

2007 Advanced Addictions Academy Course Description

*Sponsored by
Committed Caring Faith Communities & St. Louis Mental Health Board*

July 30 – August 1, 2007

**Lincoln University
Jefferson City, MO**

Description & Background

In 2002, Committed Caring Faith Communities (CCFC) with seed funds from the St. Louis Mental Health Board piloted a 32-hour Addictions Academy at the University of Missouri – St. Louis that was designed to educate clergy, lay leaders, and congregation members of various faiths on the topic of substance abuse and addiction. The original Academy was held each Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. for eight consecutive weeks. Based on feedback from the participants, the length of the classes was cut from four to three hours in 2003, and the Academy was offered for 11 consecutive weeks. The Academy is conducted on an annual basis. In 2004, the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse approached CCFC about offering the Academy on a statewide basis. Subsequently, the 32-hour course was structured to be offered as a week-long course and moved to a location in the center of the state that was easier for people from throughout the state to access. Lincoln University in Jefferson City was the selected venue.

When the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse received the Access to Recovery (ATR) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Treatment in 2004, it adopted CCFC's Addictions Academy as the training vehicle for faith-based and non-traditional organizations that were to be credentialed and reimbursed for the provision of recovery support services. The Academy was restructured so that the fifth day was devoted strictly to Division staff to provide information about ATR, confidentiality, ethics, client records, billing and documentation.

In 2006, at the request of participants who completed the 32-hour Addictions Academy, CCFC developed and piloted its first Advanced Addictions Academy at Lincoln University. The Advanced Academy is a 20-hour course for the faith community. The prerequisite for participation in the Advanced Academy is completion of the basic Addictions Academy or at least one year of experience providing services in a substance abuse ministry or program.

Advanced Academy Objectives

Academy participants who complete the course will:

1. gain an understanding of how recovery can be achieved and sustained through spiritual growth

2. learn about the process of recovery
3. learn effective prevention and intervention techniques to assist children of addicts
4. become aware of the similarities between ingestive and process addictions such as gambling, sex addiction, and eating disorders
5. gain an understanding about the family dynamics associated with co-dependency
6. learn the stages of recovery, proactive relapse prevention, and how to respond to a relapse episode
7. gain an understanding of the connection between substance use disorders and mental health disorders (co-occurring disorders)
8. gain an understanding of the steps involved in the strategic prevention framework that is being promoted by SAMHSA
9. learn to conduct pastoral counseling that is related to substance abuse and addiction
10. learn to help identify the spiritual gifts of congregants so that appropriate leaders are placed over the various church ministries, particularly the substance abuse ministry
11. learn to craft sermons centered on substance abuse and related issues
12. learn about the process of re-entry of ex-offenders into the community and how faith organizations can assist in offering recovery support services to ex-offenders.

Counselor Core Functions

1. Screening – the participants will be able to screen clients participating in pastoral counseling who need clinical substance abuse assessments.
2. Counseling – the participants will be better able to provide pastoral counseling to clients with substance abuse problems.
3. Case management – the participants will learn how better to support through case management ex-offenders with substance abuse problems as they re-enter the community.
4. Client education – the participants will be better able to reach clients about the dynamics of co-dependency and the impact of drug addiction on the family. and faith-based resources in the community that could be helpful to them.
5. Referral – the participants will be better able make an appropriate referral to the substance abuse treatment agencies and to the faith-based recovery support service providers.

Class Descriptions & Information about the Instructors

Achieving and Sustaining Recovery Through Spiritual Growth

Date: July 30, 2007 (8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)

Instructor: Rev. Edwin C. Sanders II, BA

The focus of this class will be on how to overcome the barriers to recovery that are the byproduct of a societal reality where countervailing forces are commonplace in everyday life. Combating the temptations, attractions, promotions, and seductions that are always around us requires developing the personal spiritual discipline necessary to stay free of addiction. The content will introduce the concept of "God-Centered Consciousness," as well as review the precepts, principles, and values that are fundamental to sustaining sobriety.

