

Navigating Your Future: CCHP, Advanced and Specialty Certifications

Matissa Sammons, MA, CCHP

Faculty Disclosure

I have the following relevant financial relationship with a commercial interest:

Ms. Sammons is a salaried employee of
National Commission on Correctional Health Care

Educational Objectives

1. Identify the eligibility criteria and application process for CCHP certifications
2. Explain how to prepare for CCHP exams
3. Describe the recertification process and continuing education requirements

Session Overview

**Benefits and eligibility | Application & registration |
Continuing certification**

1. CCHP
2. CCHP Specialties (CCHP-MH, CCHP-P, CCHP-RN)
3. CCHP-A

Professionalism in
medicine depends on
our ability to
provide quality care
to the least of us.

- Alvin J. Thompson, MD
Past NCCHC Board Member

The Early Years

- ◆ 1970 — AMA Vice President Bernard Harrison participates in the ABA's Commission on Correctional Facilities and Services. Inadequate health services in jails is identified as a major problem.
- ◆ 1973 — The AMA publishes results of its survey of health care in jails and confirms a lack of services and standards. The AMA's board of trustees allocates \$50,000 to plan a remedial program.

The Early Years

- ◆ 1975 — With funding from the DOJ's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the AMA's Jail Program is launched. Six state medical societies are selected as subgrantees and they in turn select jails in their states to serve as pilot sites. A total of 30 jails are chosen.
- ◆ 1976 — The first standards for health services in jails are developed as part of the AMA Jail Program and tested in the pilot sites. The AMA tests the nation's first accreditation program in corrections.

Major Court Decisions

- ◆ Supreme Court rule that prisoners have a right to be free of “deliberate indifference to their serious health care needs.”

◆ US Supreme Court: 1976 *Estelle v. Gamble*

◆

- ◆ “We see no underlying distinction between the right to medical care for physical ills and its psychological counterpart.”

◆ 4th Circuit Court: 1979 *Bowring v. Godwin*

- ◆ Extended the Estelle decision to mental health care.

In the hundreds of cases following *Estelle v. Gamble* three basic rights have emerged:

- Right to access to care
- Right to care that is ordered
- Right to a professional medical judgment

