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American Counseling Association

GUIDELINES

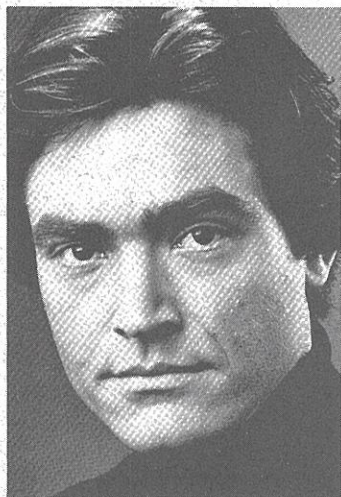
A Publication of The Ohio Counseling Association

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From the President's Desk

Michael Maly



Ultimately and in retrospect, the presidency of OCA has been a great experience for me. It would be a false claim that I did not approach the job with some trepidation which I hope was known only to very few. As a relative newcomer to the association, I had a lot to learn, and my more experienced colleagues on the Executive Council were most accepting of the perforations in my curriculum vitae. Take this as additional evidence of their own professionalism and commitment to the goals of the organization. I lend

my full support to Eileen Self as she takes office. Judging by her actions so far, I know the organization is in most capable hands.

It has been my pleasure to serve the counseling profession in this capacity. While we are the Rodney Dangerfields of the "big five" licensed behavioral health providers in the state, we have realized some significant measurable gains in the past year. Through the passage of the Counselor and Social Worker Licensure law, professional counselor training standards have been raised while also granting new graduates a license. This supports us in the appraisal of our qualifications by legislators, makers of public policy, and purchasers of our services.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the accrediting body for managed care organizations, has formally changed its draft of credentialing standards to recognize professional counselors by name. We had previously been referred to as "other professionals." More than mere recognition and respect, we had viewed this omission as a non-endorsement, one with the potential

to be misunderstood by less-informed decision-makers who could see fit to exclude professional counselors from provider panels, or exclude us from future favorable legislation.

At the final Executive Council meeting of the year, the president of OCA is obliged to deliver a report on the main activities taken by him to execute the duties of that office. This I did on May 3, framed in the context of the goals originally drafted in our initial meeting last July and approved by the council in September. At the end of this column, I will present the main items contained in that self-acquittal, which is to be submitted to ACA at the actual completion of my term. But, last things first, I will address the subject that I introduced at the end of that meeting agenda, namely the purpose and significance of the All-Ohio Counselors Conference (AOCC) for OCA.

Next to membership-based revenue, the AOCC is the largest dollar item on the plus side of the ledger. In preparing the budget, I used an historical revenue projection of \$8,000 for OCA's share for the event, and was pleased that we exceeded revenue expectations by

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From the President cont. . . .

25%. We had 870 counselors throughout the state in attendance. Was the conference a success? In terms of our revenue and attendance expectations, yes. Does the conference meet the present and future needs of the association? Answering that question will entail a process of organizational

exploration calling for diplomatic skill and courage among the leadership, as we enter territory that, over the years for OCA, has been tantamount to a battle zone. Over the years some OCA leaders have raised the issue of changing the design of the conference to achieve an essential microcosm of OCA itself--that is, to deliberately make the conference more inclusive of the various professional disciplines represented by OCA. Currently, OCA sponsors AOCC with the Ohio School Counselors Association and the Ohio Educational Association.

I need not explain the history of the conflict concerning who has proprietary interest in the conference, beyond my simple appraisal that the inflammation is a post-operative vestige of the change some years ago to the present structure of OCA which was effectively a merger of school-based counseling disciplines with all other professional counselors into one association. While the conference revenues intimate that "it ain't broke," the question remains one of whether it meets the needs of Ohio's professional counselors.

One argument has been made that mental health counselors, the largest group among the OCA membership, are not represented in the planning committee, save the years when the president-elect is from that group. If we had a mental health counselor designated as a member of the planning committee, would we attract more agency colleagues to the AOCC? Another position is that school counselors may perceive that the conference is no longer for them, and lose interest in the event. These are hypotheses that can be researched to appraise the market opportunities

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for the fiscal good of the organization as a whole.