Rev. Edwin C. Sanders II, is the senior servant and founder of the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church, a congregation that has attracted a broad cross-section of people in Nashville, Tennessee. Metropolitan has outreach ministries in the areas of substance abuse, advocacy for children, sexual violence, and harm reduction, in addition to providing services to persons infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS through the First Response Center, which Rev. Sanders founded in 1992.

Rev. Sanders is a graduate of Melrose High School in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1969, he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. He has done graduate study at Yale University Divinity School and as a special student at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Until recently, Rev. Sanders served as pastoral counselor for the Meharry Medical College Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program in Nashville where he was responsible for the spiritual component of all programs. This work was primarily built around the conducting of group and individual therapy sessions. Also in Nashville, Rev. Sanders has served as director of the Southern Prison Ministry and as the dean of the Chapel at Risk University. Rev. Sanders holds memberships in the Nashville branch of the NAACP, and the Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship (former president). He is a member of the Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle Tennessee and has served as a commissioner for the Tennessee Human Rights Commission. He is past chairperson of the Ryan White Community AIDS Partnership, and is still an active member of the consortium.

Art and Science of Recovery

Date: July 30, 2007 (9:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.)

Instructor: Wayne White, CASAC, and Kim White, CASAC

In this experiential class, participants will explore the various dimensions of recovery. Participants will explore different paths to recovery and learn how to help individuals achieve recovery.

Wayne White is a Christian Trusted Servant that was given the charge in 1988 to develop a care ministry as a result of over 20 years of misery. Accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and his many years as a corporate executive proved to be the needed experience to lead others delivered from the grips of addiction and other related activities over 16 years ago. Brother Wayne (as he is so commonly referred to) was obedient in following Divine guidance in completing all requirements to become a proven professional as a certified advanced substance abuse counselor (CASAC) and a SATOP (Substance Abuse Traffic Offenders Program) qualified professional. He has served as one of the leading “recoveryologists” in the Mid-West area for over 13 years and continues to conduct workshops and presentations assisting persons through the “change process.” The vision of Footprints, Inc. was entrusted to Brother Wayne in October 1988 and he continues to extend the “gift” of a “changed life” through this organized ministry.

Footprints, Inc. is a comprehensive fellowship of 12 step trusted servants, (survivors of self abuse) professional Christian Care Providers and a host of committed caring churches. Brother Wayne’s passion as a “change agent” has allowed him to serve on the Board of Directors for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Grater Kansas City, on the Advisory Board for the Missouri Recovery Network, past appointed liaison for C.O.M.B.A.T. (Community Based Anti-Drug Tax) Faith-Based Initiative Program, Trusted Elder for Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, and he was worked extensively as a consultant with state, local, private and public organizations. His motto is “It’s not just about looking and feeling better – It’s more about thinking and behaving better.” Brother Wayne has positively touched many lives and is committed to the Kingdom agenda.

Kim D. White is co-founder of Footprints, Inc., and currently serves as the director of the organization’s youth department. She is a certified advanced substance abuse counselor and a SATOP qualified professional. Mrs. White has provided services in the field of substance abuse through a variety of service providers. She has worked with women with substance abuse problems, the homeless population through street outreach, and ex-gang members. She is also a trainer for Peer-to-Peer Mentorship. She has worked as director for at-risk youth for one of COMBAT’s programs. She is currently an independent contractor providing services for probationers and parolees through different agencies. She is also the director of her own youth program called PRAISE (People Raising Awareness in Substance Abuse Education). This program received grants to provide substance abuse and HIV/AIDS education to at-risk youth ranging in ages from 12-19. PRAISE is held in conjunction with the K.C. Free Onyx Program.

Prevention & Intervention for Children of Addicts

Date: July 30, 2007 (1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

Instructors: Sharon L. Ema, RN, CSAC II & Rev. Ellen Maher-Forney

This lecture will include a review of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's "Children's Program Kit." This kit has complete resources for schools, community groups and churches to use in developing educational support groups for children of addicted parents. These groups help to empower these children and give them basic information on life skills to make a positive difference in their lives.