NCCHC Standards that support the right to Access to Care

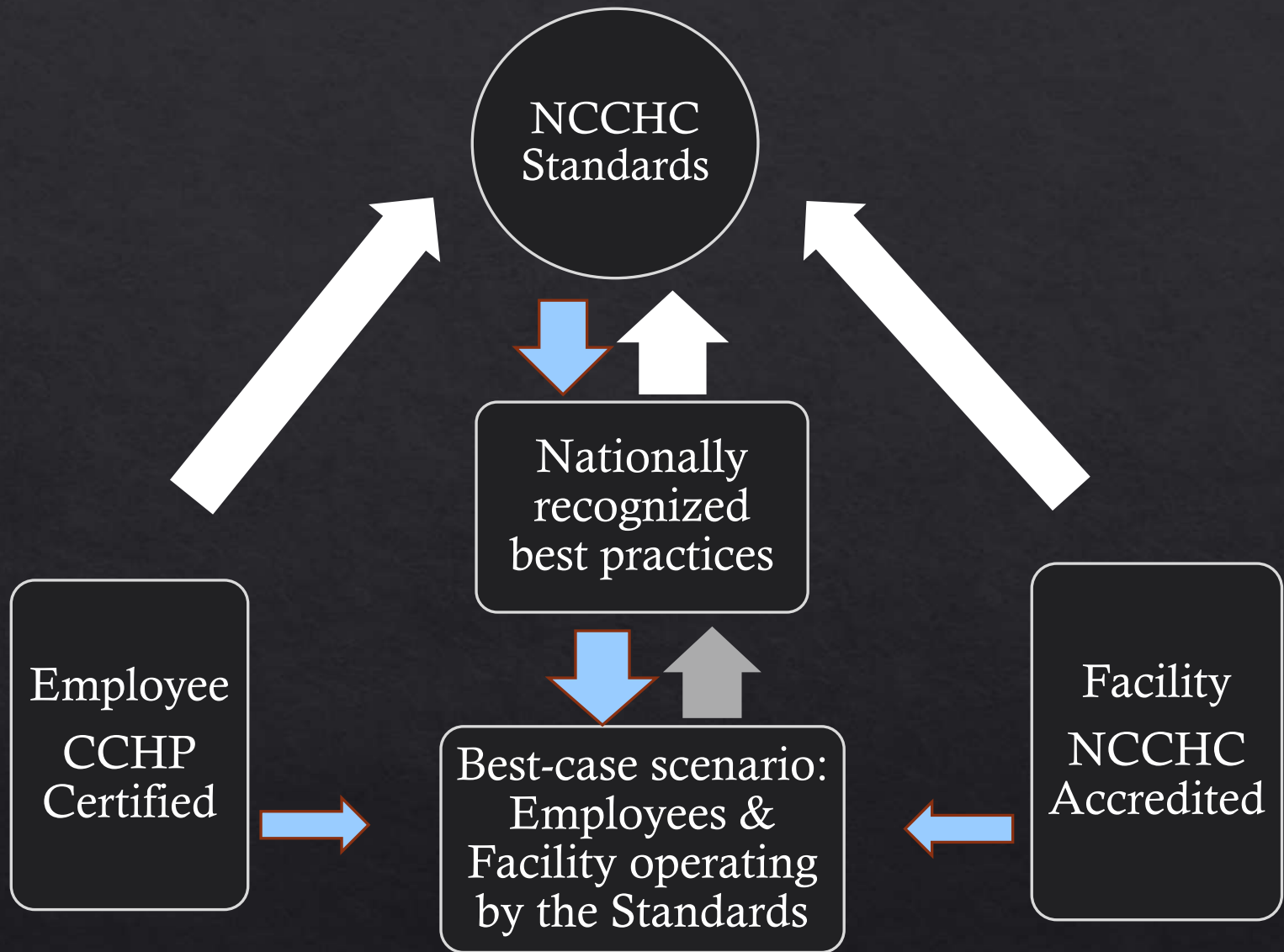
- Access to Care
- Hospital and Specialty Care
- Information on Health Services
- Receiving Screening
- Oral Care
- Nonemergency Health Care Requests and Services
- Emergency Services
- Segregated Inmates
- Patient Escort
- Basic Mental Health Services

NCCHC Standards that support the right to Care That Is Ordered

- Medical Autonomy
- Policies and Procedures
- Grievance Mechanism for Health Complaints
- Medication Services
- Clinic Space, Equipment and Supplies
- Diagnostic Services
- Continuity and Coordination of Care
- Chronic Disease Services
- Patients With Special Health Needs
- Counseling and Care of the Pregnant Inmate

NCCHC Standards that support the right to Professional Medical Judgment

- Responsible Health Authority
- Credentials
- Clinical Performance
Enhancement
- Staffing
- Health Care Liaison



CCHP: NCCHC's Professional Certification Program



NCCHC Certification

- ◆ NCCHC pioneered corrections-oriented certification (1990) and administers the largest certification program in correctional health care: the Certified Correctional Health Professional.
- ◆ CCHP is the most widely held correctional health care credential in the world, with approximately 4,000 individuals currently certified.
- ◆ Shows mastery of national standards & the knowledge expected of leaders in this specialized field; it raises the bar on quality and clearly delineates expectations and best practices.
- ◆ NCCHC offers advanced and specialty certifications
 - Advanced – CCHP-A (1993)
 - Nurse – CCHP-RN (2009)
 - Mental Health – CCHP-MH (2013)
 - Physician – CCHP-P (2015)

Why become a CCHP?

- ◆ More credibility with department of corrections in the state where I am licensed
- ◆ Personal satisfaction
- ◆ The CCHP credential indicates to my colleagues, managers and patients a commitment to obtaining knowledge and providing a higher level of care.
- ◆ When it is behind your name both clients and the staff recognize I know what NCCHC expects.
- ◆ Increased knowledge and awareness; improve functionality in the correctional setting; minimized our litigation.

