

August 7, 2012

Re: Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC)
Licensed Creative Arts Therapists (LCATs)

Dear Colleagues:

The Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) is issuing this letter to briefly communicate OASAS' determination regarding the LMHC and LCAT designations as Qualified Health Professionals (QHP).

OASAS has received numerous requests to recognize Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC) and Licensed Creative Arts Therapists (LCAT) on par with the other professions listed as a QHP within Part 800.2(a)(15) of 14 NYCRR; OASAS's Chemical Dependence General Service regulations.

In response to these requests, OASAS has granted waivers to recognize individuals who hold a LMHC as a QHP where these individuals had also obtained the one-year chemical dependence experience or training in addition to their mental health licenses as required by Part 800.2(a)(15). Individuals with a LCAT and the additional experience were historically granted a waiver recognizing them as a QHP only when creative arts therapy was an integral treatment component of the program in which the LCAT was employed.

However, upon further review of the academic and experiential requirements necessary to obtain these mental health licenses and pending amendments to Part 800, OASAS has decided that effective immediately, it will no longer be necessary for individuals holding these mental health licenses to submit a waiver request for recognition as QHPs. Additionally, LCATs will no longer be subject to the "integral treatment component" contingency referenced above.

Additionally, for individuals who have completed the academic requirements for a LMHC but are working under a limited permit prior to licensure, OASAS will now also deem these individuals QHPs if they have the requisite experience or training required by Part 800.2(a)(15).

Consequently, pursuant to this letter and until Part 800 is amended to add the LMHC and LCAT designations as professions to the list of recognized QHPs, OASAS will automatically recognize individuals with either an LMHC, LMHC limited permit, or LCAT designation, and the requisite experience or training required by Part 800.2(a)(15), as QHPs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Kent
General Counsel