

THE COUNSELING ADVOCATE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO COUNSELING ASSOCIATION'S
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE



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COMING TOGETHER AT AOCC 2021

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE ALL OHIO COUNSELORS CONFERENCE IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

Conference season during COVID continues to feel a bit different than in non-pandemic years. But one thing is for certain: Ohio counselors turn out for the All Ohio Counselors Conference! The Ohio Counseling Association and Ohio School Counseling Association are looking forward to a weekend filled with connection and learning during this year's event, which will be held Wednesday, Oct. 27 to Friday, Oct. 29, at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus, Ohio. If you're attending, please consider including the following OCA Government Relations Committee events into your conference scheduled:

1. Stop by the OCA Government Relations Committee's informational table on Thursday, Oct. 28. You'll get to meet our committee leaders and learn how to get involved with our team.
2. Current GRC members should make time to join the committee meeting from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Thursday.
3. Participate in the GRC's breakout session at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday in the Marion room, which is titled "State of the Association: An update from OCA's Government Relations Committee." GRC Chair Sean Gorby and OCA Lobbyists Amanda Sines and Julia Wynn will discuss current legislative and advocacy issues related to counseling practice in Ohio.



HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY? SHARE IT IN THE ADVOCATE!

Contact the editor:

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No matter how you conference, we know AOCC 2021 will be a success. We look forward to seeing you in the capital city!

Onward --
Maddie Stevens, PhD, LPC, NCC
Editor & GRC Member-at-Large

ARE YOU A CURRENT OCA LEADER?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LEADER?

WANT TO BUILD A HELPFUL LEADERSHIP TOOLBOX FOR YOUR ROLE?



Check out OCA's latest NEW and FREE membership benefit – **the Leadership Certificate Program** - set to launch in January 2022! This brief, fun, and practical experience is designed for any graduate student, new professional, or seasoned professional, who is either a current or emerging leader within OCA.

Offered primarily online (introduction and final sessions are live), participants register for a series (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) and then asynchronously watch six mini learning modules. Total time commitment for participants is approximately four hours and CEs are pending.

- Leadership Certificate Program,
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Ohio is continuing to progress quickly in our efforts to be one of the first ten states to join the ACA Compact, which would increase the opportunity for counselors to practice with clients across state lines.

OHIO AND THE ACA INTERSTATE COMPACT

WHERE WE ARE

The GRC recently hosted two town halls for Ohio counselors to ask questions and discuss the compact with the GRC members and an ACA Government Relations representative, as well as with Senator Roegner, who is sponsoring the bill. GRC Chair Sean Gorby testified for the bill on behalf of OCA on September 29, 2021. An oppositional hearing will be coming up soon, though the bill is not expected to face any opposition.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Senate Bill 204: Interstate Compact for Licensure Portability

- **Sponsor:** Roegner (Dis. 27 – R)
- This bill would enter Ohio into the interstate compact and allow Ohio to be one of 10 states on the committee to establish and make decisions for the compact.
- **Status:** Reported out of Committee – awaiting a vote by the full Senate.
- **OCA Action:** OCA is a proponent of SB 204. GRC Chair Sean Gorby provided in-person testimony in support of the bill in the Senate.
- [Learn more here.](#)



House Bill 435: Declare intent to enact legislation regarding vaccines

- **Sponsors:** Carfagna (Dis. 68 – R); Seitz (Dis. 30 – R)
- This bill would limit the ability of schools, institutions, and employers, from mandating vaccines prior to FDA approval. The bill also speaks to workers compensation, vaccine passports, emergency medical technicians, and qualified civil immunity.
- **Status:** Pending in Committee – The Speaker of the House has indicated there will not be further action on the bill at this time.
- **OCA Action:** OCA is a member of a broad vaccine coalition and signed on to a letter expressing continued concerns with the bill.
- [Learn more here.](#)

House Bill 122: Telehealth

- **Sponsors:** Frazier (Dis. 71 – R); Holmes (Dis. 97 – R)
- This bill would expand existing telemedicine services and ensure proper provisions for coverage by health benefit plans, Medicaid, and other certified community mental health, addiction service providers.
- **Status:** Voted out of the House and pending in the Senate committee.
- **OCA Action:** OCA has submitted proponent testimony in both the House and the Senate.
- [Learn more here.](#)

