

Committed Caring Faith Communities

Quarterly Newsletter
July, 2005



Time to Register for 9th Regional Faith-Based Substance Abuse Conference

Standing in the Gap: Linking Faith with Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment is the theme for the 9th regional conference on substance abuse and related issues September 7-9, 2005 in North Little Rock, Arkansas. The conference is co-sponsored by Committed Caring Faith Communities; the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Behavioral Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Treatment; Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center; the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock – MidSOUTH.

The registration fee is \$80 before August 1. After August 1, the fee increases to \$100. The conference will feature The Rev. Dr. Lewis M. Anthony, senior pastor, Metropolitan Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Washington, D.C.; Ron Willis, mental health consultant from Jewell, Kansas; and Dr. Carlton Erickson, director of the Addiction Science Research and Education Center in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Texas at Austin.

Workshop topics include: *Putting Faith in Addiction Science, Prevention 101, Grantsmanship, Addiction 101, Co-Dependency and Family Dynamics, How to Approach the User, The Latest Drugs on the Street, Community Re-entry from Prison, Substance Abuse Among Older Adults and People with Disabilities, Different Faith Perspectives on Addressing Substance Abuse, Gateway Drugs and Gang Violence, Helping Substance Abusers Learn to Nurture their Spirits, Parenting from the Heart, Establishing a Substance Abuse Ministry Team, Substance Abuse in the Criminal Population, Faith-Based Substance Abuse Coalitions, Suicide and Substance Abuse, Recognizing the Effects of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure as Key to Improving Outcomes for Individuals and Their Families, Treatment Education Resources, and Prevention Support Resources in Arkansas.*

Call (314) 951-1033 to receive a registration brochure or download it from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock MidSOUTH website at <http://www.midsouth.ualr.edu>. Last year close to 200 people attended the conference. This year's attendance is expected to surpass that of 2004.

Access to Recovery Coordinator Assisting Faith Organizations with ATR Application Process



Sular Gordon

Sular Gordon was hired recently as CCFC's Access to Recovery (ATR) Coordinator. In this capacity, Ms. Gordon assists faith organizations with the ATR application process and works closely with the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in credentialing faith-based recovery support service providers.

Under ATR, faith-based organizations will become part of the state's network of providers who are reimbursed for delivering services to people in need of recovery support services. These services include child care, transportation, emergency and temporary housing, drop-in centers, recovery support groups, care coordination, spiritual life skills, and pastoral counseling.

Ms. Gordon is encouraging all interested faith organizations to

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submit their applications now since the three-year ATR grant is about to enter its second year next month. She can be reached at (314) 877-6423.

Ms. Gordon and her husband, Henry, founded New Life Outreach Ministry in Memphis, Tennessee. For seven years, they housed, fed, clothed, and preached salvation to homeless and addicted individuals. She previously worked for CCFC in Southeast Missouri in rural communities as a program specialist. Ms. Gordon is a former child care provider. She recently relocated to St. Louis. She is a member of the Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ in Memphis under the leadership of Bishop G.E. Patterson.

Deadline Fast Approaching for 2005 Fall Addictions Academy

Faith organizations interested in providing recovery support services under the ATR program are required to have a minimum of two staff or volunteers complete CCFC's Addictions Academy. The Academy is a 32-hour course on substance abuse. The next Academy is scheduled for October 24-28, 2005 at the Ramada Inn in Columbia, Missouri. The registration deadline is September 30. To register, please call (314) 951-1033 to request a registration form.

Aside from transportation to Columbia and dinner each evening, there is no cost for Missouri faith organizations to attend the Academy. Free double-occupancy lodging will be provided. Participants who desire a private, single room will have to pay approximately \$60 each night for the week. There is a \$25 registration fee that must be submitted with the registration form, however, it is refunded to participants upon completion of the week-long Academy. Due to space limitations, organizations may not send more than three participants.

Among the topics covered are *Addiction 101; Science-Based Drug Abuse Prevention; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse: Challenges and Responses for Faith Leaders; History and Interpretation of the Twelve-Step Model; Finding and Accepting Help for the Helpers; Co-Dependency & the Family Dynamics of Addiction; Co-Occurring Disorders: A Brief Introduction; Setting Up a Faith-Based Substance Abuse Program; Screening & Appropriate Referrals, Certification and Licensure; the ATR Grant, ATR Collaboration, Standards, and Outcomes; Ethics in the Delivery of Services; and ATR Information Systems.*

To date, 363 individuals have completed the Addictions Academy. The Academy was first offered by CCFC in St. Louis in 2002. It has been replicated in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Faith Organizations Receive the Magic Link

Through its role as a contractual Faith Partner for the federal Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, CCFC coordinated a series of free technical assistance training sessions for faith organizations throughout the state of Missouri. The sessions, which were facilitated by William E. Link, Ph.D. of NOMAGIC, Inc., Washington, D.C., focused on Fund Development, Resource Development, Fundraising, Project Management, Development of Boards of Directors, and Strategic Planning.

The sessions were followed up with a series of teleconferences and some one-on-one technical assistance site visits. The training received high marks from participants. Some comments included:

- *All of the materials are useful and are being applied to the development of our board as well as building a solid foundation on which to grow.*
- *Dr. Link not only understands this recovery arena, he specializes in the business end necessary to operate successfully.*
- *We covered a lot of significant material. My awareness will allow me to make the necessary changes in my organization.*

CCFC anticipates being able to offer similar training in the future.

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