Sharon L. Ema has served as Parish Nurse/Minister of Health and Wellness at Concordia since 1997. In addition to her RN licensure, she is a certified substance abuse counselor (C.S.A.C. II) in Missouri. Her nursing background included working an in-patient treatment center for those with chemical dependency. She has completed the parish nurse and parish nurse coordinator training from Deaconess. She has presented at conferences and workshops in the community on topics such as chemical dependency, older adult issues, and parish nursing. Mrs. Ema is currently involved in community organizations and committees for health promotion. These include: Partners in Wellness of Kirkwood, Committed Caring Faith Communities (member of the Executive Board, Chaplain) and Tobacco Free Missouri. At Concordia, she is involved in the development, coordination and implementation of the Human Care outreach and Care Ministries to the homes of the congregation and the community. She is part of the visitation and pastoral care team.

Rev. Ellen Maher-Forney. Although Rev. Maher-Forney embarked on a secular career path immediately following her graduation from college and post-graduate work, she always had a strong interest in communicating with people and helping children. Her early employment reflected that. In 1984 Rev. Maher-Forney was ordained a minister in the Church of Scientology. The next five years she did additional study with the Mother Church in Los Angeles, and in 1989 accepted an assignment at the Church of Scientology of Missouri in St. Louis. In 1993, the Church of Scientology International launched a campaign called the Drug-Free Marshals with the intention of reaching children at a younger age to help them to resist peer pressure to do drugs. Rev. Maher-Forney became the local coordinator of the program for Missouri. This program is successful because it helps a child assume the role of being drug-free, which empowers the child to do the action of saying "no" to drugs. Since its inception, the Drug-Free Marshals program has inducted over 3.1 million children into its ranks. In addition to her own Drug-Free Marshal activities, for the last seven years, Rev. Maher-Forney has been working with others in the faith community to help them implement such programs into their ministries.

Sex Addiction and Eating Disorders

Date: July 30, 2007 (3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

Instructors: *Dr. E. Thomas Copeland, Jr., Dr. Randall Flanery*

This lecture is designed to create greater awareness among participants on the similarities between the ingestive and process addictions. Specifically, participants will learn about the signs, symptoms, characteristics, and treatment options for sex and eating disorders.

E. Thomas Copeland, Jr., Ph.D., ABPP is in the private practice of psychology in Kansas City, Missouri. He is the former director of Psychology Services and Internship Training, Director of Mental Illness Chemical Addiction Program at Western Missouri Mental Health Center, and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine of the University of Missouri – Kansas City. He is a diplomate in family psychology of the American Board of Professional Psychology and a licensed psychiatrist in the State of Missouri. His Ph.D. was earned at the University of Kansas – Lawrence, and he received post-graduate training at the Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences in Topeka, Kansas, and at the Georgetown University Medical Center, Georgetown Family Center in Washington, D.C. He has numerous publications and 30 years of experience in the field of mental health and addiction. Dr. Copeland was a member of the State Committee of Psychology, the licensing board of psychology in Missouri.

Randall Flanery, Ph.D., earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1983. He is an associate professor of Community and Family Medicine at St. Louis University School of Medicine. He is director of the Eating Disorders Program of Child and Adolescent Services in the St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute. Dr. Flanery has extensive experience in the treatment of eating disorders and other child and adolescent conditions. He frequently publishes and gives presentations on these topics. He is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Missouri Psychological Association, the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, and the Academy of Eating Disorders.

An In-depth Look at Co-Dependency

Date: July 31, 2007 (8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)
Instructor: Ron Griffin, MSW, MSA

This lecture will help participants understand healthy versus unhealthy family functioning, substance abuse in marriage relationships, the impact of substance abuse on families and children, and family needs in dealing with substance abuse.

Ron Griffin is the vice-president of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Greater Kansas City. During his 10 year career in drug abuse treatment, Mr. Griffin earned his master's degree in social work and became a substance abuse counselor. He also became interested in prevention and worked for six years as a private contractor in the area of prevention before joining the National Council where he has led the Prevention Services Department for over six years. He has also recently become the director in charge of the Faith Initiative for the Council under a COMBAT grant.

