

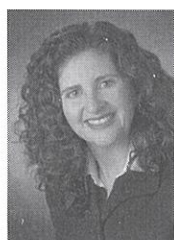
GUIDELINES | Ohio Counseling Association

The mission of OCA is to promote and advance the profession of counseling.



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3

SPRING 2006



A Message from Our President Dana Heller Levitt Counselors Aware

The mission of OCA is to promote and advance the profession of counseling.

This simple statement speaks volumes to the work that we do on a daily basis, as part of executive council, committees, chapters, and divisions. In our daily interactions with clients, students, and colleagues, we are ever advancing the counseling profession through our actions. Yet have a conversation with a non-counselor colleague, friend, or loved one, and an often-heard question is "What do you do?"

As counselors, we take an oath to help students, clients, consumers, the general public with various developmental and mental health-related concerns. We provide endless hours of individual, group, couples, and family counseling sessions. We advocate for the needs of our clients who cannot otherwise have their voices heard. We provide numerous outreach and education sessions in our schools and communities on relevant issues. Some of us have traveled to grief-stricken areas to offer support following tragedies. We lobby legislative bodies for parity in treatment and other resources to allow for the betterment of the general public. It is no wonder that we are exhausted at the end of a day's work.

In April, the American Counseling Association will launch its annual Counseling Awareness Month campaign. This month is dedicated to highlighting the benefits of counseling, how counselors serve their communities, and advocating for mental health needs. OCA has adopted the philosophy of Counseling Awareness Month and we are launching our own campaign. Public recognition of counseling as a profession does not happen without our attention to promoting the positive benefits and activities of our members. Committees within the executive council have created several awareness activities that will both highlight successful work of counselors and promote counseling services to the general public. Keep an eye out for articles in newspapers and listed for public service announcements on radio stations in your local areas. Many of you may be engaging in awareness activities as well. Please forward your efforts, successes, and ideas to us. You can send them to me directly at levitt@chio.edu, or to Sharon Leonard, our Public Relations Chair, at sherbonyo@sbcglobal.net.

Few counselors enter into the profession for the glamour, fame, and fortune. We enter into this profession for the intrinsic value of knowing that we are making a difference in others' lives. In addition to your efforts to promote and advance the profession of counseling in April (and hopefully throughout the year), take the time to promote yourself. Praise yourself for your tireless efforts. Praise a colleague publicly for his or her efforts to better the lives of others. And in that vain, thank you to all of our members for your tireless efforts to promote and advance the profession of counseling.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events	2
Bylaws Amendment	3
State House Report	4
Chapters and Divisions	6
CSWMFT Board Update	8
Executive Council	9
Donor Roll	10



Be sure to **VOTE!**

Information for a **bylaws amendment** is located on page 3 and the ballot is inside.



Ohio Counseling Association 2005-2006

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Guidelines

SPRING 2006: VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3

Guidelines is the Ohio Counseling Association's quarterly newsletter published for its members.

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and news.

Deadlines for submission are August 1; November 15; February 1; and May 2 of each year.

Advertisements and articles are subject to editorial approval and revision.

OCA reserves the right to reject any ad or article for any reason.

Please address correspondence and submissions to:

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OCA Guidelines Editor
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The Ohio Counseling Association is a branch of the American Counseling Association.

Upcoming Events

March 2006

29—*Pathways to Possibility: Working with "Resistant, Unmotivated, or Mandated" Clients*, Independence, OH, Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association*

30—**April 3**—American Counseling Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, for more information visit www.counseling.org/convention

April 2006

28—Supervision Summit, Columbus, OH, Ohio Association for Counselor Education and Supervision *

28—*Psychotherapy with "Impossible" Cases: The Efficient Treatment of Therapy Veterans*, Beachwood, OH, North Central Ohio Counselor Association, Counseling and Human Development Services Program at Kent, and the Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association*

