



March 2018 Spotlight on Employee Assistance

2018 EAPA Awards Committee seeking new members

Each year, EAPA's annual awards program celebrates the achievement of individuals and organizations who have distinguished themselves through their contributions to the EA profession and EAPA. Selection of award recipients is the responsibility of the EAPA Awards Committee. The 2018 EAPA Awards will be presented at the EAPA 2018 Conference and EXPO in Minneapolis, MN. To learn more and apply, visit http://www.eapassn.org/Portals/11/Docs/Conf_Ed/2018/2018%20EAPA%20Awards%20Member%20Call%20.pdf. The deadline is March 31.

AAC Holdings Names EAPA Member Mike Blackburn to Board of Directors

AAC Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: AAC) has elected Michael J. Blackburn as a member of the Board of Directors, effective February 20, 2018, and appointed him to serve on the Company's compliance and quality care committee. Mr. Blackburn most recently served as Senior Vice President of Business Development at AAC until his retirement in December 2017. Mr. Blackburn spent more than 10 years in the drug and alcohol treatment industry, is a retired first responder, member of the National Guard and a pioneer in the treatment industry for first responder programs. Prior to AAC, Mr. Blackburn served as Partner and Senior Vice President for Treatment Solutions Network which was acquired by AAC in 2012.

"Michael has led a life of dedication to the drug and alcohol abuse industry, the labor assistance profession and his communities, and we are thrilled he will continue serving AAC past his retirement by joining our board of directors," said Michael Cartwright, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of AAC Holdings, Inc. Read more here <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/aac-holdings-names-michael-blackburn-to-board-of-directors-300604401.html>

Evaluating Your EAP

How can HR and OH teams ensure that they are getting the most value from their Employee Assistance Program (EAP)? Through EAP evaluation and a better understanding of their program usage, argues Paul Roberts. Read more here <https://www.personneltoday.com/hr/eap-evaluation-getting-programme/>

Health Insurers Surpassing App Stores?

A new survey from Research2Guidance exploring digital health app trends in North America and Europe noted that respondents believe health insurers will unseat app stores such as Google Play and Apple. Read more here

<https://medcitynews.com/2017/11/health-insurers-unseat-app-stores/>

Greer Interviewed

Mari Ryan, CEO and founder of Advancing Wellness, recently interviewed Kathy Greer, founder and CEO of KGA, Inc. In the expert interview series, Kathy discussed how EAPs have grown beyond mental health and substance abuse issues. Check out more at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=xE0DSneleCE

Clark Nominated

Ann D. Clark, CEO of ACI Specialty Benefits, attended the Connected Women of Influence awards in San Diego, and was nominated as a finalist for the Lifetime Legacy Award. Read more here

<https://acispecialtybenefits.com/2018/03/07/aci-ceo-dr-ann-clark-selected-lifetime-legacy-award-finalist/>

EA Professional Spotlight

Name and Position

Tonya Teal Slawinski, Ph.D., LCSW, BCD

Director, Education and Training, Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA)

What do you like best about working in employee assistance?

I have always enjoyed the variety of workplaces which creates a constant need for customization. It's always a balancing act between the individual, the company, and the regulations that guide practice. I liked the ability to maintain professional boundaries, always asking the right question, "Who is my client?" I also enjoy the long term, supportive friendships that I have developed with EA professionals over the years. This has created a living library of experience and caring that is unsurpassed.

What was your first job in employee assistance?

I have never worked directly for an employee assistance program. My involvement has always been as an affiliate or vendor. My very first experience was in 1980 in Pembroke Pines, FLA where the substance abuse facility where I worked was frequently a referral source for local hospitals that had impaired employees requiring in-patient treatment. Starting in 2001, my focus shifted to crisis response and threat of violence and I continued working with employee assistance programs as a vendor through 2016.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Right now, I am the newest member of the EAPA staff, so the most challenging part of my job is just learning about EAPA as an organization and becoming acquainted with

the professionals that are a part of this association, both internally and externally. There is much to learn, and I'm eager to do so.

What inspires you?

Learning and forcing myself out of my comfort zone. This is really across the board both personally and professionally. I don't believe that anything is a failure because you always walk away with something new that you didn't have before.

To contact Tonya about education and training issues, call her at 703-387-1000 Ext. 340 or email her at t.slawinski@eapassn.org