Relapse Prevention

Date: July 31, 2007 (10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)
Instructor: John Colligan, MA, CSAC

This lecture will provide participants with information about relapse prevention and explore ways they can help clients avoid relapse. Participants will also learn how to assist clients who have relapsed.

John Colligan currently works as an area treatment coordinator for the Missouri Department of Corrections. He supervises 33 counties and their treatment efforts for Probation and Parole clients as well as rehabilitation efforts for inmates. He worked as a counselor in a state mental health facility in Farmington for nine years. He also spent over six years in the U.S. Air Force and separated as a captain. He is a certified advanced substance abuse counselor and presents courses for the Missouri Substance Abuse Counselors' Certification Board. Mr. Colligan received his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Missouri and his master's degree in counseling from City University. He currently teaches online for Washburn University, City University, and has developed courses for Parks University. In 2004, he was awarded the Dean's Award for Distinguished Instruction. He does work for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency and the Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center, which is a program in residence at the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

How to Recognize Co-Occurring Disorders

Date: July 31, 2007 (1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.)
Instructor: Elayne C. Davis, BA, LCSW & Rev. Rhoda Stuart, MA

This lecture will examine co-occurring disorder profiles including severe/major mental illness and a substance abuse disorder; substance abuse disorder and personality disorder; substance abuse disorder, personality disorder and substance induced acute symptoms that may require psychiatric care (for example, hallucinations, depression); and substance abuse, mental illness, and organic syndromes in various combinations. In addition, it will explore the role of the faith community in supporting people with co-occurring disorders.

Elayne C. Davis is a program manager for the Presbyterian Children's Services (PCS) Scattered Sites Transitional Living Program. Prior to this position with PCS, she was senior clinician for Community Services. The program is designed and developed for youth 16 to 21 who have either successfully completed their residential program or have aged of the system but are not yet ready to move into their own apartments. The youth continue to learn and improve their living skills in order to eventually move into their own apartments. Ms. Davis has been a therapist for the past 20 years and she is a candidate for her master's degree in gerontology. She is a St. Louis-based licensed clinical social worker. She has worked with children, youth, and adults who have various

challenges, primarily developmental disabilities, mental health, and substance use disorders. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology. She is affiliated with the American Association for Abused Children, the American Association for Mental Retardation, Committed Caring Faith Communities, NAMI, St. Louis Regional XI Advisory Council for Developmental Disabilities, Eastern Regional Advisory Council for Comprehensive Psychiatric Services, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Partnership, St. Louis Mayor's Youth Advisory Board, the Governor's Task Force for Needs Assessment, and the Governor's Task Force for Developmentally Disabled Minorities.

Rev. Rhoda Stuart has served as pastor of Bethel AME Church in Paynesville, Missouri since the fall of 2006. She is the nights of safety coordinator for ALIVE (Alternatives to Living in Violent Environments) in St. Louis where she assists clients with safety planning, administers intake assessment of victims of domestic violence admitted to the program, and provides case management services. She also has experience as a counselor/case manager within the substance abuse arena. Rev. Stuart was director of the City Outreach Project for NAMI St. Louis from 2002 – 2003. She is a certified trainer in QPR suicide prevention and is involved with Unmasking Suicide, an organization that focuses on suicide in the African American community. Rev. Stuart is also a volunteer for Committed Caring Faith Communities.

What's the Latest in Prevention – Strategic Prevention Framework

Date: August 1, 2007 (8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)
Instructors: *Daphne Walker-Thoth, M.Ed., and Retired DEA Special Agent Shirley A. Armstead, BA*

This lecture will focus on the strategic prevention framework that was developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the purpose of structuring community prevention efforts. The framework is being promoted nationally and consists of five steps including (1) the conducting of a needs assessment, (2) building capacity to mobilize resources in a community, (3) developing a strategic plan, (4) implementing evidence-based prevention programs, policies, and practices, and (5) monitoring and evaluating programs, policies, and practices.

