



**Smith Worth, LCSW, LCAS – North Carolina
State Opioid Treatment Authority, Retired
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

As the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) for North Carolina, Ms. Worth led with unparalleled dedication, ensuring access to high-quality treatment and recovery services that have transformed thousands of lives. Ms. Worth has not only strengthened North Carolina’s treatment infrastructure, but she has also been a guiding force for other SOTAs nationwide, serving as a regional representative for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD). Ms. Worth has helped shape best practices to advance the field on a national scale.

One of Ms. Worth’s most significant contributions has been her leadership in disaster preparedness and the implementation of North Carolina’s central registry. Additionally, she was instrumental in policy development, updating state rules to support opioid treatment programs’ innovation to meet the challenges in the post-COVID-19 opioid treatment landscape. A shining achievement prior to her retirement is that Ms. Worth made it possible for state rules to allow for the licensure of mobile and medication units in North Carolina. Ms. Worth demonstrates an admirable level of personal commitment to individuals and families affected by substance use disorder. The long, unconventional hours required to support programs during emergencies never deterred her. She remained voluntarily “on call” for providers during hurricanes, natural disasters, and even the pandemic. Ms. Worth carried out her work with grace and compassion, always prioritizing the wellbeing of those in need.