May 2006

5—*Creativity and Groups: Counseling Methods that Work*, Toledo, OH, Northwest Ohio Counseling Association, Ohio Association for Specialist in Group Work, & the Department of Counseling and Mental Health Services at the University of Toledo*

5—Spring Conference, Youngstown, OH, East Ohio Counseling Association*

19—*Multicultural Counseling: Working with Diverse Populations*, Kettering OH, Miami Valley Counseling Association, Wright State University College of Education & Human Services and by the School of Professional Psychology*

19—*Integrating Treatments for PTSD*, North Canton, OH, Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association*

19—*Ethical Issues Involved in Addressing Spiritual/ Religious Values in Counseling*, Capital University, Columbus, OH, Ohio Association for Spiritual, Ethical, & Religious Values in Counseling*

19—Spring Conference, Wooster, OH, Ohio Career Development Association*

* For more information see the Chapters and Divisions Section on pages 6 and 7

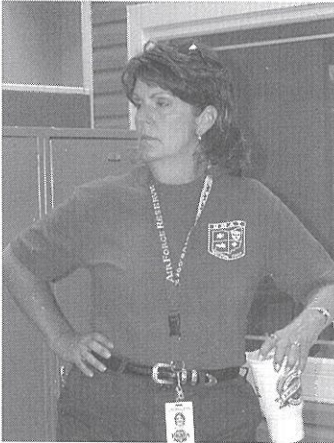
Join OCA for Life!

Effective July 2005, a **Lifetime Membership in OCA** is available. This new membership category was approved by the OCA Executive Council and voted on by OCA membership in the spring of this year. The OCA Finance Committee has set the Lifetime Membership fee at \$500.00 for 2005-06. This will provide members with the opportunity to be members of OCA for life, without ever needing to renew their membership! Please obtain the new OCA Membership Form by accessing the OCA website at www.ohiocounselingassoc.com

Another new OCA membership category is **Legacy Member** (what had previously been referred to as Lifetime Member). This is an honor extended only by the OCA Executive Council and reserved for those OCA members who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership to OCA during their careers.

REMEMBERING AMY EILER

By Carol Pohly



It was with great sadness that OCA members learned of the death of Amy Eiler, a former member of the OCA Executive Council, OMHCA, and the Miami Valley Counseling Association. Amy died of lung cancer in Florida on November 15, 2005. She was 54 years old.

Amy was one of those enthusiastic multi-taskers who brought energy and life to everything she did – and much of what she did was in support of counselors and the counseling profession. Amy managed a successful private practice in Dayton, Ohio where she counseled clients and supervised other counselors. As part of her private practice, she brought training in Thought-Field Therapy to the Dayton area. Later, before moving to Florida in July of 2005, she also worked for a year as a resource person for Kettering Hospital.

In addition to her work, Amy was very active in professional organizations. She sat on the Executive Board of the Miami Valley Counseling Association (MVCA), a chapter of OCA, for a number of years and served as president of MVCA in 1996-97 and again as co-president in 2000-2001. During those years, she was also an active member of the OCA Executive Council. In 2003-2004, Amy served as president of the Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association (OMHCA) and was instrumental in revitalizing that division. Amy Freadling, OMHCA's current president, states that Amy Eiler was responsible for recruiting all of OMHCA's current board members. Even after her presidency, Amy Eiler remained active on that board and was a key player in bringing several legislative issues to the foreground.

In the midst of all of this activity, Amy participated in one of her favorite areas of service – disaster relief. She served as chair of the Dayton Chapter of the Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Team for several years. She was also the leading mental health person on the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) – OH-5 for three years, traveling to various disaster sites in the United States and helping in the relief efforts in those areas. She was an instructor in the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training program and provided training for a number of organizations, including co-leading a 2-day training in this area for OCA in 2002. In addition, she founded a non-profit organization, the United Stress and Trauma Institute, in Dayton.

Amy was frequently involved in promoting the counseling profession through various activities such as participating in lobbying efforts, presenting at the AOCC, and speaking to counselor education classes. She was a person who was willing to work tirelessly behind the scenes, helping the organizations she belonged to and the people she worked with. Amy was a credit to our profession and a gift to all those whose lives she touched. For that, we are grateful. She will be sorely missed.



BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Jane Cox, Bylaws Chair

Addition of the Technology Committee as a Standing Committee of OCA

The OCA By-laws Committee requests your vote on the following OCA bylaws amendment which was approved by the OCA Executive Council in January 2006.

Article IX – Committees

Section 1.

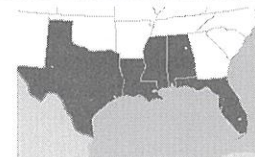
k. The Technology Committee shall address OCA technology-related matters. The committee will advise the person maintaining the OCA website.

DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING

Please use the ballot insert in this newsletter to vote for the proposed by-laws change. **Ballots must be post-marked by May 15, 2006**

OCA Members

If you traveled to the Gulf Coast to assist with hurricane relief efforts, please contact Sharon Leonard, OCA Public Relations chair at sheribonyo@sbcglobal.net





OCA Lobbyists (L to R) Amanda Sines, Carolyn Towner, and Kristy Smith

Ohio General Assembly

The Ohio General Assembly is in the second session of the 126th Ohio General Assembly. Since 2006 is an election year, the Ohio General Assembly is expected to be in a lot the first half of the year and then out in the Summer as the legislators campaign for re-election. All members of the Ohio House of Representatives and one-half of the members of the Ohio Senate are up for re-election; all Statewide office holders are also up for election.

The budget corrections bill is expected to be introduced in early March, so the Governor can sign the bill by March 31, 2006. The licensure boards that were destined for an umbrella agency are expected to receive their budgets for 2007 in the budget corrections bill; however, language is to be included allowing the next Governor to decide whether or not the licensure boards should be placed under one agency or left as independent boards.

Senator Stivers Returns from Iraq

After a one year tour of duty in Iraq, Senator Steve Stivers (R – Columbus) has returned to the Ohio Senate. He got back in December, 2005. Stivers has been named the Chairman of the Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee. Senator Jay Hottinger (R – Newark) had been filling in for Stivers while he was away. Stivers will need to be brought up to speed on mental health parity and other OCA issues. Please take the time to write Stivers welcoming him back and educating him on our legislative priorities.

Redfern Named Chair of Democratic Party in Ohio

State Representative Chris Redfern (D – Catawba) was the winner of the Ohio Democratic Party Chairmanship in December. Redfern bested his two contenders, Dennis Lieberman, a Dayton attorney, and Cincinnati businessman Stephen Reece, by wide margins. Redfern has stepped down from his position as the House Minority Leader to devote his time to the Chairmanship, but will still remain a member of the Ohio House of Representatives.

Representative Joyce Beatty to Lead House Democrats

The Ohio House Democrats named Representative Joyce Beatty (D - Columbus) as the leader of the House Democratic Caucus. She is believed to be the first woman ever elected to the post for the Democrats. Beatty is a small businesswoman who owns Joyce Beatty & Associates, Inc., a strategic planning and diversity training firm, and Pieces to Wear, an upmarket clothing store in downtown Columbus. Beatty, who grew up in Dayton, is married to former State Representative Otto Beatty, Jr.

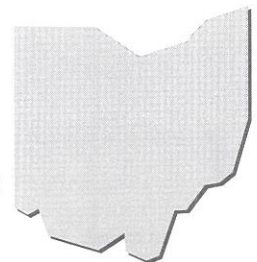
Representative Todd Book (D – Portsmouth) was selected to serve as Assistant Minority Leader, which Beatty had held. Book, 37, is an attorney and small businessman. He and his father co-own Old Hickory Golf Co., Ltd., which conducts old fashioned golf outings using hickory shafted clubs, period clothing and old style golf balls. He has also served at Shawnee State University as an adjunct faculty member. He is married with two children.