Perhaps the most salient issue for Ohio's professional counselors is the philosophical one residing in the appearance, as embodied by the conference, that Ohio's counselors are not unified. Consider the fragmentation that is taking place on the national level within ACA and its two main divisions. The dissatisfied contend, due largely to a torpor imposed by governance structure, that the organization is failing to respond to the varied needs of its members. If AMHCA and ASCA do ultimately split from the nest, will that harm professional counselors? In the short term, there seems no way it cannot. Can it be avoided? There are professional associations that prove it need not happen.

We on the state level cannot afford the luxury of satisfaction with our status quo. With respect to the AOCC, does the conference really fill the bill? To what does the "ALL" refer--Ohio (geographically) or Counselors (professional discipline)? We obtained feedback from the 870 professional counselors who attended. What about those who did not? What is the right way to design the conference? What is in the best interest of OCA? One of my goals as past president is to begin the formal evaluation of the AOCC within the broader context of OCA's overall goals.

President's Annual Report

President Maly offers this summary of the 1996-1997 OCA Action Plan and resulting accomplishments.

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

Goal: Enhance the viability of the counseling profession in the state of Ohio

Objectives/Actions Taken:

- Pursued cooperative relationships with professional, trade, or advocacy organizations with goals that align with those of OCA
- Made direct contacts with Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers, Ohio Association of Health Plans, Ohio Department of Human Services (Ohio Medicaid), Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, National Community Mental Health Center Council, National Committee for Quality Assurance, Ohio Psychological Association
- Promoted licensure for counseling students, therapists, school counselors, substance abuse counselors by giving direct input and legislative support for successful passage of Senate Bill 223
- Encouraged the highest standards of clinical and ethical practice among OCA members and Ohio's counselors by promoting (through newsletter) input and support for SB 223, selecting professional ethics seminars for All Ohio Counselors Conference (AOCC), and officially responding to Morgan versus Fairfield Family Counseling Center Ohio Supreme Court decision
- Promoted counselor unification consistently through newsletter and public speaking engagements
- Collaborated with Chi Sigma Iota to encourage counseling students to become active in OCA by direct support of CSI at AOCC 96

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Goal: Promote the recognition of all counselors as competent professionals

Objectives:

- Provided chapters and divisions with standardized information to publicize counselors in their area with the public, policy-makers, and purchasers of counselors' services through dissemination of public relation materials from ACA, and an introduction letter and fact sheet about professional counselors for distribution to HMOs and behavioral health plans
- Promoted the consistent use of the term "professional counselor"
- Promoted public policy that enables counselors to market their services through advocating directly with the National Committee for Quality Assurance to identify professional counselors by name (rather than "other providers") in the rule that qualifies who may provide behavioral health services. Additionally, since SB 223 increases the training requirements for professional counselors, elevates the LPC credentials of new graduates, and strengthens the board's ability to protect the public--professional counselors' self-promotional position is vastly improved for future public policy.
- Promoted unification of all OCA divisions
- Utilized the newsletter to educate state officials and agency executives about counselors and their work

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Goal: Provide Ohio counselors with training opportunities that will develop specialized skills and

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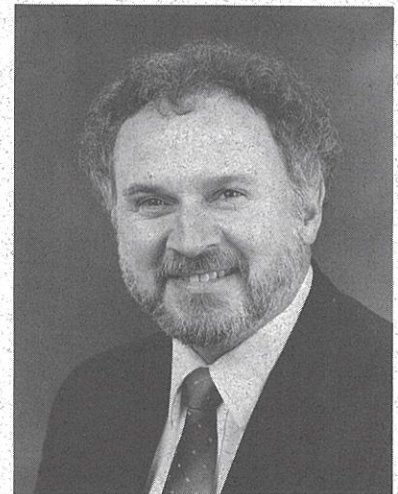
enhance the viability of professional counselors in the human service marketplace

Objectives:

- Co-sponsor the All-Ohio Counselors Conference--Accomplished
- Encourage chapters and divisions to provide local workshops and conferences--Accomplished
- Provide continuing education units in association with the Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board and the Ohio Department of Education--Accomplished
- Encourage member networking at the state and local level--Accomplished
- Encourage expertise in cultural diversity counseling--Accomplished
- Stimulate or participate in training conferences with other states in the Midwest Region.

