquippa, PA*

The Role of Clergy

When alcohol or drug addiction is present in the family, the role of clergy is to see and listen for the pain and confusion, to facilitate help, and to support recovery. To expend pastoral effort to resolve relational, spiritual, or other psychosocial difficulties for either the addicted person or family members may be futile—and often counterproductive. It is first important to address the effects of addiction realistically. As individuals and family members progress in recovery, much of the spiritual and psychosocial hurt these people present to their congregational leader will no longer be problematic. What issues remain can then be addressed effectively.

Clergy also have a role in preventing alcohol and drug problems in their faith communities and in the greater community.

The Clergy Education and Training Project®

The Clergy Education and Training Project® (CETP) is an initiative of the National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA). In partnership with major national and regional faith organiza-

tions, the CETP works to provide education and tools to help clergy and other pastoral ministers to address the ravages of alcohol and drug abuse—especially the shame and spiritual degradation that harm children and spouses.

The CETP, which began in 2001, has involved faith leaders, seminary professors, credentialing organizations, and pastoral counselors across denominations from its inception.

Between 2001 and 2006, with support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Project convened panels of leading clergy and addiction experts to:

- ❖ reach consensus on 12 clergy core competencies that represent the basic knowledge and skills needed to aid congregants whose families are affected by alcohol and drug dependence
- ❖ develop needed programs for clergy and pastoral minister education on addictions and their impact on individuals, families and developing children
- ❖ assist in the creation of the requisite seminary curricula and other training tools based on the 12 Core Competencies.

SAMHSA released a report of the CETP's initial work in January 2004, *Core Competencies for Clergy and Other Pastoral Ministers in Addressing Alcohol and Drug Dependence and the Impact on Family Members*. It has been received enthusiastically, and over 80,000 copies have been distributed.

The 12 Core Competencies developed by the early expert panels have become the basis for multiple educational tools and programs – in print, in academic settings, and online.