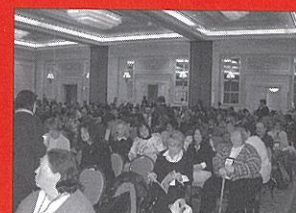
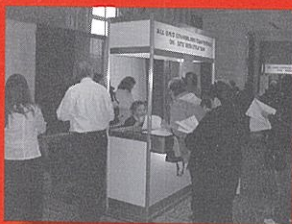


Guidelines | Ohio Counseling Association

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



VOLUME 34, NUMBER 2
WINTER 2008



Presidential Reflections

Daniel R. Cruikshanks, Ph.D., PCC, NCC
President, OCA

As I finally sit down to write this piece for this issue of Guidelines, I'm looking out on the snowy aftermath of our first big winter storm, and I'm thinking "What has happened to this year?!" It seems like just yesterday that many of us were together at the All Ohio Counselors Conference (AOCC), but that was almost two months ago and now the holidays have come and gone. Like many of you who I have talked with, I am feeling overwhelmed by time. When I began my term in July, I had this idea that there would be plenty of time to accomplish my goals and agenda, and now as I near the half way mark, I wonder if I will accomplish anything worth noting. Most of the time what I *feel* that I have accomplished more than anything else is being late – I recently commented to one student that this will be carved on my headstone: He was late. But as I reflect on the past few months, these feelings are a reflection of the degree to which there simply has been a lot going on in OCA.

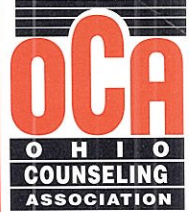
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Of course the most notable and obvious example of our recent activity was our recent AOCC. By all accounts, the 2007 AOCC was a great success. Those of you who attended noticed a number of changes that we implemented in our ongoing effort to improve on what already is a great annual event. By combining the Keynote presentation with the awards luncheon, and offering education sessions earlier in the morning, we were able to dramatically improve traffic flow. While it is at times still tight, many commented positively that they noticed a difference. Also, although some felt restricted in their choices of sessions, many appreciated the distinction made between those sessions specifically approved for CEU's for the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapy Board (CSWMFTB) and those for School Counselors.

"Reflections" continues on page 5

Ohio Counseling Association 2007-2008



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Guidelines

WINTER 2008: VOLUME 34, NUMBER 2

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.

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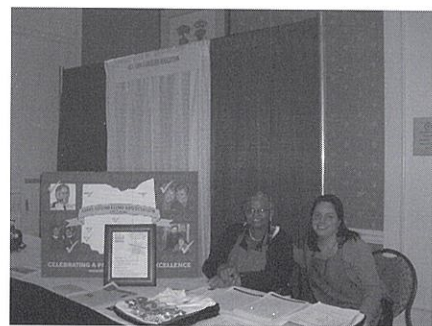
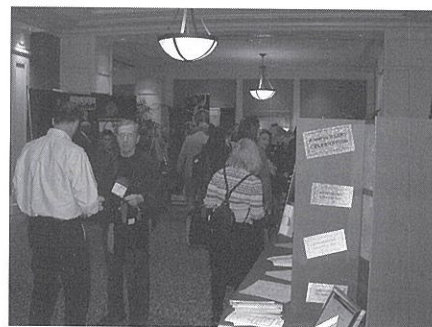
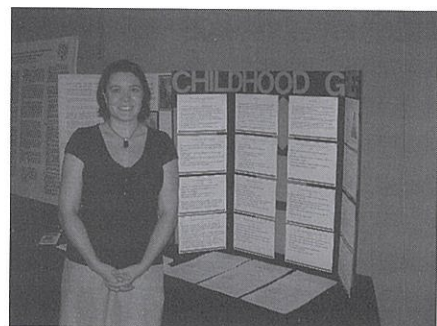
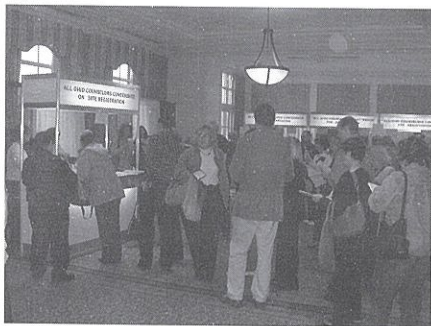
The Ohio Counseling Association is a branch of the American Counseling Association.