Consultant's Column

Joe Saunders



This column is written at the conclusion of four years of service as administrative consultant to OCA. A new contract was offered

Consultant's Column cont. . . .

to me at the May meeting of the Executive Council. I must admit that I experienced concern that other time considerations might compel me to discontinue the relationship. But Heidelberg College has been so exceptionally positive in its support of my maintaining the position that the decision to continue was an easy one to make. I appreciate Heidelberg's posture, and do accept the gracious gesture on the part of OCA. Operating a state office is not always easy, but I do genuinely enjoy interacting with the membership of OCA.

That membership is growing. In response to a survey/letter of invitation to all LPCs/LPCCs, fifty-one new members were gained by OCA. Eileen Self and Scott Hall developed the survey, with resultant comments which will assist OCA in future membership initiatives. Additionally, several former members with whom we had lost contact renewed as a consequence of having received a letter from OCA's membership committee. Active membership is 1267.

I will be out of the country during the month of June, as Heidelberg College has enlisted me to teach a course on the Heidelberg campus at Sapporo, Japan. I have applied considerable time to modifying and adjusting the course so that it will be effective with the Japanese culture--no mean task! Coverage of the OCA office will continue as it has throughout the year. My spouse and office assistant, Lee, continues to provide clerical service and data processing information in my absence.

I wish to thank OCA for the opportunity of serving in the capacity provided. I trust that each

of you as members will continue to benefit from the services our office attempts. Have an enjoyable summer!

Hall Elected



Scott Hall, treasurer of OCA, was elected by a large ballot of all OCA members to the office of president elect, commencing July 1, 1997. He will vacate the treasurer position at that time. OCA has appreciated Scott's diligence in the fiscal affairs of OCA during his term. The OCA Executive Council elected Dave Di Lullo of Akron to serve the remainder of Scott's term. Dave comes highly recommended to us, with much experience in financial affairs. Congratulations to Scott, and welcome to Dave! May your respective terms of office be fulfilling to you and to OCA.

Clarification

The recent Supreme Court ruling in *Morgan vs. Fairfield County* continues to be a source of consternation among counseling professionals in Ohio. It has come to the attention of **Guidelines** that there were inaccuracies in the

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information which was reported in the last issue.

The LPC involved was not indeed practicing outside scope of practice, since the work was being done under supervision, duly registered with the Ohio Counselor and Social Workers Board. The error in reporting came due to the fact that official documentation of the case (from which the information was taken) does not include the fact that the counselor was, in fact, practicing under supervision.

The **Guidelines** article also concluded that the ruling was equivalent to a finding of liability on the part of all defendants in the case. In fact, the ruling does not assign liability; it simply becomes an opinion which must be taken into consideration in the ongoing litigation of the case. The **Guidelines** staff sincerely apologizes for the misunderstandings to all personnel associated with the case.

Awards

Becky Jenkins, Awards Chair, wishes to express her thanks to all OCA members who presented candidates for the several annual awards. Awardees have been selected, and will be revealed to all at the All Ohio Counselors Conference in October. Your cooperation and help is much appreciated!

It's a Boy

Guidelines chairperson Beth Britton gave birth to Matthew Robert on Tuesday, May 6. His birth weight was seven pounds and fifteen ounces, and he measured twenty and one-half inches in length. Congratulations to the proud parents, Beth and Bill!

Learner Standards

Jean Howes, OSCA President

The proposed learner standards have been through committee and have been presented to the State Board of Education. At the May meeting, the state board is expected to pass an intent to adopt the standards and then present them to the legislature for required changes in the Ohio Revised Code. The current plan is that the process will be complete by October.

