



# COA Accreditation

## *Hot Button Issues*



CA Alliance Fall 2011 Executive's Conference  
September 22, 2011

# Objectives for Today's Presentation



Respond to your hot button issues:

- Relationship to Alliance & Its Accreditation
- Unique Characteristics
- Cost
- Recognition

# COA's Mission



Like the Alliance, our mission is to support you as you strive to fulfill *your* mission!

# COA's Relationship to the Alliance



- Pending MOU provides for:
  - CA Advisory Task Force to advise COA on CA-specific standards development
  - Initial free training (12/6 and 12/7)
  - Special CA support for members
  - Recruit & train CA peer reviewers
  - Support Alliance events
  - Provide a 25% discount

# Alliance -v- COA Standards



## Crosswalk shows that:

- COA: less prescriptive
- COA: greater guidance in 2 key areas
  - Risk Prevention Management across the agency
  - Performance & Quality Improvement plans
- COA: more detailed on client rights/  
confidentiality/privacy

# COA's Unique Characteristics



- Open, facilitative, and collaborative process
  - Self-Study that is reviewed
  - Feedback & support throughout the process
  - Focus on implementation
- Four year accreditation
- Looks at the whole agency – not just a specific service
- Volunteer Peer Reviewers
- Accreditation decision made by board of volunteer Accreditation Commissioners
- Web-based process

# Contextual Accreditation!



- A series of rigid rules: *no*
- A licensing add-on: *no*
- An effort to control or limit innovation: *no*
- An attempt to define what you should do or how you should do it: *no*
- A “gotcha” process: *absolutely no*

**Step 1 – Application**

**Step 7 – Maintaining  
Accreditation**

**Step 2 – Assessment/  
Establishing Context**

**Step 6 – The  
Accreditation  
Commission**

**Step 3 – Self-Study  
Process**

**Step 5 – Post-Site Visit  
Report**

**Step 4 – Site Visit**



# Cost



- All accreditation is a significant financial investment
- Its not the fees but the staff time that can be expensive
- No one national accreditor is always more affordable than another

Richard's formula to make an accreditation decision:

**Dollar cost + alignment with your agency's  
philosophy, culture, capacity + type & number of  
services you provide + convenience = Best Choice**

# Cost



- Accreditation & Reaccreditation Fee
  - \$750 Application Fee (first time applicants only)
  - Sliding scale based on the organization's most recent audited gross annual revenue.
  - Fees start at a minimum of \$6,720 for an organization with an annual revenue\* of \$500,000 or less *regardless of the number of services provided*
    - COA deducts pass through funds: emergency assistance, foster care payments, funds for contracted providers, revenue for programs not included in the review via our exemption policy or where COA accreditation does not apply or service already accredited
  - CA Alliance members receive a 25% discount

# Cost



- Site Visit Fee
  - Varies depending on the number of sites, the number of services, the number of reviewers and the length of review
  - Flat fee of \$2,000 per peer reviewer for a two-day on-site review, plus \$425 per day times the number of reviewers for each additional day
  - Site Visits are a minimum of two peers for two days
- Maintenance of Accreditation Fee
  - There is an annual Maintenance of Accreditation fee of \$400 for the three years an organization is out-of-process.
  - $\$400 \times 3 \text{ years} = \$1,200$

# Cost



\$750	Application Fee
\$5,040	Accreditation Fee (Alliance member with revenue of <\$500,000)
\$4,000	Site Visit Fee (2 Peers for 2 days)
\$1,200	MOA Fees
<hr/>	
\$10,990	for 4 year accreditation or \$2,747 per year

# Recognition



- Insurance Companies
- Managed Care Recognitions
- COA has behavioral healthcare service recognitions in 42 states from licensing agencies, insurance companies and managed care entities including recognitions for residential treatment, mental health and services for substance use conditions. Recognitions include licensing relief, mandates, tiered reimbursement and recognition within quality rating systems.

# Recognition



- COA accredits over 1,400 *organizations* providing behavioral healthcare in the United States and Canada.
- COA accredits private and for-profit companies as well as public agencies at the state, county, and municipal levels.
- COA is highly experienced in accrediting mental health, residential treatment, group living services, case management and substance abuse services. Behavioral healthcare service areas represent 5 of the top 10 most accredited services by COA for private, public and Canadian organizations.
- See handout for a list of the Behavioral healthcare services accredited by COA.

# Now what?



- Visit with Richard and Zoë today
- Request a cost estimate
- View the standards online (they're free!)
- Attend a free webinar
- Attend informational sessions in December
- Questions/Comments

# [www.COASTandards.org](http://www.COASTandards.org). It's free!



- Web-based Home of the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Standards



# Thank You!



Richard Klarberg, President & CEO, [rklarberg@coanet.org](mailto:rklarberg@coanet.org)

Zoë Hutchinson, Manager of Client & Sponsor Relations,  
[zhutchinson@coanet.org](mailto:zhutchinson@coanet.org)

or call *toll free*

866-262-8088 Richard:x260; Zoë:x242

[www.COAnet.org](http://www.COAnet.org)

