

## PRESS RELEASE

### ACYCP Announces National Professional Certification Program

The Association for Child and Youth Care Practice (ACYCP) announces the establishment of the national professional child and youth care (CYC) credential. The program will be available beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. The national professional certification program is an effort by CYC practitioners to increase quality standards for the child and youth care field in the United States. This effort is expected to increase the effectiveness and safety of programs serving children, youth and families nationally.

For more information, visit [www.acycp.org](http://www.acycp.org) or contact the CYC Certification Board office at (979) 764-7306.

#### How Can I be Involved?

The national professional certification program is an effort by CYC practitioners to increase quality standards for child and youth care practice in the United States. Your participation is welcomed.

**Become Certified:** if you qualify for professional certification, you can show your support for higher standards by completing the certification process. As a credentialed professional, you are demonstrating your commitment and leadership in moving the profession forward by meeting the highest standards in the industry. To apply, visit <http://www.acycp.org> for a full description of the process, requirements and forms.

**Join the Advisory Network:** CYCCB is establishing an electronic network to solicit guidance and comment, help disseminate information, and increase community support for quality CYC practices. You can join the network by visiting: [http://www.acycp.org/cyc certification board/certification forms/certification forms.htm](http://www.acycp.org/cyc_certification_board/certification_forms/certification_forms.htm), downloading and completing the Advisory Network Application Form, and returning it to the CYCCB office. This is provided to you free of charge and will assure that you will be involved and informed as the process moves forward.

#### **Attend the 9<sup>th</sup> International CYC Conference in Ft. Lauderdale May 26-29,2009**

This conference is expected to draw over 2000 participants from all over the world. The 8<sup>th</sup> International conference held in Montreal drew representatives from 38 nations. For more information, visit [http://www.acycp.org/International\\_Conference/cycc2009.htm](http://www.acycp.org/International_Conference/cycc2009.htm) Certification testing will be available at the conference.

## ***BACK GROUND INFORMATION:***

### **North American Certification Project**

The North American Certification Project (NACP), sponsored by ACYCP to develop and pilot test the certification program, has completed work carried out over the past 7 years. This event marks a significant development in the establishment of a nationally recognized credentialing system that spans the entire field of child and youth care.

NACP brought together a significant group of child and youth care professionals to establish a credible method for determining practitioner competence. Many view this effort to define the field of practice, to describe the requisite knowledge and skills necessary for professional CYC practice and to establish a method to assess competence as a key step in the evolution of the Child and Youth Care field.

The program is based on competencies drawn from the major practice settings within the field (early childhood education, treatment, after-school, foster care, residential, corrections, community youth services, disabilities, etc). Competence demonstration is based on multiple assessment methods including an electronic portfolio, supervisor assessment, documentation of experience and specific training in CYC, and a passing score on the 75-item scenario-based exam. (For a full description of the competencies, visit <http://www.acycp.org/standards/CYCcomp10-20-2001.pdf> ).

Work has focused on the development of the full professional certification level. This includes the full range of knowledge, skills and attributes considered to be necessary for fully professional practice. This focus was chosen to demonstrate the inter-relatedness of the various settings in which work is delivered and the fundamental principles that underlie child and youth care practice. It is expected that this approach will provide guidance in the development of future training and education programs better suited to address the needs of communities, employers and practitioners. It will also provide a framework for beginning the process of unifying the many existing credentialing efforts currently underway.

The pilot testing research was conducted by Dale Curry at Kent State University in collaboration with a North American committee that represented practitioners, educators, and employers. The research effort focused on establishing the reliability and validity of the scenario-based exam. Information was also collected on the usability and appropriateness of the application forms, supervisor assessment, reference forms and electronic portfolio. Information gathering concluded in September 2007. The entire certification program has been revised based on research and consumer feedback.

ACYCP is the national organization that represents child and youth care practitioners in the United States.

The project is supported by:

- Albert E. Trieschman Center;
- Child Welfare League of America;
- Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations;
- International Coalition for Professional Child and Youth Care Work;
- National Resource Center for Youth Services;
- Texas Youth and Child Care Worker Association;
- Wisconsin Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals
- Ohio Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals
- Wyoming Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals
- University of Wisconsin CYC Learning Center
- Academy for Competent Youth Work
- CYC Certification Institute
- Academy of Child and Youth Care Professionals
- Kent State University
- Ryerson University

**Pilot Testing Program (Beta Testing):**

Between May and August 2006, a total of 775 practitioners were tested in 9 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Practitioners were drawn from all of the major practice settings in the field of child and youth care (early childhood education, treatment, after-school, corrections, disabilities, foster care, residential, community youth services, etc.)

Participants in the pilot testing program had up to a year and a month to submit their applications. The final deadline for application submission was August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. A total of 277 certification applications were received. To date, 238 practitioners have been certified. For more information of the research results, visit: <http://www.acycp.org/>

**Administration of the Certification Program:**

ACYCP sponsored the development of the Child and Youth Care Certification Board, Inc.(CYCCB). The organization is a separate non-profit corporation that will oversee the implementation of the professional certification program piloted by the North American Certification Project. The board is composed of members drawn from multiple practice settings within the field of child and youth care, national groups of child care/foster care providers; educational, credentialing and service organizations; consumers of child care services and consumer advocates and youth organizations.

