

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the CAARR, BREINING & CAADAC COALITION (CBCC) *Certification and Licensure Plan for AODA Counselors*

Why is everyone now on the same team?

After more than a year of informative discussions and debates, the three organizations representing more than 80% of counselors in California clearly understand the needs of counselors at all stages of career development and have crafted a plan that is inclusive; respects the talents of the current workforce; and provides increased consumer protection for AODA clients.

How will the coalition's legislation impact my job?

Fair grandparenting provisions are included in the legislation. All counselors who are currently certified by a certifying organization recognized by the DADP (including CAARR, Breining and CAADAC) will have an opportunity to become certified by the state with no additional requirements. Persons with an advanced certificate will be considered for licensure and registrants will be able to register under the new program and continue working.

What is different about this legislation and why should I now support it?

There are several major changes to the legislation that make it more appealing to AODA counselors. The CBC legislation recognizes current certifying organizations and allows licensure and certification candidates to go through them to prepare their portfolios for their applications to the state. Verification of experience and education will be provided by the certifying organization and forwarded to the department. Also, a board will be created to advise the Department about important professional issues facing counselors. This board will be limited to licensed and certified counselors only (except for the member representing the public).

What about the cost of this new program. Am I going to be able to afford to get licensed or certified?

Because the CBC model recognizes existing organizations and processes, the cost of implementing the program will be greatly reduced. The Department will assess each certifying organization per each registered, certified or licensed member. This assessment will consist of a small fee to cover the cost of the state's review of the applications and to pay for the enforcement of the new law. All three of the CBC organizations have pledged to keep this fee as low as possible and to put the fees into statute so they cannot be raised arbitrarily or without justification.

Will all of the new requirements in this measure make programs close?

NO! The legislation has been carefully written to focus on career development and the need for counselors to demonstrate competency. There are no provisions in the language that require a program to change the way it provides supervision, determines staffing ratios or pays for career development.

What can I do to help get this legislation passed?

The legislation is currently in its final stages of preparation and will soon be introduced and given a bill number so that you can write letters of support and attend hearings on it. Please register with your organization's legislative alert system so that you can be informed about important developments and timing of the grassroots campaign to support it.

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