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# Press Release

M. Linda Bell, ICADA, FACATA, CCS, receives Outstanding Achievement Award from the American College of Addiction Treatment Administrators (ACATA)

Annual Award for outstanding contributions in the field of addiction treatment administration and management presented to M. Linda Bell during the annual conference of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers.

Lancaster, PA, May 21, 2004: The recently held National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers annual leadership conference in Tampa, FL was the occasion where the American College of Addiction Treatment Administrators presented their annual recognition award. This award recognizes administrators who have made outstanding contributions in the field of addiction treatment administration and management. The award is presented annually by the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers at its annual conference.

This award has grown out of the efforts of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers to nurture excellence in addiction treatment administration and to develop professional collegiality among addiction treatment administrators. It is often the administrator who creates and sustains the vision of a treatment center. In recognizing the *administrator of the year* we are recognizing the vision creators and sustainers of our field.

M. Linda Bell, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Bellwood Health Services, Inc. in Toronto, Ontario was presented the 2004 ACATA Administrator of the Year award on May 17, 2004 at the Awards Luncheon which was part of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers Annual Leadership Conference in Tampa, FL.

Linda Bell's contributions to Canadian healthcare and addiction treatment have been instrumental in the advancement of effective treatment and the initiation and development of both provincial and federal drug treatment policies.

Her accomplishments have been recognized worldwide. She was the first Canadian to be appointed a Fellow of the American College of Addiction Treatment Administrators. She has received numerous awards including Roly Gatin Inaugural Award for Outstanding Service to the Addiction Intervention Association and the Award of Distinction from the Institute on Addiction Studies at McMaster's University. Most recently, she accepted the President's Shield Award from the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Association of Ontario on behalf of the Bell family for their lifetime contributions to the

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treatment of addictions. In addition, in 2003 she was named “who’s Who in Canadian Healthcare” by Canadian Healthcare Magazine and GlaxoSmithKline.

Linda Bell’s vision for addiction treatment has not been limited by geographic boundaries. Her desire to make quality treatment available to Canada’s Inuit communities has led to a continuing involvement in treatment, training and the development of treatment centers, which began over 15 years ago. She acted as a consultant to the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Social Services for the establishment of the first Inuit Treatment Center in the Eastern Arctic between 1993 and 1995, and for the evaluation of Northern Addiction Services Treatment Program in Yellowknife, June 1991. Through Bellwood Health Services, Linda continues to be called upon to advise on training and treatment initiatives for Inuit communities across the Arctic.

In 2000, Linda was invited to speak at the World Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. As a non-member of the Fellowship, she was one of four “friends of A.A.” asked to participate in the conference for 75,000 delegates. This invitation reflects the respect and esteem in which she is held by the world-wide addiction recovery community.

In presenting the 2004 American College of Addiction Treatment Administrators annual Achievement award, Ronald Hunsicker the President/CEO of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers referenced the above accomplishments of Linda Bell as well as citing her “unwavering commitment to providing leadership both in Canada and around in the world to ensure that addiction treatment is available, recognized as effective health care and provided by quality health care professionals. Linda Bell represents the best of the best in addiction treatment administrators”.

In response Linda Bell shared these remarks with her peers: “To be recognized by your peers for something you love to do and feel passionate about is one of life’s greatest honors. We have come a long way in addiction medicine yet it remains the most serious unresolved public health problem. Addiction still does not command the attention other major illnesses do. The public has moved further along in its acceptance of cancer, aids and HIV. Why?

In spite of sophisticated science, research, and long term outcomes studies, our professional community is often caught reacting to criticism or defending the benefits of good treatment. The time has come to regroup and refocus. The time has come to mobilize with our alumni and friends in the recovery networks. With a subtle shift in our approach we can use all of our resources and demand that addictions have its rightful place at the table of healthcare. If we cannot do this then we must question our won beliefs and ask ourselves if we are part of the solution or part of the problem. There are always challenges in life. The one before us is prejudice. Prejudice against people who suffer from this cunning, baffling and powerful illness.

Linda Bell is also a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers.

**The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers is a trade association representing over 270 of the best known providers of addiction treatment both in this country and internationally. The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers’ office and executive Dr. Ronald J. Hunsicker are located in Lancaster, PA and NAATP is governed by a Board of Directors from across the country. Additional information on this award or on the work of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers may be obtained by contacting the NAATP office at 717-392-8480.**