Benefits of Professional Certification

- Personal accomplishment
- Professional credibility
- Mastery of national standards
- Professional competence and commitment
- Validates specialized knowledge
- Recognition from colleagues
- NCCHC's leadership in setting standards for health services is widely recognized (AMA: 1970s)

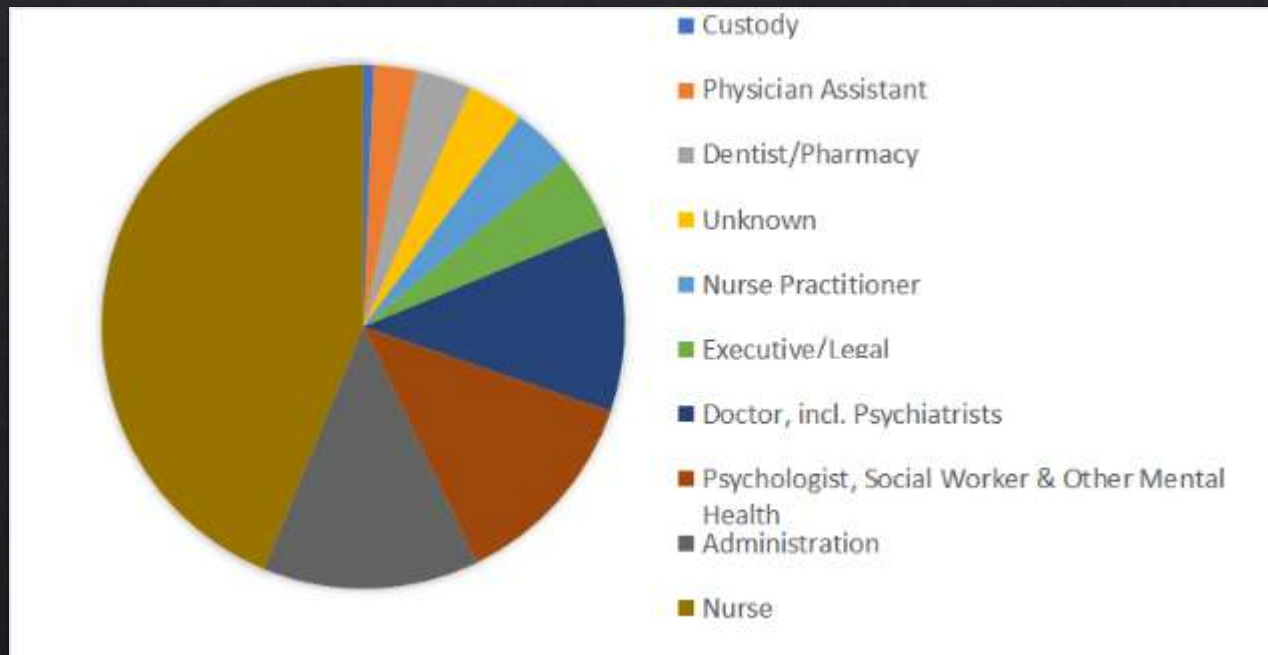
Additional benefits

◆ CCHPs receive a discount on new NCCHC webinars. Webinars are an effective way to earn the required CE for recertification.

◆ CCHPs receive a discount on NCCHC conference registration. NCCHC offers the largest and most well-respected conferences in the field of correctional health care.

NCCHC Certification

- All correctional health professionals
- Content-based exam on NCCHC *Standards*
- Launched 32 years ago
- Required for discipline-specific and advanced certifications



Part I: Professional Certification

CCHP



CCHP Eligibility

- ◆ Correctional health professionals
- ◆ Good character and professional reputation
- ◆ No legal or ethical impediment to providing service in the correctional health care field
- ◆ There is no work experience requirement

What happens next?

