

# CONSIDER A CAREER IN SUBSTANCE USE COUNSELING

## Q&A: MARTINA MOORE

*Martina shares her experience and insight as a professional in the rewarding, yet challenging field of substance use counseling.*

*by Danijela Vranesevic, LPCG-S*

### ***How did you come to work with this population?***

*'My father has been a recovering alcoholic for about 35 years now. I got curious about addiction and recovery in high school and started going to meetings with him. I used to volunteer at my church and take people to AA meetings. One day I was sitting at a meeting and realized this what I should be doing and then it just evolved from there.'*

### ***What do you think is the biggest misconception about working with substance use disorder clients?***

*'People still stigmatize and are afraid of the population. 80% of our clients hold a co-morbid disorder. I really dig into why students have a reaction to this population but not to some of other populations.'*

### ***Can you identify personal and/or professional attributes important for success in this field?***

*'Being able to be empathetic and to really take the time to understand the disease and pathology of addiction. This helps to visualize treatment, set aside our own bias, and get in the room with a client and make a difference. Also, being able to accept where clients are at in the process and not where we want them to be.'*

*Want to learn more? Consider joining the Ohio Substance Use Disorder Professionals (OSUDP) group. OSUDP is a special interest group of OCA dedicated to awareness, advocacy, and support for individuals with substance use disorders. Contact Danijela, OSUDP Secretary, at [dvrane78@gmail.com](mailto:dvrane78@gmail.com).*



*Martina Moore, Ph.D., LPCG-S, LICDC-CS, CEAP, SAP. Martina is President and CEO of Moore Counseling & Mediation Services, Inc. in Euclid, Ohio. Dr. Moore completed her Ph.D. at Walden University in Counseling Education and Supervision with a specialization in Consultation. She holds a Master's degree from John Carroll University where she is currently the substance use disorder coordinator in the Department of Counseling.*

### ***How has this work contributed your growth as a clinician?***

*'It has contributed completely. What I've learned in this field is to learn from my clients. In each step of my career, I take the value of learning from them and applying it. I love to study the research of the population and follow the research, too. I realize the two are so important.'*

### ***What do you enjoy most about your work with this population?***

*'When a client calls me and says, "It's been 5 years, it's been one year. I'm back with my husband." Whatever it is, just when I hear their successes. To be able to hear that is just so rewarding.'*