

October 31, 2005

For Immediate Release
Contact: Judy Crawford
Director of Certification
jcrawford@resourcenter.com

BCIA Credentials Now Accepted to Meet Licensure Qualifications in New York

BCIA Credentials Now Accepted to Meet Licensure Qualifications in New York

Wheat Ridge, CO – The Biofeedback Certification Institute of America (BCIA) announces an exciting advancement in the field of biofeedback as a mental health modality. Between now and January 1, 2006, BCIA certification can replace the examination requirement for those seeking licensure as a mental health counselor in New York State.

After a comprehensive review, New York's State Education Department and the Office of the State Board for Mental Health Practitioners has announced that they will accept BCIA certificants' credentials as part of the grandfathering requirements for mental health licensure. BCIA joins only seven other organizations that have received this prestigious distinction. The recognized organizations, including BCIA, are part of the Alternative to Examination and grandfathering pathways established by the state.

For biofeedback practitioners who would like to be licensed as mental health practitioners in the State of New York, this announcement means that if they meet all the requirements established in the Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations, including education and experience, and hold BCIA certification, they can forego the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination if they apply for licensure by January 1, 2006. For supervisors and endorsers of proposed licensees, the announcement means that BCIA credentials can serve in lieu of licensure in medicine, psychology, social work, nursing or mental health counseling.

The certification/examination component is only one of the requirements for licensure. Other application requirements include proof of two years of academic training in counseling at the bachelor's level or higher, age and moral character criteria, and documentation of at least seven years' extensive clinical experience hours. For details about the New York licensure requirements, see their Website at www.op.nysed.gov/mhclhc.htm. Application materials must be received by January 1, 2006.

BCIA and the Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback were both active in seeking and supporting the New York decision initiated by its Regional chapter: the Northeast Regional Biofeedback Society. This success was driven by many BCIA certified professionals in New York, including Julie Weiner and Alan Strohmayer who were among the first to contact the associations to begin the process.

"We are honored to have received this distinction," said Judy Crawford, Director of Certification for BCIA. "Inclusion in the Alternative to Examination pathway means that more biofeedback professionals will be included among the licensed mental health counselors in New York. It is

also an important step in promoting the field of biofeedback as a whole and we hope that other states will follow New York's lead."

The Biofeedback Certification Institute of America (BCIA) was formed in January 1981 to establish and maintain professional standards for the provision of biofeedback services and to certify those who meet these standards. It offers certification in biofeedback, neurofeedback and pelvic muscle dysfunction biofeedback. For information about the certification programs, visit www.bcia.org.

The Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback (AAPB) was founded in 1969 to promote a new understanding of biofeedback and advance the methods used in this practice. AAPB's mission is to advance the development, dissemination and utilization of knowledge about applied psychophysiology and biofeedback to improve health and the quality of life through research, education and practice. Visit www.aapb.org for more information.