Join OCA for Life!

A **Lifetime Membership in OCA** is now available for a one time membership fee of \$500. This will allow individuals to become 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.ohiocounseling.org.

Another new 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 during their careers.

Remembering the 2007 All Ohio Counselors Conference



2007 Ohio Counseling Association Award Winners

Presented at the All Ohio Counselors Conference Awards Luncheon



CHARLES "CHUCK" WEAVER AWARD—Paula Dupuy, Ph.D.

For long, consistent, and distinguished service to the counseling profession and exemplary caring for people.

DAVID BROOKS AWARD—Martin Ritchie, Ph.D.

To one who has demonstrated a willingness to serve and take responsibility, while creating new paths in the counseling profession.

HERMAN J. PETERS AWARD—Kathleen Salyers, Ph.D.

To one who promotes innovative ideas and theories in the counseling field and has a significant impact on future trends.

SUSAN J. SEARS COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR—Jason Miller, Ph.D.

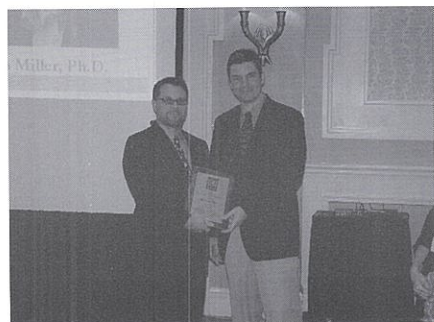
To one who has gone beyond the call of duty by demonstrating exceptional service as a practitioner and/or counselor educator, through the application of OCA goals.

RESEARCH & WRITING AWARD—Rob Schwartz, Ph.D.

To one who has demonstrated extraordinary research and writing ability, as evidenced by journal publications for the counseling profession.

PUBLIC POLICY & LEGISLATION AWARD—Carolyn Towner

To one who has demonstrated excellent advocacy by engaging in meaningful lobbying on behalf of the counseling profession.



“Reflections” continued

This change was necessary to address concerns raised by the board that previously we were awarding CEU's for sessions that did not meet CSWMFTB criteria. This simple change allows OCA to maintain its CEU provider status. You might also have noticed that we added 90 minute sessions. Presenters seemed to appreciate the option of the longer format, and preliminary feedback suggests that participants appreciated the extra time for those sessions. Finally you might have noticed us running into some sessions with recording devices. We were very pleased to have the opportunity to record nearly thirty sessions and we are in the process of reviewing these for publication in our forthcoming online CEU program. We are hoping to begin making these available to you starting in January 2008. If you missed a session (because, of course, there were so many tough choices!), then there is a chance that you will be able to catch it online early next year.

We were really pleased to have so much positive feedback about AOCC as it affirms our efforts. A good number of you joined us for the awards luncheon and heard our Keynote by Dr. Tom Sweeney, Executive Director of Chi Sigma Iota. Dr. Sweeney gave a wonderful and passionate presentation on counselor identity with a historical theme that reminded us of how fortunate we are in Ohio to have had the leadership in years past that gives us the distinction today of being among the strongest states in the nation when it comes to the field of counseling. Dr. Sweeney has been a passionate leader of our field for many years and continues to be a great supporter of counselors. This was evidenced by Dr. Sweeney's generous gift of giving his speaking stipend back to Ohio Counselors, which will be shared by OCA and OSCA. I anticipate use of this gift to create a student award program to begin next year. On behalf of all Ohio Counselors, I want to thank Dr. Sweeney for his generosity. In addition, I want to thank all of our presenters, and especially our special guests, Dr. Jane Myers and Dr. Jill Onedera who graciously gave of their time for us. I have heard nothing but good comments about all of the sessions offered this year.