Kearney Replaces Mallory

Eric Kearney was chosen by Senate Democrats to fill the 9th District Senate seat vacated by Senator Mark Mallory, who was elected Mayor of Cincinnati. Kearney is a Cincinnati lawyer and CEO of Sesh Communications, a firm that publishes African American newspapers, including the Cincinnati Herald, the Dayton Defender and Our Week. Additionally, Kearney has been a partner in the Cincinnati law firm, Cohen, Todd, Kit & Stanford, LLC. He is also a current special master/trustee in the Fernald II Workers Settlement Fund which oversees the processing of more than 3,000 workers' claims and awards. Mallory was also on the Senate Minority Leadership Team. Senator Kimberly Zurz (D – Uniontown) will replace Mallory as Assistant Minority Leader.

Representative Dale Miller Appointed to Senator Dan Brady's Seat

State Representative Dale Miller (D-Cleveland) has been selected by the Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus to replace Senator Dan Brady. Senator Brady (D – Cleveland) has accepted a position as Senior Advisor to newly-elected Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson. Brady plans to resign from the Ohio Senate at the end of February. Brady was elected to the Ohio Senate in 1999 and served in the Ohio House for three years prior to the Senate. Brady had served with Mayor Jackson for ten years on the Cleveland City Council.



(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

Representative Miller has served in the Ohio House of Representatives for eight years representing the 14th Ohio House District. Miller had planned to run for Senator Brady's Senate seat this November because both Brady and Miller were term-limited.

Hearing on Mental Health Hold Legislation

On February 8, 2006, a proponent hearing was held on Senate Bill 213, sponsored by State Senator Patty Clancy (R – Cincinnati). Senate Bill 213 will amend the current mental health hold law that applies to psychiatrists, psychologists, physicians, health officers, parole officers, police officers, and sheriffs to allow a licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC) to take a person into custody and immediately transport the person to a hospital where the person may be held if the LPCC has reason to believe the person is mentally ill and represents a substantial risk of physical harm to their self or others if allowed to remain at liberty pending examination. The transporting LPCC would be required to give the hospital a written statement stating the circumstances under which such person was taken into custody and the reasons for the LPCC's belief.

The Sponsor hearing on the bill was held on January 11, 2006, where Senator Clancy gave her sponsor testimony.

At the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee on February 8, 2006, the bill was substituted to make technical changes and Carol Pohly, the Government Affairs Chair for OCA and a private clinical counselor, and Bob Wilson, a professor at the University of Cincinnati and counselor at a free clinic for the homeless, testified as proponents of the legislation and explained to the Committee members why the legislation should be enacted.

On March 1, 2006, Cornelia R. Wilson, a licensed professional clinical counselor and an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), who is employed as a professor of Nursing at the University of Cincinnati and who opened a free clinic for the homeless and indigent mentally ill of Cincinnati, testified as a proponent of Senate Bill 213.

In a letter dated February 6, 2006, Kenneth Miller, M.D., the Chair of the Government Relations Committee for the Ohio Psychiatric Association (OPA), distributed a letter to the Chair and members of the Senate Health Committee concerning Senate Bill 213 stating *"that although the Committee was not taking an official position in opposition to the bill.... the Ohio Psychiatric Association is concerned that an expansion of the list of those professionals trained and educated to take people into custody and transported to the hospital for care could affect the quality of care provided to individuals in need of specialized psychiatric care. We also believe that current law and practice already addresses the need for allowing qualified individuals this authority through local mental health agencies that have the power to designate local health officers. This procedure establishes a clear process, with appropriate oversight, for determining who should be allowed to transport an individual to the hospital for care."*

On March 8, 2006 the Senate Bill 213, mental health hold legislation, was unanimously reported out of the Senate Health Committee. It will now go to the Senate Rules Committee until it is scheduled for a vote on the Senate Floor. We need counselors to write their State Senators asking them to support Senate Bill 213. Letters can be sent to your Senators at the following address:

The Honorable _____
Ohio Senate
State House
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator _____:

Prevention Standards Rules of Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services

The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADS) has finally refiled their Prevention Standards rules with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). These rules were refiled February 13, 2006 and then again on February 22, 2006. ODADS did amend rule 3793:5-1-05, pursuant to comments by the Ohio Counseling Association and the Ohio School Counselors Association to include school educators and school counselors in the rule; Professional Clinical Counselor's and Professional Counselor's have been included all along.

