



The Arizona Association of Addiction Professionals (AAAP) is the Arizona affiliate of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. AAAP promotes awareness of addiction issues in Arizona and advocates for standards for licensure and certification of qualified counselors to ensure the competency basis of those who provide addiction counseling. AAAP seeks to ensure professional practices that reflect cultural humility, diversity, equity, and inclusion. United, we have a voice in critical matters relating to our profession as well as those we serve.

Therefore we must issue the following formal statement regarding not only the recent Medicaid AHCCCS fraud that has come to light in Arizona, but more importantly the harm that has been inflicted and the crimes that have been perpetrated against Indigenous people under the guise of providing addiction and mental health treatment.

We are outraged and horrified to learn about people and organizations that have pretended to provide the very services that our members have dedicated themselves to professionally and personally. The impact of this systemic fraud, waste, abuse, and greed will be felt for many years to come. We also recognize the need for legitimate services and treatment for those who have been affected. **If you or a family member has been impacted in any way please call 211 and select option 7 to be connected to legitimate support and services 24/7** that will respect your autonomy, rights, and dignity. There are reputable and culturally responsive addiction and mental health services in our state.

We encourage all addiction professionals in Arizona to become and stay informed and to utilize news media resources that uplift indigenous people's voices and experiences. We would like to share a link to the following news article to assist in the education and further understanding of this reprehensible situation happening in our state:

<https://www.azmirror.com/2023/05/18/failure-of-government-az-moves-to-end-predatory-medicaid-fraud-targeting-indigenous-people/>

In addition, we recognize the harm that is done when services are stopped abruptly and termination cannot occur. We are concerned for addiction professionals, including students, who may be connected to any one of the number of organizations that now has a credible fraud allegation. We would like to provide the following resources on ethical practices in addiction treatment. These resources include information on accurate, ethical, and legal billing practices; documentation; culturally responsive treatment for American Indian/Alaskan Natives; and proper termination with appropriate referrals.

<https://www.naadac.org/sweetgrass-method-webinar> This webinar presented by M. Standing Eagle Baez, PhD, LSP, LCDC, CCBT discusses braiding Western treatment modalities and Indigenous approaches for substance use disorders for American Indian/Alaskan Native clients by introducing a culturally responsive method called the 'Sweetgrass Method.'

[The Progress Note: Where Law & Ethics Meet Efficiency](#) This free presentation from NAADAC is geared at increasing addiction counselor understanding of the legal, ethical, and liability-related factors that come into play with clinical documentation.

<https://youtu.be/82j4L-VZTLU> This recorded webinar discusses how to know it's time to terminate, how to prepare, ways to say goodbye that can be healing and provide closure for clients as well as clinicians, and the ethical considerations of ending a therapeutic relationship.

<https://youtu.be/0RWKJQRfPOo> This recorded webinar explores Addiction Counselor Ethics, presented by the Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network (part 1).

<https://youtu.be/fosoHwiqSdI> This recorded webinar explores Addiction Counselor Ethics, presented by the Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network (part 2).

<https://youtu.be/Z3kRqGZW2GU> This recorded webinar discusses Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services, presented by the Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network.

Please unite with AAAP as we stand for quality, equitable, inclusive, and empowering services for all.