

## Special Thank You to Bernice Order-Connors, LCSW, LCADC



A special thank you is owed to Bernice Order-Connors for her dedication to tobacco dependence treatment over the past 12 years. Ms. Connors joined forces with Dr. John Slade in 1994 as part of the “Addressing Tobacco in the Treatment of Other Addictions,” later to become the UMDNJ, School of Public Health, Tobacco Dependence Program. She worked closely with Dr. Slade and the State of New Jersey in the development of licensure standards of tobacco policies and tobacco dependence treatment into addiction facilities.

She was on the faculty of UMDNJ- SPH and was the TDP’s Special Projects Coordinator. Over the years, she expanded her expertise in policy and clinical skills from addictions treatment to mental health and provision of services to young people. She was a national trainer on these topics and served as a consultant to several states’ departments of addiction services as they moved to integrate tobacco dependence treatment into clinical treatment.

Bernice presented at national conferences, as well as our 5-Day Tobacco Dependence Treatment Specialist Training. She was the lead author of the manual, *Drug-Free is Nicotine-Free*, which is a model utilized nationally to provide steps for treatment facilities to go tobacco free.

With great sadness, the Tobacco Dependence Program says “goodbye” to Bernice. Her enthusiasm and dedication to her work with us and throughout the country will be greatly missed. Bernice has returned to working with students in a school setting...another love of hers, to which she has brought her many gifts and talents!

Best wishes to a special colleague,  
Nancy Speelman Edwards

“Bernice’s understanding of recovery from tobacco addiction within addictions treatment is unparalleled, as is her ability to pass that on to others in the field.”

Jonathan Foulds, PhD  
Director, Tobacco Dependence Program

“Bernice’s work on developing organizational change interventions to better address tobacco in addiction treatment settings, are leading to major changes in the treatment culture around the country. Behind the scenes, she has been a catalyst, working with John Slade, Jonathan Foulds and myself. Our work together has changed policy in New Jersey, helped save lives of individuals in addiction recovery, enhanced clinician skills and lead to our new National Institute of Drug Abuse RO1 Study of organizational change. Thanks so much, Bernice – you have had a tremendous impact on promoting recovery and wellness.”

Doug Ziedonis, MD, MPH  
Medical Director, Tobacco Dependence Program

“While staffing the TDP booth in Boston at the Conference on Tobacco or Health, 99.9% of the requests from attendees were Bernice-related. That was my first clear understanding of Bernice’s national reputation as the # 1 US advocate for the implementation of tobacco dependence treatment in addiction settings.”

Donna Richardson, LCSW, LCADC, CTTS  
Clinic Coordinator, Tobacco Dependence Program

“Bernice is the only person I know who can actually be in three different places at one time.”

Mike Steinberg, MD, MPH, CTTS  
Clinic Medical Director, Tobacco Dependence Program

“Bernice was incredible resource in Ohio’s development of ATOD treatment. Her enthusiasm and light spirit is greatly missed.”

Aimee Maychack, CCDC I, CTTS  
Tobacco Dependence Project (Ohio)

“It was truly delightful working with Bernice at the TDP; I learned a great deal from her about training and treating tobacco dependence in addiction treatment centers.”

Stacey Zelenetz, LCSW, LCADC, CTTS  
Clinician, Tobacco Dependence Program

“Bernice lights up a room with her enthusiasm. Through her efforts, thousands of people have new hope for a better life.”

Terry A. Rustin, MD  
Associate Professor, University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center

“Bernice was a wonderful presence for addictions providers, always bringing the issue of tobacco dependency to the fore, helping to raise consciousness and spur the field to action. Her trainings were dynamic and appreciated by all. She is a friend who will be sorely missed.”

Barbara Schlichting  
President, Addiction Treatment Providers of NJ