Anyone who would like to review these rules can go to www.registerofohio.state.oh.us and then go to rules 3793:5-1-01 through 07 or go to www.odadas.state.oh.us under the Legal/Legislative section. The rules will be reviewed by JCARR on March 13th. The rules should be adopted in about 30 days. These rules were originally filed last year and the public hearing was held last year.

Chapters and Divisions



Ohio Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (OACES)

Lynne Guillot Miller, President

On February 17, 2006 OACES held its Winter Business Meeting in Columbus. Highlights of the meeting included an update on the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board provided by Jim Rough, CSWMFT Board Executive Director, and Susan Norris Huss, Chairperson of the Counselor Professional Standards Committee, the adoption of an OACES position statement regarding proposed changes to rule 4757-13-01(A)(1) (c) regarding faculty licensure requirements for counselor education programs in Ohio, and last, but certainly not least, a panel of students provided information to attendees regarding their preferences in courses and supervision.

OACES will host its Supervision Summit on **Friday, April 28, 2006** in Columbus at the Concourse Hotel and Conference Center from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Summit in coordination with OCA provides participants with 7 CE credits, networking opportunities, and valuable information on supervision, ethics, and counselor education. For more information visit the OACES website, www.ohio-aces.org, or contact Lynne Guillot Miller at lguillot@kent.edu.

Ohio Career Development Association (OCDA)

Erin Corwin, President Elect

OCDA is hosting their Spring Conference on **Friday, May 19, 2006** at the Shisler Center at ATI in Wooster, Ohio. Dr. Mark Savikas will be the featured presenter. Dr. Mark Savikas will focus on his work utilizing narrative models and methods of career counseling. He will discuss and demonstrate practical techniques attendees will be able to utilize in their work.

Dr. Mark Savikas is professor and chair in the Behavioral Sciences Department at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Counselor Education at Kent State University. His 80 articles, 40 book chapters, and 500 presentations to professional groups have dealt with vocational behavior and career counseling. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Educational and Vocational Guidance and as President-Elect of the Counseling Psychology Division (16) in the International Association of Applied Psychology.

For more information visit Gail Michalski at gmichalski@auburncc.org.

Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association (OMHCA)

Amy Freadling, President

The Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association is pleased to be a co-sponsor of the following professional development opportunities:

**Pathways to Possibility: Working with "Resistant, Unmotivated, or Mandated" Clients.* Presenter Scott Miller, Ph.D.
Wednesday, March 29, 2006. Independence, OH.

**Psychotherapy with "Impossible" Cases: The Efficient Treatment of Therapy Veterans.* Presenter Barry L. Duncan, Psy.D.
Friday, April 28, 2006. Beachwood, OH.

Integrating Treatments for PTSD.* Presenter Louise Gaston, Ph.D. **Friday, May 19, 2006. North Canton, OH.

OMHCA members will receive a discounted registration fee for the aforementioned workshops. OMHCA is committed to providing quality continuing educational opportunities, and will strive to target all areas of the state. For more information, please visit OMHCA's website at www.ohmhca.org or contact me, Amy Freadling, at afreadling@marymount.org.

North Central Ohio Counselor Association (NCOCA), the Counseling and Human Development Services Program at Kent State University, and Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association (OHMCA)

Susan Paez, President

NCOCA is hosting a presentation by Barry Duncan, Psy.D titled *Psychotherapy with "Impossible" Cases: The Efficient Treatment of Therapy Veterans*. Dr. Duncan has co-authored several books including *The Heroic Client: Doing Client-Directed, Outcome-Informed Therapy*, *What's Right with You: Debunking Dysfunction and Changing Your Life*, *Psychotherapy with Impossible Cases: The Efficient Treatment of Therapy Veterans*, and *the Heart and Soul of Change: What Works in Therapy*.

