

PCB: A HISTORY & TIMELINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1979, PCB HAS BEEN CREDENTIALING PROFESSIONALS FOR 40 YEARS. PCB is dedicated to public protection by establishing and monitoring certification standards and examination development for professionals in the behavioral and community health fields in addition to providing management and consultation services.

Over the past 40 years, PCB has grown, adopted credentials, developed examinations and expanded the scope of our work. From the beginning, the certification process has been under the auspices of a voluntary Board of Directors. At present, the Board consists of 11 members and a liaison from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) as well as four full-time and one part-time staff members.

In 1976, the discussion of certification began with the Pennsylvania Addiction Counselors Association (PACA), the Governor's Council on Drug & Alcohol Abuse and concerned drug and alcohol professionals. From that discussion, the PACA created the Pennsylvania Alcoholism Counselor Certification Board. One year later the Board voted to include drug abuse counselors. By 1979, the Board was incorporated as the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Counselor Certification Board and began offering its first certification: Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC). In 1987, the Board changed its name to Pennsylvania Certified Addiction Counselors Board (PCACB) and hired its current Executive Director, Mary Jo Mather.

The rest, as they say, is history.

TIMELINE OF CREDENTIALING & EVENTS

- 1979** • Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC) grandparenting
- 1983** • Join Certification Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drugs of Abuse, Inc. (NCRC/AODA)
- 1986** • Associate Addiction Counselor Levels I and II begin.
- 1987** • Corporate name changed to Pennsylvania Certified Addiction Counselors Board (PCACB)
 - Mary Jo Mather is hired as Executive Director.
 - Corporate office is established. Previously, administrative services contracted to AAOP.
- 1989** • Certified Prevention Specialist credential grandparenting begins. Associate levels developed along with full certification requirements.
- 1992** • Written Test becomes first step in attaining the CAC.
 - CAC Diplomat (CAADC) become available.
 - Mary Jo Mather is elected Secretary of IC&RC.
- 1993** • Certified Allied Addiction Practitioner (CAAP) credential grandparenting begins.
 - Board holds its first ethics hearing.
 - Margaret Marcopul becomes the first female President and Prevention Specialist.
- 1995** • Certified Clinical Supervisor grandfathering begins.

- Acceptance by IC&RC for PCACB's prevention and clinical supervisor credentials to become international with reciprocity.
- 1997** • Act 53 signed into law acknowledging CACs as competent professionals to perform assessments for minors involuntarily committed to treatment.
- 1999** • PCACB holds its first conference for its 20th Anniversary and honors CACs certified since 1979.
- 2001** • Corporate name changed to Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB).
• PCB secures language in Act 136 (Licensure bill) for inclusion of CACs with Master's degrees and our national written examination.
- 2002** • Three new credentials begin: Certified Case Manager (CCSM), Certified Care Manager (CCM), and Certified Case/Care Manager Supervisor (CCMS).
- 2003** • Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional (CCJP) grandparenting begins.
- 2004** • Certified Co-Occurring Disorders Professional credential grandfathering process begins.
- 2006** • IC&RC moves to the PCB office in Harrisburg.
- 2007** • Endorsement for Certificate of Competency in Problem Gambling begins.
- 2008** • Delaware Certification Board contracts with PCB for administrative services.
• Oral examination eliminated from the counselor examinations.
• Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) credential begins.
- 2009** • PCB's 30th Anniversary.
• Computer-based testing for reciprocal examinations begins.
- 2010** • Certified Associate Addiction Counselor credential begins.
- 2011** • CAC and CAC Diplomate credential names change to Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC and Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC).
• Certified Disaster Crisis Outreach and Referral Professional credential offered.
• Rhode Island Certification Board contracts with PCB for administrative services.
- 2013** • Certified Intervention Professional (CIP) grandparenting begins.
- 2014** • Virginia Certification Board contracts with PCB for administrative services.
- 2015** • Board votes to eliminate Case Manager credentials effective 1/1/2016.
• Board votes to combine AAC I & II/APS I & II into single AAC and APS credentials.
- 2016** • Board votes to eliminate CCDP and CCDP Diplomate credential effective 1/1/2017.
- 2017** • CRS adds lived experience requirement.
• Recovery Specialist Supervisor Core Competencies developed.
• CCJP credential is eliminated.
- 2018** • Certified Family Recovery Specialist (CFRS) credential begins.
• Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) grandparenting begins.
- 2019** • PCB begins 40th anniversary celebration.
• Family-Based Therapy examination administered for the first time through PCB.
• Endorsements for Certificate of Competency in Criminal Justice and Certificate of Competency in Clinical Supervision begin.
- 2020** • Community Health Worker (CHW) credential begins.
• Announcement of a global pandemic; COVID. The world starts to shut down with employers and employees being forced to work from home or to offer online/telehealth services.

- 2021**
 - Continuation of the global pandemic and trying to navigate the altered texture of everyday life. Remote work, once a niche arrangement, became the default for hundreds of millions of office workers. Others, such as the PCB Team came back into the office, after only a short time, while having to use masks and other personal protective gear to do their every day tasks.
 - Procedures and processes continue to be modified in order to continue PCB's work of public safety while processing applications and providing testing opportunities.
- 2022**
 - Perinatal Doula (CPD) credential begins.
 - PCB continues operations in a virtual environment.
- 2023**
 - The public health emergency/the pandemic is finally declared at an end.
 - The PCB Team prepares to answer questions and offer guidance to employers and credentialed individuals as people return to the office setting and activities such as in person trainings.
- 2025**
 - Mary Jo and Terri Wray announce their retirement for July of 2025.
 - Treasure Gallagher was named as the new Executive Director.
 - Many new PCB Team Members were hired
 - Removal of free paper certificates for those who were recertifying their credential(s).
- 2026**
 - Removal of "lapsed" status.
 - Beginning of the website rehaul.
 - The new phone system was created and implemented.