Action (you)

Response (NCCHC)

Submit
application

- Confirm receipt
- Email instructions & materials

Complete
application

- Confirm candidacy
- Email instructions & materials

Register

- Confirm registration
- What to expect next

Test

Application

- Submit application
 - Online at <https://my.ncchc.org>
 - Complete application
 - Upload your license copy/verification or diploma/verification and current resume/CV. Once logged in, click on the “**My CCHP Certification**” tab
 - Applicants must complete their applications within **3 months** of submitting the initial application.

Application Status

- ◆ Login to your [myNCCHC](#) account to check your application status by choosing the “**My CCHP Certification**” tab, then the “**Details**” button of the certification type (CCHP)

Requirements

The following items are required in order to receive certification for this program.

Component Detail	Status	Units Earned
Application Completed and Paid	Approved	1.00
License Submission	Pending Approval	1.00
Resume Submission	Pending Approval	1.00
Passed Examination	Pending Approval	1.00

Exam Registration: NCCHC Conferences and Partner Sites

- ◆ See the online [exam calendar](#) for all upcoming paper and pencil exams
- ◆ Login to [myNCCHC](#) account and a new tab, **"Register for a CCHP Exam"** will be available on the left-hand side
- ◆ Candidates must take the exam within **6 months** of their application approval

Exam registration: Test Centers and Online

- ◆ Prometric will email approved candidates with instructions on how to register
- ◆ To find a test center near you, check NCCHCs website
- ◆ Candidates must take the exam within 6 months of application approval

Registration is available once the CCHP application is complete and approved.

Exam Development & Purpose

- ◆ The CCHP Board of Trustees develop the content outline and develop and review questions
- ◆ The exam is constructed in keeping with the published percentages
- ◆ The purpose of the exam is to measure a candidate's knowledge, understanding of:
 - ◆ National standards and guidelines
 - ◆ Basic legal principles
 - ◆ Ethical obligations and
 - ◆ The role of health care professionalsfor the practice and delivery of health care in the correctional environment

Content Outline for exam

(study proportionately)

- I. **Governance and Administration (20-25%)**
- II. Health Promotion, Safety, and Disease Prevention (10-15%)
- III. Personnel and Training (5-10%)
- IV. Ancillary Health Care Services (8-14%)
- V. **Patient Care and Treatment (15-20%)**
- VI. **Special Needs and Services (12-18%)**
- VII. Medical-legal issues (8-14%)

◇ *Sections I, V, and VI make up 47-63% of exam*

Exam Preparation

- ◆ What is the Standard? What is the intent of the Standard? Compliance indicators, definitions, timelines, discussion section
- ◆ Self-study and/or study groups
- ◆ Refer to the candidate handbook
- ◆ Use the reference materials
 - ◆ *Standards for Health Services in Prisons*
 - ◆ *Standards for Health Services in Jails*
 - ◆ *Standards for Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities*
 - ◆ *Correctional Health Care: Guidelines for the Management of an Adequate Delivery System* (free download)

Exam Preparation: Review Courses

- ◆ An In-Depth Review of NCCHC's 2018 Standards for Jails and Prisons Preconference Sessions at NCCHC Spring and Fall Conferences
- ◆ On-demand online review course: [NCCHC Standards: An Essential Resource Prep for Certification](#)
- ◆ [Standards Review and Exam Onsite At Your Location](#)

Exam Administration

- ◆ Proctored, written or computer-based examination
- ◆ 80 – 100 multiple-choice, objective questions
- ◆ Two hours to complete the exam
- ◆ Exams are offered throughout the year. Check NCCHCs website for the most up-to-date information

Exam Administration (cont'd)

NCCHC/Partner site

- ◆ NCCHC conferences
- ◆ NCCHC partner conferences
- ◆ Additional regional locations throughout the country

Test center/online

- ◆ Prometric ("SMT Notice")
 - ◆ Test centers for all CCHP types
 - ◆ Online via remote proctor***

Exam Scoring and Reporting

Maintaining CCHP Certification

- Annual recertification: 4 different cycles, depending on when you took the exam
- \$100 annual recertification fee
- CCHP benefits
- Recertification reminders
- Available online through NCCHC's website
- Continuing education requirement: 18 contact hours; 6 specific to correctional health care
- Maintain licensure
- Guidelines and FAQ's are available on NCCHC's website