In addition to our efforts with the conference this fall, we have been working on a number of other projects that may be less obvious but no less valuable to you. Plans continue for our second Legislative Advocacy Day on April 15, 2008. I am pleased to be able to announce that, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Kathleen Salyers, chair of the OCA Government Relations Committee, Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland will be our keynote speaker for this event. On the technology front, OCA webmaster Stephanie Burns and I have been working on further improvements to the website. Earlier this year I asked Stephanie to investigate and develop a method for online application, renewal, and payment for OCA membership as well as forthcoming online CEU's. Despite some reservations about her abilities for this level of web authoring, she ran with this and we now have this technology up and running. During the past five months, Stephanie has done tremendous work taking what was already a good website and making it much better. Please take a moment to visit the site and check out the new features, and feel free to shoot the webmaster your compliments – she's volunteered her time and done all of this while working on her Ph.D. in Counselor Education.

“Reflections” continues on page 12

Chapters and Divisions

Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association (GCCA)

John Burik, President

Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association president John Burik, Professional Clinical Counselor, hosted the **32nd Annual GCCA Winter Workshop** featuring Sam Gladding, Robert Wubbolding, Paul and Darcy Granello, Geoff Yaeger and Cori Wilson. The workshop welcomed Mental Health and School Counselors as well as chemical dependency, social work and psychology colleagues from Ohio and Kentucky. The workshop was held on the campus of Xavier University January 4-5, 2008.

GCCA is planning the **2nd annual Counselor Recognition Gala for April 2008**. The subcommittee consists of GCCA President-elect Al Lewis, Jan Danner and Melissa Fischer. For more information about GCCA, visit the website at www.cincycounseling.com.

Ohio Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (OACES)

Jean Underfer-Babalis, President

OACES has been focusing this year on supervision. A taskforce for the specific purpose of increasing the benefits and services to supervisors was created in hopes that more supervisors will join OACES. We are committed to the fields of both supervision and counselor education and therefore want to investigate how supervision and counselor education impact one another. With this in mind, as well as the recent rule changes regarding supervision that were initiated by the Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapy Board (CSWMFTB), OACES has decided to create a task force that will convene this January in Columbus to consider what impact or effect OACES may have in this regard.

Bylaws review and revision has been another focus for OACES with Colette Dollarhide working diligently in this regard. Please consult our web site to see what changes have been suggested to make the bylaws congruent with OCA and ACES bylaws.

If the end of February comes and you have the winter blues or SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder), OACES has just the remedy for you—our **annual Winter meeting**. This year will feature Susan Norris-Huss, Ph.D., PC-S, and a member of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapy Board who will present on, **“Trends of Ethical Concerns in Supervision.”** In addition, a distinguished panel will follow Dr. Huss’ presentation and address the topic, **“Ethical Considerations for the Future of Counselor Education and Supervision.”** Three CEU’s are being offered for this event that occurs on **February 29, 2008** from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at The Concourse Hotel at the Columbus Airport. Preregistration is \$45 for OACES members and \$65 for non-members (same day registration is higher).

Please visit the web site or contact Jean Underfer-Babalis at jean_underferbabalis@yahoo.com.

Midwest Leadership Conference
Thelma Greaser, OCA Past-President
Megan Mahon, OCA Membership Committee

The American Counseling Association's Midwest Leadership conference was held October 4-6, 2007, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Midwest Region of ACA is made up of thirteen states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. If you are an ACA member in any of these states, you are automatically a member of the ACA Midwest Region.

Representatives from each Midwest state attend this annual regional conference and this year's representatives from Ohio were Thelma Greaser (past Ohio Counseling Association President) and Megan Mahon (OCA membership committee). Ohio had strong representation this year with attendance by OCA members Tara Hill, Amber Lange, Christy Jenkins, and Jean Underfer-Babalis, who is also Midwest President-Elect.



The Midwest Leadership Conference gives state branch representatives a chance to collaborate and share ideas with each other. There are opportunities to attend various presentations ranging from leadership development to ethics. States also share stories of successes and failures and offer support to each other. This intimate conference allows for personal interaction between ACA state branch representatives, as well as opportunities to have one-on-one discussion with our ACA national leaders. Participating in the conference this year were ACA President Dr. Brian Canfield and President-Elect Dr. Colleen Logan. Dr. Canfield shared his vision for ACA and his goals for this year and Dr. Logan discussed the importance of counselor leadership and social advocacy. Both of these leaders expressed their interest in connecting with ACA members, listening to their concerns and ideas, and receiving input. Also present this year was Scott Barstow from the ACA Public Policy Office. Scott gave attendees a legislative update and tips on how to actively advocate for the counseling profession.