House Bill 363: Mental Health Services in Response to Disasters

- **Sponsors:** Miller (Dis 17 – D); Smith (Dis. 16 – D)
- Requires OhioMHAS to adopt rules for services provided in response to a natural disaster, pandemic, mass casualty or fatality incident, mass shooting incident, or declared emergency.
- **Status:** Introduced in the House and referred to the Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee.
- **OCA Action:** None at this time.
- [Learn more here.](#)

OCSWMFT Board Review

- Within the last few years, the Ohio legislature passed a bill which requires all boards, agencies, and regulators to go through an occupational license review. Because of this, the OCSWMFT board is currently under review. The legislature will have to soon pass a bill allowing the board and the board's license to continue.
- **OCA Action:** We do not anticipate any changes to the board or licenses, but we are closely monitoring this process.

SUPERVISION ACCESS IN OHIO: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Stephanie S.J. Drcar, Ph.D., Cleveland State University

You may recall learning that in September 2020, the Ohio CSWMFT board voted to allow 50 of the 150 "training" supervision hours (supervision to obtain the LPCC) to be completed by an independently licensed professional other than a LPCC-S. **The Ohio CSWMFT board has not moved forward with enacting those changes yet.** Interdisciplinary supervision is opposed by the American Counseling Association as well as by a majority of OACES members (see the December 2020 issue of *The Counseling Advocate* for more details). OCA is committed to providing alternative solutions to the Ohio CSWMFT board regarding supervision access while still maintaining that all training supervision occurs with counselors.

In the spring of 2021, Drs. Gorby (Capital University) and Drcar (Cleveland State University), and doctoral student Savannah Long (University of Toledo) collected and analyzed data on supervision access in Ohio. The survey was sent to all licensees of the Ohio CSWMFT board and there was a response rate of 9% ($n = 3,771$ out of 41,558). **The key inquiry of the survey was evaluating the level of difficulty that counselors face when accessing training supervision.** The survey found that the majority (70.6%) of counselors (including CTs) encountered no difficulty in accessing supervision. Importantly though, 22.1% of respondents reported experiencing difficulty in accessing supervision and 7.3% reported neither ease nor difficulty in supervision access. Qualitative data on the reasons for experiencing difficulty were collected and are currently being analyzed.

Among LPCC-S survey respondents, half of these supervisors reported they were actively providing supervision. Forty percent of LPCC-S respondents who were not actively providing supervision are interested in providing supervision in the future. Overall, one in five dependently licensed counselors (i.e., CTs, LPCs) has experienced difficulty accessing supervision, and there is a notable number of untapped supervisors in Ohio who are not currently providing supervision but wish to be. **These findings suggest that difficulties in supervision access might be addressed by improving the ease of connection between dependently licensed counselors and supervisors in Ohio.** Given these findings, OCA President, Dr. Kim-Appel created the *OCA Supervision Taskforce*. The taskforce will create a database of available supervisors in Ohio that will be accessible to dependently licensed counselors in Ohio to reduce barriers in the search process for a supervisor. The Taskforce aims to complete their work by the late spring of 2022. **If you would like to learn more about the Taskforce's work, please contact Dr. Stephanie Drcar (s.drcar@csuohio.edu).**

Modules are taught by past and present OCA leaders who bring their latest insight to some of the most significant aspects of being a leader in our association.

Leaders will:

- learn important information about OCA executive goals and plans
- gain the important knowledge and skills for holding a leadership role in our state association
- learn how to strengthen the effectiveness of your division, chapter, or committee by applying best practices for membership growth, servant leadership, governance, finances, and legislative advocacy
- understand the CE approval process.

Further, participants will benefit from meeting and networking with other leaders and will receive mentorship and guidance for next steps. After completing all six modules, participants will receive a certificate of completion from OCA and will be recognized at the All Ohio Counselors Conference or the Annual Spring Conference. Participants will come away excited, confident, and empowered to help move our state association forward!

Questions?

Email laurajlewiscounseling@gmail.com. Leadership Certificate registration and information pages are coming soon to the OCA website!

Heading to AOCC?

Stop by the OCA Leadership Certificate Open House in the Hyatt Marion Room on Thursday, October 28 from 11am-12pm to learn more, ask questions, and talk with OCA Leadership Committee Chair, Laura Lewis.