

Texas Addiction Professionals Peer Assistance Network
TAPNET

Advocate Application Form

Sign up as an advocate today, to support addiction professionals who need your help in overcoming substance abuse and mental illness.

Together...
We're One!



Texas Addiction Professionals Peer Assistance Network (TAPNET)
401 Ranch Road 620 S Suite 310
Austin, TX 78734
Phone: (877) 4TAPNET
Fax: (888) 506-8125
Web: www.tapnettx.org
Email: peerassistance@taap.org

What is TAPNET?

As of September 1, 2008 all Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors and Counselor Interns must have access to a peer assistance program. TAPNET is a new peer assistance program designed to meet this requirement. Counselors are not immune from substance abuse and mental illness. Our mission is to assist counselors struggling with substance abuse and mental health disorders in returning to healthy functioning so they may safely continue to practice. Currently, TAPNET is seeking licensed professionals to serve as volunteer advocates. The programs success depends on a strong peer network, made up of individuals like you, in the field willing to give of their time for the better of the profession. A tremendous amount of money and training are invested in developing professionals to work with the chemically dependent and mentally ill. To allow the loss of his or her services due to addiction or mental illness without a concerted effort to rehabilitate them to healthy functioning would go against the belief that people can and do get better. TAPNET is administered by the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals and is approved and regulated by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Why Should I Become a TAPNET Advocate?

TAPNET advocates are Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors who care about other counselors and want to aide in their success through difficult times. The philosophy of the TAPNET is that addiction and mental illness are chronic illnesses and relapse may occur. By serving as an advocate, you will have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping not only the impaired counselors, but also protecting the public and maintaining the integrity of the counseling field. The TAPNET motto is “Together...We are One,” and we believe that with the help of volunteer advocates we can give impaired counselors the opportunity to recover and safely return to the field of addiction counseling.

If you are interested in serving as a TAPNET advocate, please complete this application and return it to TAPNET. The board will review your application. If approved you will be invited to attend the next TAPNET advocate training, and you will be on your way to bettering the lives of your colleagues who need assistance. Details of expectations for advocates are contained in this application.

TAPNET ADVOCATE'S STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

1. Appointment - advocates shall be appointed by the TAPNET Board of Directors.
2. Qualification selection of advocates shall be based on the following criteria:
 - a. Meet TXDSHS requirements for a QCC.
 - b. Have a minimum of two (2) years employment experience in working with alcohol/substance abusing populations as a Licensed or Certified Counselor.
 - c. If in recovery, must have a minimum of 2 years of good recovery for substance abuse and/or psychiatric disorders.
 - d. Be knowledgeable about policies and procedures of TAPNET.
 - e. Be knowledgeable with respect to regulations that govern licensed chemical dependency practice in Texas.
 - f. Function within policies, procedures, and regulations in "d" and "e" above.
 - g. Support that substance use and psychiatric disorders are diseases and are treatable.
 - h. Demonstrate interpersonal skills necessary in serving as a TAPNET advocate.
 - i. Make a commitment of time and energy required by the program/participants.
 - j. Complete a current TAPNET advocate application for review by the Board of Directors.
 - k. Complete eight hours of training to include chemical dependency and mental illness, including appropriate treatment, guidelines for identification, and intervention and advocacy skills.
 - l. Complete a minimum of six hours of training every other year to continue to serve as advocates.
 - m. Act as a resource for employers and TAPNET participants.
 - n. Must inform TAPNET if one is not in stable recovery, i.e., would be unable to fulfill the advocate role until minimum recovery time has elapsed (see "b" above).
 - o. Be responsible and accountable for action with respect to his/her role as a TAPNET advocate.
3. Training - all advocates will be expected to complete the initial TAPNET advocate training course and required semi-annual training.

4. Caseload - shall be determined by the case manager based on resources, ability, and time constraints of the advocate.

5. Responsibilities:
 - a. Respond and coordinate screening and intervention for impaired professionals when requested by TAPNET chair.
 - b. Work as a liaison with impaired counselors and employers.
 - c. Coordinate with interveners to provide advocacy services for impaired professionals.
 - d. Educate counseling professionals, employers, students and the public about chemical dependency and mental health issues and resources available.
 - e. Monitor referrals for compliance with TAPNET guidelines.
 - f. Maintain documentation on the participants' compliance, or lack thereof, through the provided secure system of TAPNET.
 - g. Serve as an advocate for impaired professionals.
 - h. Assure all confidentiality guidelines of 42 CFR part 2 and HIPAA are followed to protect participants seeking assistance.
 - i. Notify the TAPNET office within 24 hours if participant fails to maintain contact with advocate or is non-compliant with TAPNET. Notify the TAPNET office of any significant developments, e.g., contact by legal authorities, suicide threat, etc.

