



Cathie Smith Biography

Cathie Smith is Founder and President of The Justin Foundation. After losing her 22-year old son in an accident, while he was residing in a facility for substance abuse, Cathie formed The Justin Foundation to facilitate consumer education and protection of individuals in substance abuse treatment facilities. The Justin Foundation is a Non-Profit Corporation founded in 2004 and incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

Cathie has served as a consumer advocate on the State of California's Counselor Certification Advisory Committee (CCAC) since its beginning in January 2005. As Chairperson for the Ethics Sub-Committee for CCAC, Cathie has guided the group through the development of a standardized violations and sanctions matrix currently being considered for implementation by the State of California's Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

The process of developing definitions for counselor violations resulted in Cathie's study of violations currently being received in the form of complaints by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DADP). Through The Justin Foundation, Cathie researched hundreds of complaints filed with the State of California's DADP from 2000 through 2006 which resulted in an exhaustive report of the findings of that study entitled *The War on Addiction 2007*. The Justin Foundation has made this report available to legislators to improve their understanding of the current situation in treatment care and to promote better regulation and oversight of substance abuse treatment facilities.

The Justin Foundation endorses the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Counselors (CAADAC) as the only certifying organization in the State of California with standards for substance abuse counselors that are comparable to other states. The Justin Foundation believes the minimum requirements for substance abuse counselors by the State of California, which were adopted by the other eight certifying organizations, are inexcusably inadequate. To demonstrate its support of CAADAC's higher standards, The Justin Foundation recently co-sponsored the CAADAC annual convention in October 2007. CAADAC has presented Cathie with two awards (2005 and 2007) in appreciation of her efforts to raise the requirements for substance abuse counselors and to raise the level of treatment care for addiction services in California. Cathie serves as a public member on the California Certification Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors (CCBADC), which is CAADAC's certification arm.

On August 23, 2007, Cathie testified in front of the Little Hoover Commission's hearing to review Alcohol and Drug Treatment in California. Cathie is currently scheduled to speak at the Assembly Business and Professions hearing on October 30, 2007 in Monterey Park, California in support of Assembly Bill 1367 authored by Assemblyman Mark DeSaulnier to require licensure for substance abuse counselors working in the private sector.

Cathie Smith is currently seeking funding through grants to facilitate a program for The Justin Foundation to audit and disseminate information about substance abuse treatment facilities. Making this information public will allow consumers to make educated decisions about treatment care and motivate providers to upgrade their standard of care as a marketing tool for maintaining or increasing patient enrollment.

Cathie holds a Bachelors Degree in Management from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.