Daphne Walker-Thoth has spent the past 17 years managing major federal substance abuse and mental health initiatives in Missouri. Prior to entering the field of substance abuse, she worked for several youth agencies. Currently, she is a co-principal investigator and research associate on the faculty of the Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH) where she conducts research on faith-based substance abuse programs and coordinates a project designed to improve adolescent substance abuse treatment. She serves on the Regional Advisory Council of the Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center. Ms. Walker-Thoth was one of the founding members of Committed Caring Faith Communities (CCFC) 11 years ago. She serves as the acting executive director of CCFC and is a former chair of the Board of Directors. She is chair of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee at her church – Christ Community United Methodist Church in St. Louis. A native St. Louisan, Mrs. Walker-Thoth began her career as an

award-winning newspaper reporter for the *St. Louis Argus*, *St. Louis American* and *Clayton Citizen* in the late 1970s. In 1992, she was one of several co-founders of an African American family counseling agency called Counseling & Educational Support Services—she served as vice-president of business development and public relations for the agency until December of 2000. She has a master's degree in education with an emphasis on counseling. For the past eight years she has provided consultation and strategic planning assistance to congregations interested in setting up substance abuse ministries. Ms. Walker-Thoth has received numerous awards and proclamations recognizing her work in establishing Missouri's faith-based substance abuse initiative.

Retired Special Agent Shirley A. Armstead retired last year from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration after more than 20 years of service. She was born and raised in the Midwest, where she received her formal education. Former Special Agent Armstead received a BA degree in education from Harris Stowe University in St. Louis, Missouri. Before joining the DEA, she was a social worker for the state of Missouri. Prior to 1988, she primarily worked in an undercover capacity throughout the St. Louis Division, which encompasses six states. Because of her diverse abilities, she was selected for the positions of Demand Reduction Coordinator and Public Information Officer. As Demand Reduction Coordinator, she traveled extensively in response to local needs, throughout the United States and abroad to provide drug education prevention programs and leadership to educators, students, community organizations, employers, health care professionals, law enforcement, and government agencies. As the Public Information Officer, Former Special Agent Armstead developed and maintained a close relationship with the news media, other government agencies and the general public. She provided advice and assistance on designing and implementation of public information programs to the St. Louis Division's Special Agent in Charge. She also prepared media presentations for the Special Agent in Charge and represented him in his absence. Most recently, she received the Pioneer Award from the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of St. Louis.

Clergy Track: Pastoral Counseling Related to Addiction & When to Refer

Date: August 1, 2007 (10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)
Instructor: *Pastor Michael E. Brooks*

This class is designed to provide participants with some practical approaches to dealing with parishioners and others with addiction problems. Information will be provided from a combined spiritual and clinical standpoint. Participants will also be guided in discovering their limitations and knowing when to seek outside resources.

Pastor Michael Brooks is the senior pastor of Zion Grove Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, where he has served for six years. He recently celebrated 20 years of preaching the Gospel. In addition he has 18 years of experience as an addictions counselor. He is a certified addictions counselor, a consultant for the K.C. Free Health Clinic, a board

member of Footprints Recovery Program, a member of the Concerned Clergy Coalition and Chair of the organizations Social Justice Committee, and a member of the Kansas City Health Commission and the Human Rights Commission of the City of Kansas City. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1982 to 1992 as a management specialist and substance abuse counselor. He was honorably discharged in May 1992. Pastor Brooks is the founder of H.O.P.E. Ministries (Helping Our People Evolve).

**Lay Leader Track: The Church as A Catalyst for Community Ministry:
Identifying Spiritual Gifts**

Date: August 1, 2007 (10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)
Instructor: Minister Linda R. Galloway, BA

This class will focus on spiritual gifts and help participants examine if they are walking in their calling or working where they have been slotted to fill a void. Participants will examine if they draw people to them or repel people and if they have passion for what they do or if they are just filling a position. The class will learn what spiritual gifts are, how the gifts operate, and how to identify their primary gifts. By understanding their primary gift, they will be able to increase the effectiveness of their ministry.