6. TAPNET advocates **will not** be responsible for:
 - a. Conducting interventions.
 - b. Advocating or reporting to the counselor's employer or the TAPNET office unless the counselor is a potential danger to self or others.
 - c. Functioning as the counselor's counselor/therapist.
 - d. Dictating the counselor participant's treatment/rehabilitation requirements.

7. Advocates who have the same employer as their participant(s) are not to advocate for counselors who they supervise, have administrative authority over, or may otherwise be placed in a conflict of interest.

8. Advocates are not to gain financially from their volunteer work or association with TAPNET.

9. Advocates may only refer counselors to agencies approved by the TAPNET Board of Directors.

Texas Addiction Professionals Peer Assistance Network (TAPNET) ADVOCATE APPLICATION

Please answer question 1 through 25. Please attach additional sheets for questions 21 through 24 if necessary.

1. NAME _____ 2.SSN _____ 3. DOB _____

4. ADDRESS _____

5. CITY _____ 6. COUNTY _____ 7. STATE _____ 8. ZIP _____

9. TELEPHONE (H) _____ 10. (W) _____ 11. (CELL) _____

12. FAX _____ 13. PAGER _____

14. PREFERRED E-MAIL _____

15. EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME _____ 16. PHONE _____

17. CURRENT EMPLOYER _____

18. PRESENT POSITION _____

19. LCDC/Certifications LICENSE NUMBER(s) _____ EXPIRES _____

20. STATUS OF YOUR CURRENT LICENSE _____ ACTIVE _____ INACTIVE _____ RETIRED

21. IS THE LICENSING BOARD CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING YOU? YES ___ NO
IF YES, EXPLAIN _____

22. HAS THE LICENSING BOARD TAKEN ACTION AGAINST YOUR LICENSE IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS?
___ YES ___ NO IF YES, EXPLAIN _____

23. DO YOU HAVE ANY FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR CHARGES PENDING? ___ YES ___ NO
IF YES, EXPLAIN _____

24. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY, INCLUDING SEXUAL ASSAULT OR PREDATION?
___ YES ___ NO IF YES, EXPLAIN _____

25. EDUCATION (please check those that apply):
___ ICRC Certification
___ Associate Degree
___ Diploma
___ Baccalaureate Degree Behavioral Science Field
___ Masters Behavioral Science Field
___ Other Degree(s) (specify) _____
___ Other license(s)/certification(s) (specify) _____

Please answer all questions that apply. Please attach additional pages if necessary. If a question is not applicable, please indicate as such:

1. Why do you want to become a TAPNET Advocate?

2. Briefly, what is your view of chemical dependency and mental illness?

3. If you are a counselor in recovery from substance abuse and/or mental illness, please indicate:
 - a. My clean/sobriety date is _____.
 - b. My mental health recovery started _____.

4. If recovering, are you involved in any community based support groups such as AA or NA?

5. If you attend such groups, how many meetings do you attend weekly?

6. What skills do you possess that would assist you while working with a participant in TAPNET?

7. Please describe what time and resources you have available that would allow you to assist chemically impaired or mentally ill counselors:

8. Given caseload demands, are you willing to advocate for a minimum of two participants? If no, please explain?

9. Please indicate the number of hours each week you can invest toward advocating for a recovering counselors:

Attachments requested:

(Applications without the following will not be processed)

1. A one-page letter of recommendation

This letter of recommendation should be from a **counseling peer, employer, or supervisor and be no more than one page**. The letter should state why you would make a good volunteer for TAPNET, in what capacities the writer has known you, and for how long. The letter must be signed and dated with the person's address and telephone number listed for possible contact by TAPNET.

2. A one-page summary curriculum/vita or work history outline.

The summary should be no more than one page please. Full resumes are not necessary.

If selected, I agree to adhere to the TAPNET Advocate's Standards of Practice.

Signature

Date

Advocate Application Checklist:

- _ Completed application and answered all questions.
- _ One page letter of recommendation attached to application.
- _ One page summary curriculum vita or work history attached to application.
- _ Application signed and dated.
- _ Retained copy of application for my records.
- _ Mailed completed, original application to:

TAPNET
401 Ranch Road 620 S Suite 310
Austin, Texas 78734

Return Completed Application to:

TAPNET

401 Ranch Road 620 S Suite 310

Austin, TX 78734

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