

As we all know, nurses, social workers, therapists and counselors all have continuing education requirements to meet in order to retain their licenses. However, when does continuing education become more important to you as a professional for reasons beyond just retaining your license? The most successful, fulfilled individuals invest in their careers on a regular basis. They attend educational seminars, read their professional journals, maintain an up-to-date specialized library, and stay abreast of the latest developments in their field. This is what true, dedicated professionals do especially when they are on the frontline of patient care and helping protect and save human lives.

We are now in the “Lazy Crazy Hazy Days of Summer.” Most of us want nothing more than to loll on the beach or lakeside, vacation and enjoy family. Summer, however, can also be a great time to consider how you can reset your career by simply boosting your education, training and professional credentials. The opportunities for case managers will only continue to grow. The question is will you be at your personal best so that you can capture the best opportunities? The competition is fierce. Here are some numbers to provide some perspective:

- There are over 100,000 professionals currently engaged in case management; a number that is expected to decrease due to our aging workforce.

- The Commission for Case Manager Certification (CCMC) estimates that Board-certified case managers now number over 40,000.

- CCMC states that the percentage of employers requiring board-certification has almost doubled since 2004 and is now over 40%.

Today, employers are transparent in saying they are seeking educated, trained and certified case managers. Whether you will be among those in greatest demand is largely up to you. Recognize that your professional development should be your top priority.