The 2008 Midwest Leadership conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois, during the first week in October and all Ohio counselors are encouraged to attend. Not only is it a great way to network with other counselors and learn more about the profession, but there are also opportunities to present at this conference and show other states what Ohio counselors know! More information is available about the conference on the ACA web site. You can also address any questions to those who attended the conference this year. Hope to see you all in the Windy City in 2008!

Ohio Statehouse Report Towner Policy Group



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

Members Urged to Contact House Members

Senator Patty Clancy (R – Cincinnati) reintroduced the Ohio Counseling Association's mental health hold legislation early this year, Senate Bill 53. Senate Bill 53 would 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 have a person taken into custody and 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 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. Senate Bill 53 passed the Ohio Senate on March 20, 2007 by a vote of 26 – 7.

The bill is now being considered by the Ohio House of Representatives in the House Health Committee. On October 3, 2007, Carol Pohly, a private practice LPCC from Kettering, and Connie Wilson, a LPCC and APN with the University of Cincinnati, testified before the Committee. Both Carol and Connie did an excellent job testifying and responding to questions. State Representative Barbara Boyd was interested in whether this bill could help prevent an incident like what happened in Cleveland Heights regarding a police officer shot by a mental health patient. Representative Letson kept emphasizing the role police officers play and whether or not it would be better to give more training to police officers, so they can better identify the need for transport to hospitals.

Connie Wilson stressed that police must see the behavior themselves in order to transport an individual. Mrs. Wilson said she has had officers refuse to transport someone when she has called them. Carol Pohly explained to the Committee that counselors are not asking for the authority to admit an individual to a hospital involuntarily, but are merely trying to be able to sign the form so the patient can be transported to the hospital where further evaluation can be made.

The Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association submitted written testimony saying that it and the Ohio State Medical Association oppose passage of the bill, explaining that the list of those who can initiate a civil commitment process should not be expanded because Ohio law already permits more people to do this than most states and because Ohio has a more expanded basis for such commitment.

With Senator Clancy leaving the Senate, it has become increasingly important that all counselors work to get this bill passed and signed into law. Without a bill sponsor to push the legislation with the members of the House, the bill could be put on the back burner indefinitely. The members of the House of Representatives, particularly the members of the House Health Committee need to hear from their constituents, so they know that the issue is important. The bill faces opposition from the Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association, a group that is very effective in grassroots advocacy. OCA needs to make sure to counter that opposition.

Continued next page

Towner Policy Group has been meeting with members of the House Health Committee to answer any questions and clarify the purpose of the SB 53. Counselors are strongly urged to do their part and contact their State Representatives and members of the House Health Committee to ask them to support Senate Bill 53. Counselors should explain why this bill is needed and the problems counselors have had in the past having someone sign the mental health hold form for them. If you do not know who your legislators are you may find out using your zip code at www.legislature.state.oh.us. Letters may be addressed as follows:

The Honorable _____
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative _____:



Patton Introduces Outpatient Treatment Bill

In response to a tragic incident in Cleveland Heights in which police officer Jason West was killed by a person suffering from mental illness, Representative Tom Patton (R – Strongsville) has introduced House Bill 299.

HB 299 would create a procedure to require patients with mental illness to receive treatment and take their medications. According to reports, the person responsible for the death of Officer West had a history of refusing medical treatment and not taking medications to control the illness. In honor of Officer West the bill will be known as “Jason’s Law.”

HB 299 is modeled after laws that have passed in New York (Kendra’s Law) and California (Laura’s Law). The bill allows the courts to issue an order to mandate that a person receive assisted outpatient treatment and/or take medication for their illness. Each Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services would be required to establish and maintain an assisted outpatient treatment program and employ mental health professionals to provide the treatment. Included in the definition of “mental health professional” is a “professional clinical counselor, or a professional counselor under the supervision of a psychologist, psychiatrist, professional clinical counselor, or independent social worker, licensed under Chapter 4757 of the Revised Code.”