Many changes to the standards were made during the April meeting. Both Terri Pregitzer and I attended the April meetings. We were able to speak with State Board of Education members and have some changes we felt were necessary to insure that schools would implement good pupil services programs.

The standards are still subject to change, both at the May meeting and during the legislative process. OSCA representatives will continue to monitor the process and lobby for the best interests of professional school counselors in Ohio. I encourage each school counselor to monitor the standards and contact your state board members and legislators requesting that they retain the requirement that counseling programs must be both written *and* implemented. (At one point the word implemented was deleted from the standards.)

Another issue which may come up during hearings will be the suggestion that pupil services personnel be required to obtain written parental consent for services. This proposal would prevent us from serving many students who are in need of intervention for abuse or neglect and many students who just would not make the effort to get the

permission signed. Your opinion does make a difference, so let the policy makers know your concerns as the standards near adoption. Remind them that we counselors make a difference in students lives and learning. To view the pupil services portions of the standards and the changes as they occur, visit the OSCA web site - <http://members.aol.com/osca/index.html>

Good Moral Character

The new licensure law has added a section related to moral character of licensed professional counselors in Ohio. It would behoove us all to examine what that definition includes.

The exact wording of the law is as follows: **The individual (applicant for license) must be of good moral character.** It is further defined in rule as: "Applicants for any license or certificate of registration issued by the board shall be of good moral character. The board may, in its discretion, deny any application for licensure or certification if the board finds that the applicant was convicted of, plead guilty to, plead no contest to, a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or for acts committed which would constitute a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude if committed in Ohio. The board shall consider the number and timing of any convictions and the relationship those convictions may have to the practice for which the applicant has made application for licensure or certification."

Professional counselors need to examine this law from two perspectives. The first is to examine our own behavior to see if we are displaying good moral

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character. Are our lives exemplary? There is an eternal argument concerning the issue that what I do in private should not affect what I do in my job. But, this distinction cannot always be made. Once we have the license to be a counselor, we must always maintain ourselves in a manner becoming the profession. Sometimes what we do in private is the very thing that gets us in trouble professionally. The inclusion of this good moral character section in the law indicates that the two cannot always be separate.

Secondly, we need to look at this section of law in terms of our colleagues. The ACA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice specifically discusses suspected violations of the standards (H.2.a., b.,d.,e.). Specifically, the code states that "when counselors possess reasonable cause that raises doubts as to whether a counselor is acting in an ethical manner, they take appropriate action. (H.2.a.) It does provide that the counselor should first consult with other counselors if uncertain about the situation (H.2.b.) and then "attempt to first resolve the issue informally with the other counselor, if feasible, providing that such action does not violate confidentiality rights that may be involved".

The ACA Code of Ethics then (H.2.e.) states that if informal resolution is not appropriate or feasible, counselors, upon reasonable cause, take action such as reporting the suspected ethical violation to state or national ethics committees. Indeed, the new law in Ohio **requires** reporting of such violations. Therefore, if we, as professionally licensed counselors, are aware of unethical issues or issues related to the Ohio law, it is our professional and ethical

Good Moral Character cont . . .

responsibility to not "protect our own" but to report.

This new section of the Ohio licensure law related to moral character together with ACA Code of Ethics are working to enhance the credibility of the counseling profession to the consumer. Professional counselors must be willing to assume their part in this endeavor.

Mental Health Parity Bill

State Representative Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus) has introduced legislation that would prohibit insurance companies and managed care plans from discriminating in coverage for mental illnesses. House Bill 420 would require that all insurance plans issued after the effective date of the bill provide benefits for the treatment and diagnosis of mental illnesses on the same terms and conditions as, and no less extensive than, benefits provided for the treatment and diagnosis of all other physical diseases and disorders. The measure will likely be referred for consideration by the House Insurance Committee.