Part II: Specialty Certifications: for qualified mental health professionals, physicians, and registered nurses



Eligibility Requirements

Current CCHP certification (all specialties)

CCHP-MH

CCHP-P

CCHP-RN

Education	Masters and above	MD or DO	n/a (diploma, associate or bachelor program for RN eligibility)
Licensure	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Experience	3 years f/t in corrections	3 years in corrections	2 years as an RN 2,000 hrs in corrections in last 3 years
Continuing education	n/a	n/a	54 hrs nursing CE: 18 correctional in last 3 years
Other	Definition of QMHP (NCCHC Standards)		

- Active professional licensure within a U.S. state (for Canada and U.S. territories, credentials will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis)

Elements of the Application

- ◆ Online application & signature
- ◆ Current copy of license and resume/CV

Study Materials

CCHP-MH

- ◇ Correctional Mental Health: From Theory to Best Practice
- ◇ How to Identify Suicidal People—A Systematic Approach to Risk Assessment
- ◇ Standards for Mental Health Services in Correctional Facilities

CCHP-P

- ◇ NCCHC position statements and other resources listed on the NCCHC webpage.
- ◇ General textbooks in internal medicine, pediatrics, mental health, correctional medicine, and others that address conditions and situations commonly encountered in a correctional environment

CCHP-RN

- ◇ Correctional Health Care: Guidelines for the Management of an Adequate Delivery System
- ◇ Correctional Nursing: Scope and Standard of Practice, 3rd Ed.
- ◇ Essentials of Correctional Nursing

Content Outline: CCHP-MH

- I. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (5%-10%)
- II. SAFETY (3%-7%)
- III. PERSONNEL AND TRAINING (7%-12%)
- IV. HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND SUPPORT (5%-10%)
- V. INMATE CARE AND TREATMENT (12%-18%)
- VI. HEALTH PROMOTION (3%-7%)
- VII. SPECIAL NEEDS AND SERVICES (12%-18%)
- VIII. CLINICAL RECORDS (4%-8%)
- IX. MEDICAL-LEGAL ISSUES (10%-15%)
- X. CORRECTIONAL MENTAL HEALTH: PAST AND FUTURE (4%-8%)
- XI. JUVENILES (8%-12%)

Content Outline: CCHP-P

- I. Clinical Management (30-40%)
- II. Security (3-5%)
- III. Mental Health (18-25%)
- IV. Public Health (6-12%)
- V. Legal and Ethical Issues (8-12%)
- VI. Administrative Issues (8-12%)

Content Outline: CCHP-RN

- I. Clinical Management of Inmate-Patients (45%-50%)
- II. Promotion of Safe and Secure Health Care Environment (5%-10%)
- III. Health Promotion and Maintenance (8%-12%)
- IV. Professional Role and Responsibilities (30%-35%)

Exam Preparation & Administration

- ◆ Refer to the candidate handbook
- ◆ Use the reference materials
- ◆ Proctored, written or computer-based examination
- ◆ CCHP-MH: 80-100 multiple-choice, objective questions
- ◆ CCHP-P & CCHP-RN: 70 – 100 multiple-choice, objective questions
- ◆ Two hours to complete the exam
- ◆ Exams are offered throughout the year. Check NCCHC's website for the most up-to-date information.

Exam Scoring and Reporting

Maintaining CCHP Specialty Certification

- Annual recertification: 4 different cycles, depending on when you took the exam
- \$100 annual recertification fee (includes CCHP)
- Recertification reminders
- Available online through NCCHC's website
- Continuing education requirement: 18 contact hours (mental health, medicine, nursing); 6 specific to correctional health care
- Maintain active licensure
- Guidelines and FAQ's are available on NCCHC's website

Certification Cycles

If you take the exam between:	Your certification becomes effective:	Annual Recertification due on or before:
January 1 – March 31	April 1 – March 31	March 31
April 1 – June 30	July 1 – June 30	June 30
July 1 – September 30	October 1 – September 30	September 30
October 1 – December 31	January 1 – December 31	December 31

Part III: CCHP-A: Advanced Certification for Seasoned Professionals



What Is Advanced CCHP Certification?