The CYC Certification Board will implement the revised professional certification program on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. The Board held its first face-to-face meeting in Columbus Ohio October 30<sup>th</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 to conduct strategic planning. Over the next 5 years the group will establish the organization and the infrastructure necessary to implement testing nationally and promote higher standards in the child and youth care industry.

**Current Board members are:**

**Chip Bonsutto**

President, Association for Child and Youth Care Practice  
Board Member, Ohio Association of CYC Professionals, Inc.  
Assistant Executive Director, Catholic Charities Services Corporation  
Chief Program Officer, Parmadale Family Services

**Cindy Carraway-Wilson, 2nd Vice President**

Director of Training, New England Network for Child, Youth and Family Svcs.  
Director, Massachusetts Foundation for Children

**Dale Curry**

Board Member, National Staff Development and Training Association  
Principal Investigator, NACP Pilot Testing Program  
Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Kent State University

**Carol Brunson Day**

President and CEO, National Black Child Development Institute  
Former Director, Council for Professional Recognition (developers of the CDA program)

**Frank Eckles, President**

Board Member, Texas Youth and Child Care Worker Association  
Board Member, Association for Child and Youth Care Practice  
Executive Director, CYC Certification Institute

**Michael Gaffley**

Board Member, Association for Child and Youth Care Practice  
LSCA Program Director and Program Professor, Programs In Child and Youth Studies, Fishler School of Education and Human Services, NOVA Southeastern University

**Tony Rodgers, Treasurer**

Board Member, Ohio Association of CYC Professionals  
Chair, Ohio Certification Committee  
Group Home Supervisor, Green County Children's Services

**Sr. Madeleine Rybicki, First Vice President**

Board Member, Ohio Association of CYC Professionals  
Board Member, Association for Child and Youth Care Practice  
President, Academy for Child and Youth Care Professionals  
Director of Training, Holy Family Institute

**Andrew Schneider-Munoz**

Board Member, Association for Child and Youth Care Practice  
Board Member, Academy of Child and Youth Care Professionals  
Vice President and Director, Academy for Educational Development

**Carol Stuart**

Director and Associate Professor, School of Child and Youth Care, Ryerson University, Ontario, Canada

**Debbie Zwicky, Secretary**

Board Member, Wisconsin Association of CYC Professionals  
Chair, Wisconsin Certification Committee  
Board Member, Association for Child and Youth Care Practice  
Residential Director, St. Rose Youth & Family Center

***Certification Requirements***

| <b>Area</b>              | <b><i>Certification Requirements</i></b>  |
|--------------------------|---|
| Fees                     | Testing Fee: \$75<br>Application Fee: \$100   |
| Examination              | Must achieve passing score on 75-item scenario based exam.  |
| Education and experience | <p>No degree AND 10,000 hours (five years) of documented experience in direct youth/child care work.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of an <u>Associate Degree</u> from a regionally accredited college program AND 6,000 hours (three years) documented experience.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of <u>Baccalaureate Degree</u> from a regionally accredited college or university AND 4,000 hours (two years) documented experience.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of a <u>Masters Degree</u> from a regionally accredited college or university AND 2,000 hours (one year) documented experience.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of a <u>Canadian 2-year CYC diploma</u> from a regionally accredited college and 6000 hours of documented experience including the internship/practicum/placement hours included in the diploma program.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of a <u>Canadian 3-year CYC diploma</u> from a regionally accredited college and 5000 hours of documented experience including the internship/practicum/placement hours included in the diploma program.</p> <p><i>Beginning in 2012 the minimum educational requirement to apply for certification will be a baccalaureate degree.</i></p> |

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| References                        | Two (2) letters of reference from co-workers who have known the applicant for 6 months or longer.<br><br><b>AND</b><br>Completion of Supervisor Assessment by a supervisory level person who has extensive, direct knowledge of the applicant's work with youth.<br><br><b>AND</b><br>Completion of Supervisor Assessment by a 2 <sup>nd</sup> supervisory level person who has extensive, direct knowledge of the applicant's work with youth.                        |
| Professional Membership           | Individual membership in a professional organization   |
| Professional Training Requirement | Professionalism<br>Minimum of 20 hours<br><br>Cultural and Human Diversity<br>Minimum of 20 hours<br><br>Applied Human Development<br>Minimum of 20 hours<br><br>Relationship and Communication<br>Minimum of 40 hours<br><br>Developmental Practice Methods<br>Minimum of 80 hours<br><br>Additional Training (not assigned to specific content domain)<br>Maximum of 70 hours<br><br><b>250 Total hours required with 100 hours received within the last 5 years</b> |
| Portfolio                         | Satisfactory Completion required   |
| Surveys                           | Completion of application form, supervisor assessment and portfolio surveys required   |

***Re-Certification Requirements (2 year cycle)***

| <i>Area</i>             | <i>Re-Certification Requirements</i>   |
|-------------------------|--|
| Fees                    | Certification Maintenance Fee: \$15 (first year of cycle)<br>Re-Certification Fee: \$35 (second year of cycle)   |
| Professional Membership | Membership in a professional organization  |
| Continuing Education    | Documentation of 30 hours of training relevant to required competencies that include training in at least 3 competency domains submitted every 2 <sup>nd</sup> year following certification, |