The bill has been referred to the House Health Committee. Representative Patton gave sponsor testimony on the bill on October 10, 2007. He explained his reasons for introducing the bill and told the story of Jason West. Patton said there are eight mandatory elements in the eligibility standard in the bill, including that the person is unlikely to survive safely in the community without care, the patient is in need of treatment in order to prevent a relapse or deterioration, and the person has a recent history of either multiple hospitalizations or violent behavior due to non-treatment.

“Statehouse Report” continues on page 10

“Statehouse Report” continued

He said studies from similar programs in other states showed the program reduced hospitalization, homelessness, arrest, harmful behavior and incarceration. He claimed the most common reason for people with mental illness not to be treated is that they believe they don't need treatment. The Coalition for Healthy Communities discussed this bill at the last meeting in October. Many members of the Coalition had concerns with the bill and what it will actually accomplish. They feared that the bill only addresses the symptoms of mental illness and didn't provide a holistic solution. They are also concerned that there is not an appropriation attached to the bill.

House Passes Healthcare Simplification Act

After 12 committee hearings and 14 interested party meetings, the House Civil and Commercial Law Committee amended and passed Substitute House Bill 125, the Healthcare Simplification Act, on October 9, 2007. Later that same day, the Ohio House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 91-5. The bill is now pending before the Senate Judiciary on Civil Justice Committee, where hearings have begun. Interested party meetings have also begun in the Senate.

House Bill 125, sponsored by Representative Matt Huffman (R – Lima), remedies many of the administrative demands providers face in their interactions with insurers. In the House, it was a hard fought battle between the provider groups and the insurers, requiring some amount of compromise on both sides; however, the key focus areas of the bill remain strong:

Transparency in Contracting – The bill makes the contracting process more transparent by requiring a summary disclosure form in contracts along with full disclosure of fee schedules, categories of coverage, and terms under which the contract can be amended. The bill also restricts how “all products” clauses are used and restricts the leasing or renting of a contract from one payor to another.

Standardized credentialing – The legislation designates one, single credentialing form for providers to reduce redundancy. The bill also limits the credentialing review process to 90 days.

Web-based eligibility verification – The bill requires all third-party payors to develop a web-based eligibility system with the most up-to-date and accurate information needed to determine patient eligibility and benefits at the time of service.

The legislation establishes that a series of violations of the bill's provisions by any person regulated by the Ohio Department of Insurance, taken together, constitute a pattern or practice of violation of that Chapter may be defined as an unfair and deceptive insurance practice under the Insurance Law, and authorizes the Department to conduct an examination of any person so regulated to determine whether any violation of the Chapter has occurred. The legislation applies its provisions only to contracts that are delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed or modified in Ohio on or after the act's effective date.

“Statehouse Report” continues on page 12



Promoting Senate Bill 53 in Athens, Ohio

Kelly E. Roberts, Kristine Badurina, Heidi Llewellyn,
Ameena Mu'min, and Stephen A. Silliman
Doctoral students, Ohio University

Professional Clinical Counselors are not currently permitted by Ohio law to place clients in a mental health hold, the period of time an individual is held in a psychiatric setting for evaluation by a qualified physician to determine length of stay beyond 72 hours. Senate Bill 53, currently before the Ohio House of Representatives, lists profession titles for individuals who are

permitted by law to take into custody and/or transport individuals believed to be of harm to themselves or others and place them under a mental health hold. This Bill, if passed, will include Professional Clinical Counselors in the list of professionals permitted to exercise this authority. This will be of great importance to the counseling profession as it will increase our professional standing, allow us to fully exercise our training and skills and provide services to communities struggling to find qualified professionals to handle these situations and ensure safety for community residents. The Bill is available for viewing online at http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=127_SB_53.

The Ohio Counseling Association Legislative Advocacy Day, "A Day at the Statehouse," Friday, April 20, 2007, inspired us to accept the challenge of making a difference in our community and gather support of S.B. 53 in Athens County, Ohio. Our intent was to educate and motivate other professionals and students to advocate for Senate Bill 53 to become law.