Please mark your calendars for **Friday, April 28, 2006**. This event, co-sponsored by the Counseling and Human Development Services Program at Kent State University and Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association (OMHCA), will take place at the Embassy Suites in Beachwood.

For additional information, please visit the OHMCA website, www.ohmhca.org or contact Susan Paez at spaez@kent.edu.



Chapters and Divisions

Miami Valley Counseling Association (MVCA)

John Swank

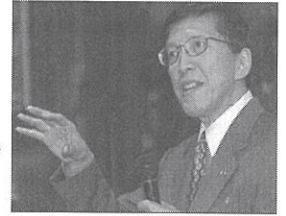
The Miami Valley Counseling Association (MVCA) is excited to be hosting Dr. D. Wing Sue for a 6-hour workshop on **May 19, 2006** in Dayton. This world-renowned pioneer in the field of Multicultural Education and Counseling will present *Multicultural Counseling: Working with Diverse Populations*

Dr. Sue is considered one of the top authorities on multicultural diversity in the United States. He has authored numerous books and articles. Two of Dr. Sue's books, *Counseling the Culturally Diverse: Theory and Practice* (2003) and *Overcoming Our Racism: The Journey to Liberation*, have been identified as the most frequently cited works in the multicultural field; the former is now considered a classic.

After procuring the services of Dr. Sue, the MVCA invited The Wright State University College of Education & Human Services and The School of Professional Psychology to join in sponsoring this major workshop.

The cost of this workshop will be \$85 for members and \$100 for non-members. The cost includes a noon meal and refreshments. CEU's have been applied for in the following specialties in addition to Counseling: Psychology, Social Work, EAP, Marriage and Family Counseling, and Chemical Dependency.

Registration information and brochures are available by contacting John Swank at 937-339-9876 or swankcouns@aol.com



Dr. D. Wing Sue

Northwest Ohio Counseling Association (NWOCA), Ohio Association for Specialists in Group Work (OASGW), and University of Toledo

Christopher Roseman, President (NWOCA)

Northwest Ohio Counseling Association (NWOCA), Ohio Association for Specialists in Group Work (OASGW), and University of Toledo will host a spring workshop **Friday, May 5, 2006** featuring *Dr. Sam Gladding*, American Counseling Association, Past President (2004-2005). The workshop is titled *Creativity and Groups: Counseling Methods that Work*. The workshop's location is the University of Toledo, College of Health and Human Services Building (off the Bancroft entrance) Toledo, OH. For directions visit www.utoledo.edu.

Participants will learn:

- How to be creative in leading a group of any sort, but especially a counseling group
- What creative methods work best in a group setting and with what populations (e.g., children, adolescence, adults),
- How to apply creative techniques most effectively, keeping group stages in mind.
- Advantages and disadvantages of the use of specific creative techniques.

The University of Toledo will provide 6 CE credits. Registration table opens at 8:30 AM. Dr. Sam Gladding will present from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM with a lunch break from 12:00-1:00. Lunch is on your own. The deadline for registrations is April 25, 2006. For more information contact Jean Underfer-Babalis at JeanUB@destinedformore.com

East Ohio Counseling Association

Jennifer Jones, President

East Ohio Counseling Association (EOCA) and the Department of Counseling at Youngstown State University will host a Spring Conference on **May 5, 2006** from 8:00 am—4:00 pm. The conference will be held at McKay Auditorium at Youngstown State University. The topic of the morning presentation will be play therapy featuring Dr. Jennifer Jordan. Dr. Jordan is a faculty member at Youngstown State University. For more information contact Jennifer Jones at jjones9@kent.edu.

