

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

LICENSED ADVANCED ALCOHOL DRUG COUNSELORS

■ PURPOSE

To assure a consistent standard of quality education, training and experience for licensed alcohol and drug counselors. Licensure is necessary to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare, and to protect the public from services delivered by non-licensed alcohol/drug counselors, and unprofessional conduct by licensed alcohol/drug counselors.

■ REQUIREMENTS

A Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor is a person who possesses and utilizes a competency-based core of knowledge and skills to assist alcohol/drug-affected persons, and those affected by the alcohol/drug affected person; a *LAADC is the highest level within the career path as an Alcohol/Drug Counselor. He/She/They has a master's degree, has completed the education, practicum, internship and has successfully passed the advanced alcohol and drug counselor written examination.

The Licensed Advanced Alcohol Drug Counselor, regardless of position on the career path, must renew licensure every two years by adhering to the: payment of the renewal fee, ascribing to the Code of Conduct and Scope of Practice at each licensure renewal period; and completing a minimum of 50 hours of continuing education with a minimum of six hours specific to ethics in each renewal cycle.

■ ROLE OF THE LICENSED ADVANCED ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR

“Alcohol and drug counseling” means a process involving a clinical relationship between a client who is experiencing addiction, dependence, abuse of alcohol or other drugs, or other symptoms that relate to substance use and a counselor or therapist trained to provide that help to address that addiction, dependence, or abuse. Addiction counseling includes the professional and ethical application of basic tasks and responsibilities, including all of the following:

- 3 Screening**, this is the process by which a client is determined to be eligible for admission to a particular alcohol and drug treatment program.
- (B) Initial intake**, which is the administrative and initial assessment procedures for admission to an alcohol and drug treatment program.

- (C) **Orientation**, which is the act of describing to the client the general nature and goals of the alcohol and drug treatment program, including rules governing client conduct and infractions that can lead to disciplinary action or discharge from the program.
- (D) **Alcohol and drug abuse counseling**, including individual, group, and significant others. The utilization of special skills to assist individuals, families, or groups in achieving objectives through exploration of a problem and its ramifications, examination of attitudes and feelings, considerations of alternative solutions, and decision making as each relates to substance use. Counseling shall be limited to assisting a client in learning more about himself or herself for the purposes of understanding how to effectuate clearly perceived and realistically defined goals related to abstinence. Counseling is limited to assisting the client to learn or acquire new skills that will enable the client to cope and adjust to life situations without the use of substances.
- (E) **Case management**, which is the activities that bring services, agencies, resources, or individuals together within a planned framework of action toward achievement of established goals. Case management may involve liaison activities and collateral contacts.
- (F) **Crisis intervention**, which is providing services that respond to an alcohol or drug user's needs during acute emotional or physical distress, including, but not limited to, referrals for assessment of the client's need for additional psychological or medical treatment for client behaviors that signal risk or prolonged distress.
- (G) **Assessment**, which is the use of procedures by which a counselor or program identifies and evaluates an individual's strengths, weaknesses, problems, and needs for the development of the alcohol and drug treatment plan.
- (H) **Treatment planning**, which is the process by which the counselor and the client identify and rank problems needing resolution, establish agreed-upon immediate and long-term goals, and decide on a treatment process and the resources to be utilized.
- (I) **Client education**, which is providing information to individuals and groups concerning alcohol and drug use and the services and resources available.
- (J) **Referral**, which is identifying the needs of the client that cannot be met by the counselor or agency, as well as assisting the client in utilizing the support systems and community resources available.
- (K) **Reports and recordkeeping**, which is the documentation of the client's progress in achieving his or her goals.
- (L) **Consultation** with other professionals with regard to client treatment or services and communicating with other professionals to ensure comprehensive, quality care for the client.

■ SETTING FOR THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES

A Licensed Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor may conduct counseling of clients with alcohol/drug addiction or dependence, their family members and others in hospitals, agencies, private practice or other facilities where alcohol and/or drug services are delivered; as part of an interdisciplinary team in hospitals or other agencies working alongside professionals licensed by the

State of California under the Medical Practices Act, the Social Work Licensing Law, the Psychology Licensing Act, or the Marriage, Family and Child Counselors Licensing Law; or an independent setting (private practice) at a professional office location. To be licensed at the reciprocal level the individual must live or work within California at least 51% of the time.

■ **NON-APPLICATION**

Nothing in this Scope of Practice shall be construed to constrict or limit the practice of any other professional licensed by the State of California under the Medical Practice Act, the Social Work Licensing Law, the Nursing Practice Act, the Psychology Licensing Act, or the Marriage, Family and Child Counselors Licensing Law. Nor shall the Scope of Practice apply to any priest, rabbi, or minister of the gospel of any religious denomination (when performing counseling services as a part of his or her pastoral or professional duties), or to any person who is admitted to practice law in the state, or who is licensed to practice medicine when providing counseling services as part of his/her professional practice. Nor shall this Scope of Practice apply to an employee of a governmental entity or of a school, college, or university or of an institution both non-profit and charitable if his/her practice is performed solely under the supervision of the entity, school or organization by which he/she is employed, and if he/she performs such functions as part of the position for which he/she is employed.