Joining Representative Tavares as co-sponsors are: Lynn Olman (R-Perrysburg), Mark Mallory (D-Cincinnati), Ross Boggs (D-Andover), Bill Healy (D-Canton), Cheryl Winkler (R-Cincinnati), Darrell Opfer (D-Oak Harbor), CJ Prentiss (D-Cleveland), Ron Gerberry (D-Austintown), Dale Miller (D-Cleveland), Jack Ford (D-Toledo), Lloyd Lewis (D-Dayton), John Garcia (R-Toledo), Rocco Colonna (D-Brook Park), Jamie Callender (R-Willowick), Peter Lawson Jones (D-Cleveland), Sean Logan (D-Lisbon), Ed Jerse (D-Euclid), and Joan Lawrence (R-

Galena). Bi-partisan support, reflected in this list of co-sponsors, is essential for the legislation to receive serious consideration. Please write or call your legislators to express support for House Bill 420.

Chapter and Division News

Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association

On April 14, GCCA held its annual spring meeting at Molloy's Restaurant. This year's meeting included dinner, presentations by poet (and GCCA board member), Michael Ingram, and lecturer, Art Schrieberg, and the awarding of four grants, totaling \$1500, to support innovative, local programming.

The occasion also provided opportunities to network and socialize, to review the events of this past year, to say thanks to those in the association who have committed their time to its work, and to speak to possible new directions for the coming year. Voting for next year's board members and officers will occur in the near future, and the results will be announced soon thereafter.

North Central Ohio Counseling Association

The winter meeting of NCOCA took place at Kent State University. Those who attended gained insight into violence among juveniles and family dynamics. The presenters, Jacqueline Warren, Ph.D., LPCC, Margo James, LPC, LISW, and Sandra Straffen, RN, provided valuable information and resources for counselors in a variety of settings. The discussion focused on the impact of violence on the perpetrators, victims, and society in general.

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NCOCA closed the year's study of violence in our society with a look at counseling strategies. The program, "Violence Prevention: What Can Be Done?" was May 20 at the Holiday Inn at Rockside in Independence, Ohio. Presenters were Orville Dean, MA, CCDCIII, President of Dean Training Services, Inc., and Michael Smeltzer, MOH, Injury and Violence Prevention Coordinator, Columbus Health Department.

The evening began with a graduate student reception and career panel. Students had the opportunity to hear and ask questions of working counselors. Topics included job search strategies, private practice, agency work, changes in licensure qualifications, and alternative counseling career options.

The business meeting included the election of officers. The proposed slate was led by Bob Windle, president; Rona Posta, president-elect; Sandra Averyheart, secretary; and Terri Hyland, who begins her second year as treasurer.

NCOCA has continued its efforts to promote communication and unity among all counselors. As counselors better understand and appreciate the various areas of specialties represented in our profession, the better we can inform the public about who we are and what we do. NCOCA applauds the many outstanding professionals who volunteer their time and talent by serving as officers, committee chairpersons, telephone callers, or assuming other organizational responsibilities. NCOCA invites you to join us or your area organization. Make 1997-98 the year of your personal professional commitment.

Ohio Career Development Association

OCDA had a very successful workshop, "Career as Story: Career Counseling Techniques for the 21st Century" April 18 at the Nationwide Training Center in Columbus. Dr. Mark Savickas was the presenter. He drew rave reviews from the 70 people in attendance.

Joe Malone and Jack Cochran were delegates to the NCDA Delegate Assembly at ACA in Orlando. Much time was spent discussing NCDA's relationship with ACA. An area of specific interest was whether to continue to allow "general" members not in counseling, although they do have to join ACA to belong to NCDA. The group voted not to consider changing the NCDA by-laws even though this violates current ACA by-laws which were modified after the NCDA policy was adopted. This and many other issues remain to be worked out between ACA and its divisions.

OCDA has slightly more than 100 members, a healthy treasury of about \$5,000 and will have published three newsletters by summer.

