



NADCP

**National Association of
Drug Court Professionals**

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March 10, 2010

Norman Augustine, MS
Chair
Scientific Management Review Board,
Working Group Deliberating Organizational Change
Working Group Substance Use, Abuse and Addiction
Building 1, Room 103
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Mr. Augustine:

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) strongly supports the merger of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Addiction (NIAAA).

It takes science, innovation, teamwork and strong judicial leadership to achieve success addressing drug abusing offenders in a community. That's why since 1994 the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) has worked tirelessly at the national, state and local level to create and enhance Drug Courts, which rely on the science-based and research-based practices to implement a combination of accountability and treatment to compel and support drug abusing offenders to change their lives.

Now a national movement, Drug Courts are the shining example of what works in the justice system. Today, there are over 2,400 Drug Courts operating in the U.S., and another thirteen countries have implemented the model. Drug Courts are widely applied to adult criminal cases, juvenile delinquency and truancy cases, and family court cases involving parents at risk of losing custody of their children due to drug abuse. Drug Courts rely on the science to get offenders off drugs, stop drug-related crime, reunite broken families, intervene with juveniles before they embark on a debilitating life of addiction and crime, and reduce impaired driving.

Our rationale for supporting the merger is based on our reality. Drug Courts serve over 120,000 offenders every year. These offenders have long histories of abusing both licit and illicit substances. In the criminal justice system offenders do not separate their dependency based on what is legal or illegal. Thus, our treatment and accountability approach must integrate both.

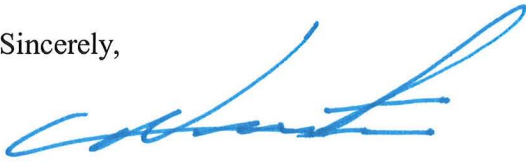
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

West Huddleston

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On behalf of over 27,000 Drug Court professional around the country working on the front lines, serving individuals every day with both licit and illicit substance abuse problems, NADCP strongly supports the merger of NIDA and NIAAA. We all greatly benefit from integrated research on both the effects of licit and illicit drugs on the brain and effective approaches in accountability and treatment. Merging NIDA and NIAAA has the potential to achieve significant advances in this arena and to inform both policy and practice at the federal, state, and local level as we work to reduce the demand for drugs and the crime associated with it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'West Huddleston', written in a cursive style.

West Huddleston
Chief Executive Officer