Linda R. Galloway is a native of East St. Louis and a product of School District 189. She graduated from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville with a BA in speech communications and a minor in business administration (public relations). She received an associate degree in Christian Studies and a bachelor's degree in Christian Ministry from the Sure Foundation Theological Institute. Ms. Galloway joined the KSTL 690 AM family in October 1994. Currently, she serves as operations director/chief board operator at the radio station. She is an ordained minister, a member of the Leaders International Fellowship of Excellence, serves on the Boards for Open Door Community Service Association and Committed Caring Faith Communities. She served on the Steering Committee of Girls Holla Back, a federal and local collaboration to educate young females regarding HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. She has previously served as a certified HIV prevention instructor for the American Red Cross. She is an accomplished public speaker and conducts various workshops and seminars in both the religious and secular communities. She also serves as an administrative and ministry consultant. Ms. Galloway is the founder and executive director of Look and Live Ministries. She is the recipient of the first Faith Works Award in 1997 presented by Committed Caring Faith Communities. She was the recipient of the 2001 Community Service Award from the National Council of Negro Women, Bertha Rhoda Black Section. She also received the 2005 Community Service Award from the Catholic AIDS Ministry.

Clergy Track: Crafting Sermons on Substance Abuse

Date: August 1, 2007 (1:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.)
Instructor: Rev. Isaac C. McCullough, BA,BS

This class is designed for clergy leaders of all faith groups to provide sermon/message outlines centered on substance abuse and related issues. The goal is to provide support and assist clergy leaders in focusing on the devastation of substance abuse and related issues and the tool it is taking on all communities and faith groups. The purpose of the class is to help participants build stronger congregations and communities through their messages/sermons.

Rev. Isaac C. McCullough served as pastor of Christ Community United Methodist Church in St. Louis from 1998 to June of 2005. He serves as chairman of the Board of Directors of Committed Caring Faith Communities, and is the former chairman of the Penrose-O'Fallon Family Learning Center. He is a member of Faith Communities United (HIV/AIDS) and a member of the Penrose-O'Fallon Neighborhood and Drug Prevention Task Force. Rev. McCullough is the Missouri area representative for the Black Church Initiative, a Washington, DC based organization that encourages and assists African American clergy and laity in addressing teen sexuality education within the context of religious and the African American culture. Rev. McCullough graduated from Carver Bible College in Atlanta in 1986 and from Columbia College-St. Louis Campus in 1999 with a degree in psychology. He retired from the U.S. Army in November of 2000. After high school he completed a 31-month tour in the Army that included 25 months in South Korea. He continued to serve in the Army Reserve until he returned to active duty in August of 1979.

Lay Leader Track: Re-Entry into the Community from Prisons: How Faith-Based Organizations Can Partner and Assist with Successful Re-Integration of Offenders into the Community

Date: Augusts 1, 2006 (1:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.)
Instructors: Raymond D. Little, Sr., RSAC

Through the use of videos and a panel discussion, this class will examine the impact of re-entry of ex-offenders into the community. Participants will learn how re-entry is evolving into a process rather than a program through formulation of a new way of doing business, by partnering and building collaborations with other state agencies, community coalitions, community nonprofit organizations, substance abuse treatment, and mental health treatment and community mental health centers. Participants will explore how faith organizations can continue to assist in the role of offering support services where they are needed through prison ministry and auxiliary church programs. Participants will hear from a panel of ex-offenders who will share their experience re-integrating into society.

Raymond D. Little, Sr. is a Senior Program Specialist with Missouri Institute of Mental Health which is part of the University of Missouri – Columbia’s School of Medicine. He is a qualified, suicide training instructor. He has worked in the field of substance abuse for the past 26 years. His professional background started some 30 years ago, when we worked as a director in the outpatient aftercare substance abuse program at Care Unit Hospital. He worked for many years as a counselor for a local methadone clinic in St. Louis, as well as served as assistant director for a half-way house in St. Louis. He is currently working on an educational program for the re-entry population about substance abuse, hepatitis C, and HIV/AIDS. He currently is a member of the board of directors of Committed Caring Faith Communities. He is a committed volunteer in his home town of St. Louis and a member of Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church. .