Candidates for office next year will be elected from a ballot in the next newsletter. Candidates for office include Wendy Heun, president-elect, Joe Malone, treasurer, Major Harris, secretary, and Ned Katterheinrich, delegate at large.

Ohio Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development

OAMCD will be hosting its Ninth Annual Symposium October 3, 1997, at the Ramada Inn-East in Columbus, Ohio. The theme of the symposium is "The Cornucopia of

Violence: What Do We Bring to the Table?" Its purpose is to address a range of violence issues, including subtle forms of violence that occur in our daily interactions and language, and to offer possible solutions. Recognizing that our human differences are used to separate people along lines of power and that the primary root of violence in our society is the systematic, institutionalized and day-to-day imbalance of power, addressing issues of violence is very much related to the objectives of OAMCD. Social groups that do not have equal power are often targets of physical and sexual violence, discrimination, harassment, and poverty. Language is also an instrument of power which can be used to control others. Please mark your calendars today and attend this important gathering that will assist helping professionals in addressing many critical issues we face today in our society. CEUs will be offered. The brochures and registration forms will be distributed early this summer. If you have questions regarding the symposium, do not hesitate to call/fax/e-mail (330-672-2662, fax 330-672-3063, ajackson@kentvm.kent.edu).

OAMCD has been working hard to build its membership through its efforts in networking, technology, and public relations and to assist helping professionals in building multicultural competencies.

Cybercounseling--It's Here.

Jean Underfer-Babalis

The twentieth century can safely be labeled "the age of technology." At the beginning of this century, horses were still the primary mode of transportation. Today, one can apply for a home mortgage and know the results within five minutes. Our culture is reliant on

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instant this, rapid that, and quick this. After all, this article is a product of modern technology; it is created on a home PC (personal computer) that will correct my spelling. If this computer application had a grammar and thesaurus application, grammar could be checked and new words sought easily. Twenty years ago, a college student was considered fortunate to have a manual typewriter, and really progressive people had their own copy of the thesaurus. Now, a PC is rapidly becoming a standard household appliance. Some households have more than one computer.

Presently, counselors are faced with an ethical dilemma of cybercounseling; yet some counselors are asking, "What is cybercounseling?" A complicated question and the shortest explanation is -- counseling conducted over the internet, which is a product of the modern age and computers. The internet is the interconnection of existing commercial and non-commercial computer networks used to transfer information electronically between two or more computers.

Cybercounseling, or counseling via the internet, is when an individual, family, or group of individuals outlines a problem and submits this problem to a mental health professional. After a fixed period of time, presumably a mental health care professional responds to the problem with information, some recommendations about a course of action that can be taken, or a referral for counseling. All this transpires with computers as the primary mode of treatment. Intermittent phone counseling is possible.

Two methods of cybercounseling exist. One can pose a question,

Cybercounseling cont . . .

send it via e-mail (electronic mail), and await a reply. Or a method referred to as chatting can take place. Chatting permits two or more users to simultaneously view the sending and receiving of text messages.

Simplified, cybercounseling is counseling conducted electronically. At first, the thought of counseling electronically is repelled with disbelief. After some consideration, the thought sends shivers up a counselor's spine. Is this such a bizarre idea? Computers are a common means of conducting business, doing research and corresponding; why not counseling? "To be or not to be," or rather, counseling over the internet or not, is the question that is hotly debated these days.

One of the first and fundamental considerations must be the ethical issues regarding cybercounseling. A few points of concern come to mind, and more unquestionably will emerge. Counselor competency issues arise instantaneously, such as counselor competency in this type of therapy (cybercounseling), and how competency in cybercounseling is determined. Thus far, graduate courses are not offered in this arena. Currently, counselors are asked to hang their credentials (degrees and licenses) and a disclosure statement on the walls of their office. Where do cyber counselors hang their credentials? Do they hang them on their computer? How can a client verify that the counselor who claims to have a Ph.D. actually has a doctorate and "it is in counseling"? The Ph.D. conceivably could be in anthropology.