Ohio Association for Spiritual, Ethical, & Religious Values in Counseling (OASERVIC)

Donna Menigat, President

OASERVIC will host a workshop on **May 19, 2006** from 1:00—4:00 pm at Capital University in Columbus, OH. The workshop titled *Ethical Issues Involved in Addressing Spiritual/Religious Values in Counseling* will feature Dr. Marsha Wiggins Frame. Dr. Frame has published 30+ journal articles and book chapters and has recently published the book *Integrating Religion & Spirituality in Counseling*. She is currently Chair and Associate Professor in the Division of Counseling Psychology and Counselor Education at the University of Colorado, Denver. Additionally she serves on the editorial board for the *Counseling & Values and the Family Journal*. For more information visit the event section at www.oaservic.org.

State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board

Below are two memorandums from James Rough, Executive Director of the Ohio CSWMFT Board. Among the changes that have taken place in the last year are an on-line renewal system. Licensed counselors can renew on-line with a credit card. See www.cswmft.ohio.gov for more information.



State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board

50 W. Broad St., Suite 1425
Columbus, OH 43215-5919
614-466-6462 – Fax 614-728-7790
www.cswmft.ohio.gov – cswmft.info@cswb.state.oh.us

January 23, 2006

To: All Persons Interested in Professional Counselor Examinations
From: James Rough, Executive Director
RE: Examination Changes

The Counselor Professional Standards Committee voted on January 20, 2006 to modify the examination process as follows.

- Effective March 1, 2006 individuals applying for the LPC license will be required to take the NCE licensure examination through NBCC. Effective immediately all persons currently scheduled for the PCLE will have the option to take the PCLE or the NCE.
- Effective March 1, 2006 any individual applying for the LPCC will be required to take the NCMHCE. Only licensed PCs will be eligible to take the NCMHCE and will need to apply for approval. All PCs licensed through passage of the single tier Ohio PCLE examinations will be grandparented from this requirement.
- Anyone who failed the PCLE will be required to pass the NCE to be eligible for licensure. The 90 day waiting period to take the next examination still applies.
- Anyone required to complete a remediation plan will still need to do so. If you are on a remediation plan and wish to modify your plan please submit your request in writing to the board. All remediation plans and or changes must be approved in advance.

Should you have any questions please call Rena Elliott or Simeon Frazier at 614-466-6462.

To: All Counselor Programs and Associations
From: James Rough, Executive Director
Date: January 25, 2006
Re: Child Custody Issues

The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board has seen a marked increase in the number of complaints involving child custody evaluations. The largest number of these complaints has been registered against professional clinical counselors. Approximately a year and a half ago, Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-6-01 was put into place to try to stem the problem but it does not seem to have been successful. The Board is asking the counselor education programs to consider addressing this issue in the classroom setting.

The issue is one of defining which role a therapist is providing: the role of the child therapist versus a custody evaluator. This needs to be understood by all licensed mental health professionals.

We would encourage all licensed individuals under this Board's jurisdiction to review OAC 4757-6-01. A therapist who is the primary therapist to a child should not be making a custody evaluation or recommendation unless ordered to do so by the court. Too often the therapist is asked (or manipulated) to make a custody recommendation by the custodial parent. The purpose of the request is usually in order for that parent to gain support in court for purposes of custody/visitation/child support. While we would encourage licensees to read the entire rule, OAC 4757-6-01(F) states "Although the court may require the counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist to testify as a fact witness regarding factual information he or she became aware of in a professional relationship with a client, that counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist should generally decline the role of expert witness who gives a professional opinion regarding custody and visitation issues unless ordered by the court to do so."

Often the therapist makes statements with regard to the non-custodial parent even if they have never met this parent and this parent has not been present for the counseling sessions. In fact OAC 4757-5-01(B)(2)(f) specifically states "a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist shall not make any recommendations to courts, attorneys or other professionals regarding non-clients". The role of the child's primary therapist is to provide support and therapy; this does not include interjecting into a legal proceeding with an opinion unless required to do so by the court. The Board will take disciplinary action against those licensees who have failed to maintain appropriate standards of care in this area.

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