- ◆ Recognizes CCHPs who have demonstrated excellence, commitment, and contribution to the field of correctional health care and their relative discipline or profession.
- ◆ Designed to assess experience in and knowledge of the delivery of health care services in correctional environments.

Eligibility

- ◆ CCHP certified a minimum of 3 years
- ◆ Criterion-based approach: eligibility is based on one's achievements

Advanced Certification (CCHP-A): A 2-Step Process

1. Acceptance of the application
2. Successful completion of the examination

Elements of the Application

- I. Education & Training
- II. Employment
- III. Contribution to Profession
- IV. CCHP Performance & Quality of the Application

I. Education & Training

- ◆ Formal Education
- ◆ Licenses and Certificates
- ◆ Job-Related Skills and Techniques
- ◆ Continuing Education

II. Employment

- ◆ Time Spent in Health Care Profession
- ◆ Portion of Career Devoted to Correctional Health Care
- ◆ Responsibilities
- ◆ Professional Achievement
- ◆ Recognition

III. Contribution to the Profession

- ◆ Service to the field of Correctional Health Care
 - ◆ Membership in Professional Organizations
 - ◆ Scholarship and Teaching
 - ◆ Leadership
 - ◆ Mentorship
 - ◆ Publishing

IV. CCHP Performance & Quality of the Application

- ◆ Years of Tenure as a CCHP
- ◆ CCHP Performance
- ◆ Achievement of CCHP specialty
- ◆ Quality of Application
- ◆ Quality of Supporting Letters

Exam Content

- ◆ Proctored, written & computer-based examination
- ◆ 8 essay questions
- ◆ 4 hours to complete the exam
- ◆ Questions are designed to measure depth of complex issues with multiple factors to be considered and weighed
- ◆ 360-degree questions
- ◆ Study current issues
- ◆ 3 times a year at NCCHC conferences
and online by remote proctor

Preparing for the exam

- ◆ Journals
- ◆ *CorrectCare*
- ◆ Publications
- ◆ Presentations

Sample Question #1

During an administrative meeting with the Warden, you are informed that the facility has been designated to house a hospice unit, to care for the terminally ill inmates throughout the state prison system. The Warden asked you as the Health Administrator to create a plan for the development of this new unit.

Identify and discuss the systemic and operational issues that are involved in the creation of a hospice unit.

Answering the Question

- ◆ Dissect the elements of the question
 - ◆ Identify and discuss....
 - ◆the systemic and operational issues that are involved in the creation of a hospice unit.
- ◆ Tip: Create an outline to help organize thoughts...but answer as an essay
- ◆ Pace yourself..."not enough time"

Outline Your Answer

- ◇ Legal Issues
- ◇ State Licensing Regulation
- ◇ Stake Holders
- ◇ Advanced Directives
 - ◇ Living Will
 - ◇ DNR
- ◇ Medical Issues
- ◇ Staffing Issues
- ◇ Custody Issues
- ◇ Training
- ◇ Inmate Hospice Volunteers
- ◇ Visitation
- ◇ Structural Issues
- ◇ Interdisciplinary Team
- ◇ Funding
- ◇ Policy and Procedures
- ◇ Hospice Standards
- ◇ Other Issues ????

Exam Scoring and Reporting

Maintaining Advanced Certification

- ◆ Every three years, annual CCHP recertification
- ◆ Attendance at a state, regional or national conference or meeting on correctional health care is required. Please verify your attendance with appropriate documentation.
- ◆ Accomplishment of one or more of the following activities is required.
 - copy of published article | presentation | letter of appointment to office
 - copy of diploma | award recipient
 - | created or implemented a special program or project

"All labor that uplifts
humanity has dignity and
importance and should be
undertaken with painstaking
excellence."

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For more information, contact:

Matissa Sammons, MA, CCHP, Vice President, Certification

Erin Kabot, Certification Assistant

cchp@ncchc.org

www.ncchc.org