Ascertaining readiness and truth is a formidable question. Without

seeing the clients, a good portion of the assessment is null and void. For instance, a client says they are not anxious, but they are sitting at the computer with both legs jumping up and down rapidly, their head is looking from left to right constantly to see if anyone is observing them; in between responses they are rocking back and forth while wringing their hands. A client says she doesn't feel depressed, but she never smiles, has poor eye contact, affect is flat, voice is almost inaudible, she mumbles, her face is drawn, her clothes disheveled, body odor is present, she is ungroomed, and so forth. Via cybercounseling, you cannot ascertain that information.

Pre-arranged fees to be charged for the time a therapist spends reading and responding to e-mail or phone counseling is a consideration to be addressed. How can a client verify a therapist spent half an hour responding to his/her e-mail? A client can see that he entered his therapist's office at 9:05 a.m. and is leaving at 9:50 a.m.

Consideration must be given for making contingency plans when a family member/group member stops responding to e-mail. Questions of suicidal clients and what to do need to be explored and addressed.

An urgent concern is privacy on the internet. State and federal lawmakers have not kept pace with modern technology. As a result, there is no guarantee of the same right to privacy of the contents of e-mail as there is with mail and telephone conversations. Chat rooms are not secured.

Different states have different licensing laws. Licensing issues vary from state to state. A counselor in Ohio practices under

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Ohio laws and statutes. This counselor has a client in which therapy is conducted through e-mail. The client lives in Seattle, WA. In which state is the therapy conducted to ascertain which set of laws can be applied? This is necessary both for the safety of the client and the counselor.

Some positives for cybercounseling need to be highlighted as well. It can be argued that computers and internet have been utilized in career counseling for many years. Employers post positions on their home page, message boards, or as advertisements in the public chat rooms.

The use of computerized assessments has been praised from east to west. A client takes the MMPI on the computer, and the therapist does not have to hand score. Electronic interpretations are also available. This beats the laborious task of hand scoring and searching through the manuals to arrive at an interpretation. How many counselors have taken their state licensing exams via the computer and found out within 60 seconds their score thus determining whether or not they attained their license?

Support for therapists is vast on the internet. A therapist can post a dilemma or concern on one of the message boards and receive feedback or assistance in dealing with specific client issues. After all, the American Counseling Association (ACA) has message boards available to its members. Chat rooms are available as well. Researching the journals is instantaneous.

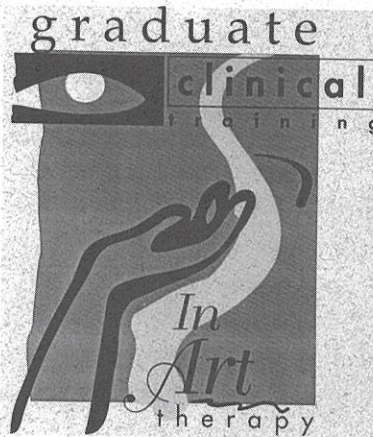
"To be or not to be" is still the question. This whole topic of cybercounseling has more questions than answers. More research and

discussion are imperative to arrive at some conclusions. Readers are encouraged to reflect upon this matter. Discuss it with colleagues. Bring up the topic at the local chapter meetings. Addressing cybercounseling at conferences and workshops is happening, but more of it needs to transpire. Familiarizing and acquiring knowledge of computers and the internet is unavoidable for those of us who are computer illiterate. Initially, for some, the computer zone is overwhelming, and like clients, counselors run away or ignore the computer age. However, it is here and it is happening this very minute. Take one small manageable step to learn more about cybercounseling. Whether or not the counselor likes the idea, agrees or disagrees is not the crux of the matter. Being informed is.

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OCA Celebrates Success

The Ohio Counseling Association is *celebrating* a successful year. Many of the following initiatives this year, especially our legislative efforts, increased our membership and enhanced OCA's effectiveness.

