



# Healthcare Professionals Certificate Training Program

Providing Opioid Use Disorder and  
Substance Use Disorder Treatment Training

## Report to the Community

# A Message from Dr. Witherspoon Nash

Greetings,

As we welcome our third cohort, I continue to reflect on the blessings this grant award has provided to continue our certificate program. To date, we have graduated 17 participants!

In December, we hosted our annual closing dinner. During this time of fellowship, cohort two reflected on the profound growth they experienced throughout the 2025 course series. This diverse group of professionals eloquently shared examples of how they are utilizing new and refined clinical skills to meet the co-occurring needs of clients and patients in our communities. You could hear the passion in their testimonies, and the gratitude expressed for an opportunity such as this filled the room. It was a beautiful way to close this second chapter of our training program.



DeAndrea Witherspoon Nash

Since our grant award, our work group has continued curriculum evaluation to ensure our certificate program meets the growing clinical needs of each cohort, which brings unique personal and professional needs and experiences. Additionally, we are thankful for our continued partnerships and the opportunity to provide free workshops presented by national and local thought leaders. We look forward to growing our network of community partners as we soon begin recruiting cohort four.

A special thank you to HRSA, our dedicated team of experts, Lipscomb University community and our program graduates for their investment in our vision.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DeAndrea N. Witherspoon Nash, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DeAndrea N. Witherspoon Nash, Ph.D., LPC-MHSP, QCS, SAP, MAC, NCC  
Project Director

# A Message from Dr. Foxworthy

Over the past two years, we've had the opportunity to work alongside cohorts of thoughtful, engaged professionals. Together, we've explored evidence-based approaches to treatment, examined stigma and bias, wrestled with complex clinical questions and supported one another's growth as providers.

One of the most meaningful aspects of this work has been the quality of conversation—honest questions, shared experiences and a willingness to sit with complexity. Those moments continue to shape the evolution of the program.

The success of this program is also made possible by the leadership and dedication behind the scenes. Project Director Dr. DeAndrea Witherspoon Nash serves as Chair of the Lipscomb University Psychology, Counseling and Family Science Department and brings extensive experience in substance use disorder treatment, adolescent therapy and program leadership. Lynn Strevell brings more than 25 years of experience in education, grant writing and administration. Much of what keeps this program running happens quietly in the background, and their leadership, support and commitment have been foundational to the HPCT program. Quite simply, this program would not exist without them.

Another meaningful part of this program's success is the expertise and generosity of our consultants who join us throughout the year as guest lecturers and supervisors. Dr. David Marcovitz is a board-certified general and addiction psychiatrist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and serves as the director of the Division of Addiction Psychiatry. Tammy Stone, LPC-MHSP, LADAC II, is the co-owner of Stone Counseling and Consulting and spent more than 30 years at Cumberland Heights in clinical leadership, program development and supervision. Their clinical wisdom, practical insights and deep commitment to the field have been a tremendous asset to both the program and our participants.

If you're interested in learning more about the program or exploring future collaboration, I'd love to connect.

With gratitude,

Brooke Foxworthy, PhD, LPC-MHSP  
Lead Facilitator



Brooke Foxworthy

# Program Participants

The recruitment of qualified program participants has been a key facet of the HPCT program. Qualified participants are practicing professionals and those completing clinical training requirements for licensure from the following disciplines: nurse practitioners, physician assistants, health service psychologists, counselors, nurses and/or social workers. Applicants must work at a qualifying agency that provides services for low-income and medically-underserved populations.

Seven area professionals completed the second year of the HPCT program and graduated in December of 2025. Here's a little bit about them:

## Employer

Centerstone  
Mercy Community Healthcare  
ConnectUs  
Axis Health System

## Demographics

We believe that a diverse workforce is a key component of providing culturally-competent care. The demographic makeup of our trainees was as follows:

## Education

Each participant possessed a master's degree in one of the following fields:  
Nursing  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Social Work

- 14% Black
- 86% White
- 14% Male
- 86% Female
- 43% Rural Background
- 29% Disadvantaged Background

## Student Testimonials

**"The program helped me see what I was lacking in treatment areas and provided a safe place for me to grow."**

**"I appreciated the opportunity to learn from working experts in the field and to collaborate with peers and other disciplines who work to help others recover."**

**"This class was a great supplement to the training I received as a counselor! I feel more prepared to treat those with substance use disorders, and I feel supported by the connections I made with those in my class!"**

# 2025 Cohort



*Pictured above are five members of the 2025 cohort with key program personnel at the celebratory dinner where students received their certificates of completion and shared in an evening of camaraderie. Pictured from left to right are Dr. David Marcovitz, Dr. Brooke Foxworthy, Julia Kutí, Rachael Mark, Kevin Webster, Sheila Rhodes, Martha McCallie, Dr. DeAndrea Witherspoon Nash and Tammy Stone.*

## Student Testimonials

**"The relaxed teaching style of Dr. Foxworthy makes it fun to learn about important addiction topics."**

**"The information I learned was truly enlightening. This program has strengthened my confidence and prepared me to work more effectively with individuals facing substance use challenges."**

# Addictions Conference

The 2025 addictions conference featured national OUD/SUD expert Dr. Kevin McCauley, a Senior Fellow at Meadows Behavioral Healthcare. Dr. McCauley is a non-practicing physician who has worked in the field of addiction treatment for nearly two decades. Kevin first became interested in the treatment of substance use disorders while serving as a Naval Flight Surgeon for Marine Corps heavy-lift helicopter and fighter/attack squadrons. Due to the Navy's policy toward treating such disorders as a safety (rather than moral) issue, he witnessed pilots self-report their addiction since they knew they would be treated medically and, once safe to do so, returned to flying status under careful monitoring. "These were charismatic and otherwise highly-capable, self-disciplined pilots who did come forward and ask for help, and they all got better and went back to flying! That just destroyed the prejudice I had picked up in medical school that addicts never ask for help and once an addict, always an addict."

Dr. McCauley's presentation, "Addiction and Recovery Issues 2025: A Survey of the Latest Findings and Ideas," provided an overview of the issues related to Substance Use Disorder and its prevention and treatment for health care providers in training or practice. It provided a stronger foundational understanding of the current concepts and controversies surrounding this fast-evolving subject.

"While there are several insightful and well-articulated arguments challenging the brain disease conceptualization of addiction, continued progress in the neuroscience of addiction and new areas of research such as epigenetics and psychoneuroimmunology have greatly advanced the pathophysiologic understanding of Substance Use Disorders," said Dr. McCauley. His lecture covered the strengths and weaknesses of both approaches. He demonstrated how this research fits well with the experiences of people needing, seeking and in recovery.

## Attendee feedback:

"I appreciate the high caliber from a notable institution as The Meadows providing a well credentialed presentation to mental health care providers in the state of Tennessee."

"Thank you for this workshop. I feel that I learned a lot and look forward to incorporating this information into my work with patients."

"An excellent training that provided easily understandable information for clinicians of all training levels."

The conference provided... "A wealth of information that refreshes and further informs my practice as a clinician."

"Thorough presentation with vast knowledge and wonderful teaching of this material."

"Another fantastic workshop. I really could have listened to him all day. I learned so much!"



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