We began our advocacy project by gathering lists of counselors in Athens County, including practitioners, Ohio University counseling students (graduate and undergraduate), and Athens NAMI members. In total, 116 individuals were contacted by our Advocacy team, educated about the bill, and asked to participate in advocating for the profession. Letters to Representative Stewart were collected from April to October 2007. Nine percent submitted handwritten letters (the most influential method of communication viewed by State Representatives and Senators) and an additional 28% signed prepared letters that we sent this October. We also plan to meet with Representative Stewart to discuss the importance of Senate Bill 53. Overall, we are pleased with our progress and will continue to advocate for the counseling profession until Senate Bill 53 passes into law.

If you would like to join advocacy efforts by writing to your Representative, the website for the 127th Ohio General Assembly (<http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/>) will direct you to the contact information of your State Representative. Remember, the most powerful method of communication is handwritten letters. A few quick tips on letters: 1) Address letters to "The Honorable (Name of Representative or Senator)" 2) Salutations should read "Dear Representative (Name)" or "Dear Senator (Name)." 3) Introduce yourself to your Representative 4) Include your reason for writing. 5) Keep your letter to one page and limit professional jargon 6) Refer to the issue you are writing about by its title (Senate Bill 53) 6) Explain why the issue is important to you and be specific with your request to vote "yes" for S.B. Bill 53.

Our advocacy campaign in Athens County holds great promise for continuing to gather support for Senate Bill 53 and for promoting our profession as a whole. The passing of Senate Bill 53 in the State House of Representatives is a very important step to providing immediate emergency care to clients. Please join us in raising our voices in support of Senate Bill 53 and write to your State Representative today!

“Reflections” continued

Lastly, with the great efforts of our award winning lobbyists, the Towner Group, members of the OCA Government Relations Committee and our President Elect, Dr. Bill O’Connell and others, we have successfully collaborated with the CSWMFT Board on the Five Year Rule Review process. We are thankful to the Board and Executive Director, Jim Rough, for their willingness to work with us. We feel that the final product is a greatly improved and much clearer set of rules for Ohio’s Professional Counselors.

So, while my headstone may appropriately read, “He was late...”, on reflection, I think I can say that we have nevertheless managed some positive forward momentum. And by the time you read this, we will be well into a new year. I hope that your holidays were peaceful and that 2008 is off to a great start.

On this note, I have thanked a number of folks for their various efforts. Finally, I want to thank all OCA members for your support of the Ohio Counseling Association through your membership and participation at AOCC. As I meet more and more Ohio counselors from around the state, I am constantly reminded why we chose as our conference theme this year—*Counseling: Celebrating a Profession of Excellence!*

“Statehouse Report” continued

The bill also precludes any health care contract that includes a “most favored nation” clause from being entered into, and precludes any health care contract from being amended, modified, or renewed at the instance of a contracting entity to include a most favored nation clause, for a two-year period after the effective date of the act, subject to extension. House Bill 125 also creates a 15-member Joint Legislative Study Commission on Most Favored Nation Clauses in Health Care Contracts, chaired by the Superintendent of the Ohio Department of Insurance. The Joint Legislative Study Commission is charged with studying specified areas pertaining to most favored nation clauses in health care contracts, and requires the Commission to submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly.

Department of Insurance Releases Parity FAQ

Since the enactment of Senate Bill 116, Ohio’s mental health parity law, many patients and providers have had questions and different understandings of the provisions in the law. To help ease the confusion, the Coalition for Healthy Community requested that the Ohio Department of Insurance put together a Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ) document. This way, everyone could have one universal document and get a better understanding on the law. The coalition put together the list of questions, and the Department provided the answers. A copy of the FAQ in its entirety can be found in the legislation section on OCA’s website:

www.ohiocounseling.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

ACA Annual Conference & Exposition

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 26-30, 2008



Pre-Conference Learning Institutes: March 26-27
Education Sessions: March 28-30
Exposition: March 27-29