- OCA's advocacy helped pass Senate Bill 223, a vastly improved counselor licensure bill. To compete on a par with other licensed profession graduates, students upon completion of the 60 semester hour or 90 quarter hour academic requirements for a master's degree and passing the state licensure examination *will become LPCs*. They will be eligible for LPCC status upon completing the 3000 hours of post-coursework supervision experience. If the LPCC is not their goal, they may practice as an LPC. The Rules for SB 223 have been written. Our Legislative Consultant and Government Relations Committee will actively monitor the May and June hearings.
- Successfully named as a *provider in managed care agreements* by the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA).
- Completed first-ever survey of all LPC and LPCC who were *not* OCA members. Gathered valuable information to help improve OCA. Subsequently, many surveyed counselors joined OCA.
- Continue to follow the appeal of the Ohio Supreme Court's *precedent setting decision Morgan versus Fairfield Family Counseling Center*. This decision has significant impact on how counselors will practice.

OCA's critical advocacy efforts continue:

- Lobbying against yet another proposed amendment to *limit how school counselors will practice* in the area of 'pupil services'.
- Monitoring the Rules hearing for SB 223 especially the section requiring adoption by the year 2000 the provision that only LPCCs can supervise Counseling Licensure candidates.

These are significant gains. However, support for this legislative initiative is costly. If your membership has lapsed, please rejoin. OCA is 1267 counselors strong.

Membership Also Provides:

- A Professional Identity
- A Statewide Newsletter
- Professional Development Opportunities –CEUs
- A Strategic Public Relations Campaign
- Professional Network Contacts
- Chapter / Division Membership
- An Executive Director

OCA NEEDS YOU

Membership is on an anniversary date, so you can join now for a whole year. Active involvement in our counseling profession is a professional commitment -- one I know you will gain by making. We urge you to renew or become a new member of OCA today!

Mimi Patterson, LPC
Professional Career Counselor
216/475-2225 Fax 216/475-1018
mpatterson@cuyahoga.lib.oh.us

Joe Saunders, Ph.D., LPCC
Administrative Consultant
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OHIO COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

1997-98

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle Init. _____
Home Address _____
Street City State Zip
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Present Position _____ Employer _____

For information on the American Counseling Association call (800) 347-6647.

Once you join OCA, you are awarded chapter membership at no additional charge. The chapter you designate will receive a percentage of your OCA membership dues. However, you **must** join OCA in order to join any chapter **OR** OACES.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional | \$70.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (holds no counseling credential) | \$70.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired | \$27.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$18.75 |

CHAPTERS

- Central Ohio Counseling Assn. (COCA)
- East Ohio Counseling Assn. (EOCA)
- Greater Cincinnati Counseling Assn. (GCCA)
- Miami Valley Counseling Assn. (MVCA)
- North Central Ohio Counseling Assn. (NCOCA)
- Northwest Ohio Counseling Assn. (NWOCA)
- Southeast Ohio Counseling Assn. (SEOCA)

DIVISIONS

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> OH Assn. for Counselor Education and Supervision (OACES) | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership (OACES) | \$ 3.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OH Assn. for Multicultural Counseling and Development (OAMCD) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership (OAMCD) | \$ 7.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OH Mental Health Counselors Assn. (OMHCA) | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership (OMHCA) | \$12.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OH Career Development Assn. (OCDA) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student and Retired Membership (OCDA) | \$ 7.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OH Assn. for Specialists in Group Work (OASGW) | \$ 5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OH School Counselor Assn. (OSCA) | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership (OSCA) | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OH Assn. for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (OASERVIC) | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership (OASERVIC) | \$ 5.00 |

LICENSE

- LPC
- LPCC
- SCHOOL COUNSELOR

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF PROCESSING BY OCA OFFICE.

OHIO LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION:

Senator _____ Representative _____ Bd. of Ed. Rep. _____

Make check payable to OCA; send to: OCA, Heidelberg College, 14 Clinton Ave., Tiffin OH, 44883-2449

To contact OCA: Call (419) 448-7474 or e-mail jsaunder@nike.heidelberg.edu

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