

NHADACA
Legislative Alert!
HB 410 IS IMPORTANT to YOU

Please read the information below carefully. HB 410 was first introduced in the 2008 legislative session after much work by a study committee that was comprised of legislators, policy makers, DHHS, substance abuse and mental health professionals. It has been delayed repeatedly because it seeks to expand the scope of practice of Masters Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors to include the treatment of co-occurring mental health disorders integrated into the treatment of substance use disorders. Although the bill establishes responsible educational and practical requirements for MLADC's to ensure public safety, it has raised a tremendous level of controversy.

HB 410 is currently under study by a subcommittee of the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee (ED&A).

*It is important to the growth of our profession that we advocate **ACTIVELY AND VOCALLY** for HB 410, with a number of amendments, to make it out of committee with a favorable vote and that we continue to support it through the full House of Representatives and then the Senate.*

***Be on the lookout for Action Alerts from NHADACA in the very near future and....
BE PREPARED TO ACT!***

What is HB 410?

HB 410 is an important piece of legislation that is currently under study by a subcommittee of the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee (ED&A)

- In the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions the General Court passed legislation that revised RSA 330-C, the licensing statute for alcohol and other drug professionals.
 - This legislation created a tiered license:
 - A new designation known as Certified Recovery Support Worker for folks with less than an associates degree.
 - LADC for counselors with an associates or bachelors degree that requires counselors, unless grandfathered, to receive clinical supervision in order to practice.

- MLADC, the independent practice level. Requirements for the MLADC include:
 - A 60-hour masters degree in one of a number of designated mental health fields.
 - 4000 hours of supervised post-masters clinical practice in substance use counseling with the possibility of obtaining up to 1000 of those hours during the course of a masters degree internship.
 - Either a LADC or a license issued by the Board of Mental Health Practice may be substituted for 2000 hours of supervised post-masters practice.
 - Passing the examination and review processes established by the LADC board.

HB 410 builds on these requirements by expanding the scope of practice of MLADC's to include the treatment of co-occurring mental health disorders within the context of substance use disorder treatment.

- As our workforce is increasingly made up of counselors with education and practical training in mental health and integrated treatment, it would allow MLADC's to provide comprehensive treatment to the clients we serve without having the burden of obtaining and supporting two professional licenses.
- It would reduce barriers to quality, comprehensive and affordable treatment to the growing numbers of clients with co-occurring disorders who enter both the substance abuse and mental health treatment systems.

How does HB 410 affect you?

Going forward:

- HB 410, with a few proposed amendments that tighten up the bill's language, will continue to require MLADC candidates to complete a 60 hour masters degree or higher in one of the designated mental health fields of study. It also makes provisions for degrees not specifically mentioned (such as nursing, medical, or other potentially equivalent disciplines).
- HB 410 changes the post-masters supervised work experience to 3000 hours with all of those hours to be obtained through post-masters work.
- HB 410 requires MLADC candidates to meet all LADC requirements and pass a test of their skill and knowledge of co-occurring disorders treatment or hold a license issued by the Board of Mental Health Practice.
 - A LADC or a license issued by the Board of Mental Health Practice could be substituted for up to 1500 hours of post-masters supervised work experience.

For those currently licensed as an MLADC:

- If you meet the criteria for MLADC established by the current statute and the additional provisions of HB 410 as stated above, you would be grandfathered under HB410.
- If you have a masters degree of less than 60 hours and hold an MLADC because you were grandfathered under the current statute:
 - Your MLADC would be grandfathered for a period of 5 years during which time you would be required to obtain additional education above the number of credits of the masters degree you hold to meet the 60 hour requirement.
 - You would be able to obtain those additional credit hours through graduate courses, the ATTC, NEIAS, and the NH Training Institute on Addictive Disorders pursuant to requirements to be established by the Board.
 - You would be required to either pass a test in co-occurring disorders treatment as designated by the LADC Board or obtain a license issued by the Board of Mental Health Practice during that 5 year period.
 - You would be required to treat clients with co-occurring disorders only within the scope of your education and training as required by your code of ethics until such time as you completed the full requirements for the MLADC.

For those who are not yet licensed but are in a masters program of less than 60 hours:

- You will be able to complete the additional graduate level education credits required to complete the 60 hours above the number of credits encompassed by your masters program before you are eligible to begin your post-masters supervised practice.

We will be sending you Action Alerts SOON!...along with talking points and helpful hints on whom to contact and how.

When we call on you....Contact your legislators.

TAKE ACTION!

Take an active part in your future and that of your clients!

NHADACA has been your voice.....

Now we need YOUR VOICE!

If you have questions, comments, or feedback about this legislative initiative please contact:

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