	Summer Rate March 26- August 31	Super Saver Sept 1- Nov. 30	Advance Dec. 1 - Feb. 15
ACA Members			
Professional/Regular	\$250	\$280	\$330
New Professional/ Student/Retiree	\$165	\$180	\$225
Non-Members			
General Attendees	\$450	\$470	\$520
Non-Member Student	\$280	\$300	\$430

Register Online: www.counseling.org/conference

By Phone: 800-347-6647, x222 (M-F, 8AM - 7PM ET)



AMERICAN COUNSELING
ASSOCIATION

Unity of the Counseling Profession

Kathleen M. Salyers, Ph.D., PCC-S

Chair, Government Relations Committee

The effectiveness of the unification of professional counselors has once more been demonstrated by yet another highly successful All Ohio Counselors Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The success of this conference is a testament to what is possible when counseling professionals come together for a common goal. In this case, that common goal has resulted in one of the – if not the – most successful state conferences in the nation. Having said that, our challenge now becomes how to maintain and enhance that commitment to the goal of professional development by all those who attended, and expand it into professional association and professional advocacy. Last spring the Ohio Counseling Association provided the very first Ohio Legislative Advocacy Day that also was very well attended and a great success. This again demonstrates the desire and need for counselors to come together to discuss and address issues surrounding the counseling profession.

The success of these events demonstrates that when we as a counseling profession have a well defined and common goal, we are capable of amazing things. I hope that those who have worked so hard to make these accomplishments possible are encouraged by the results of their efforts. One of those who provided the leadership for these successes is Tim Luckhaupt, who received a well deserved award at the AOCC in recognition of his many years of service to the Ohio Counseling Association. His dedication and commitment, I believe, serve as inspiration to those who aspire to become active in OCA.

The following are some ways in which all of us can become stronger advocates and more actively involved in our profession.

- One very simple way is to encourage other counselors with whom we work or are acquainted to **become members of OCA**. And if they are members, we can encourage them to become active in the association.
- An area of great concern right now is **Senate Bill 53**. A simple letter, an example of which was provided in the last issue of Guidelines, to your state representatives and members of the House Health Committee asking them to support Senate Bill 53 is very much needed at this time.
- The Government Relations Committee is beginning to form a committee to work on the **Legislative Advocacy Day** that is scheduled for April 15, 2008. If you would like to serve on the committee, or if you are not able to do so but have some ideas, please email me at kathleen.salyers@utoledo.edu. And most importantly, please plan to attend!
- The Ohio Counseling Association has formed a **Task Force** to begin exploring areas in which we need to update the laws which govern the counseling profession. Do you have thoughts or concerns regarding this? Please let us know so that yours becomes an active voice in this process. Again, you may email me at the above email address.
- And finally, we need donations to our **PAC (Political Action Committee)** so that we are a player in the world of politics! This is where many decisions that will impact our provision of services to students and clients are made. It does not have to be a huge amount.....\$10.00, \$15.00, \$20.00.....whatever you can afford. It is not necessarily the amount ... it is that we all contribute something!

We, as a counseling profession in the State of Ohio, have demonstrated what we are capable of when we come together. That makes this is a very exciting time in which to be a member of the Ohio Counseling Association as we work together in addressing issues facing the counseling profession.

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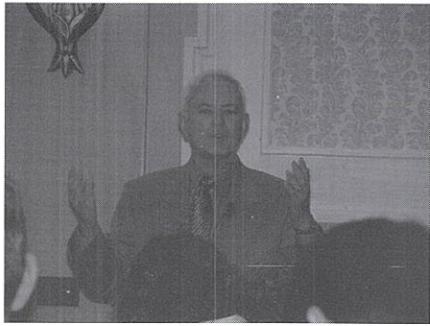
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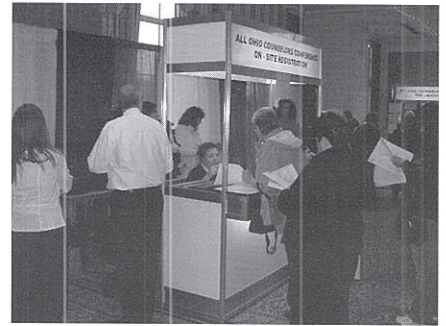
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