

THE COUNSELING ADVOCATE

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



IN THIS ISSUE:

- *LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY (LAD) CELEBRATION*
- *ACA INTERSTATE COMPACT UPDATE*
- *LEGISLATIVE UPDATES*
- *OCA SUPERVISION TASKFORCE*



HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY? SHARE IT IN THE ADVOCATE!

Contact the editors:

Maddie Stevens:
madeleinemstevens@gmail.com

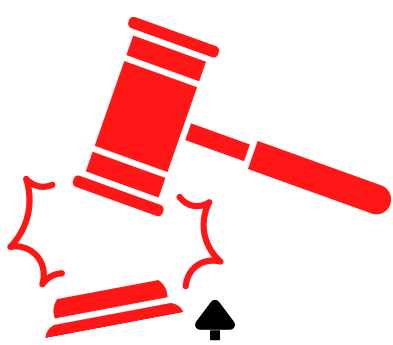
Gene Dockery
gd796619@ohio.edu

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY

Hello OCA! Thank you all for your continued support of OCA and the Government Relations Committee. On March 29th 2022 we held our annual Legislative Advocacy Day. We had over 60 individuals dedicate their day to advocacy for our clients, our profession, and our association. Throughout the day we were joined by several guests including Dominique Marsalek from ACA who discussed the national effort towards securing an interstate compact, Teresa Lampl from the Ohio Counsel who discussed Ohio's mental health workforce crisis and shared results from a recent study they conducted, and Margaret-Ann Adorjan from the OCSWMFT board who discussed recent policy changes and current board happenings. Additionally, two legislators, Representative Gail Pavliga and Senator Nickie Antonio, joined us. Then, on April 21st, OCA scheduled meetings for LAD attendees to meet with their state representative and senator. Through this event OCA was able to continue our legislative advocacy for a number of issues including counseling licensure and sexual and gender affirming care for all Ohioans. Please join us next spring as we return to in-person for our Legislative Advocacy Day!

Sean Gorby
OCA Government Relations Committee Chair

Ohio has Joined the Interstate Counseling Compact



The OCA priority legislation to enter Ohio into the counseling compact has been signed into law. On May 25th, the Ohio Legislator passed Senate Bill 204 which now enters Ohio into the interstate compact. On June 14th, OCA leadership was invited to the Statehouse to take part in the signing of SB 204. Now enacted, Ohio joins 15 other states in the compact: Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, North Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, New Hampshire, and Maine. Although SB 204 has passed the legislative process, entering Ohio in the compact, practicing privileges in compact states will not begin until the compact commission, populated by 1 representative from each state's regulatory board, is operational. No exact date has been identified for practicing privileges to begin. However, OCA does not anticipate full operations of the compact until sometime in 2023.

OCA continues to advocate for an amendment to the "universal licensing" bills to exempt those licensure boards that have a compact. OCA believes strongly that the compact model better serves professionals and citizens of Ohio.



House Bill 616: Regards promotion, teaching-divisive, inherently racist concepts

- Sponsors: Loychik (Dis 63 – R); Schmidt (Dis 65 – R)
- This bill would punish school districts and teachers for teaching about or discussing critical race theory, intersectional theory, diversity, equity and inclusion topics, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
- Status: Referred to Committee (State and Local Government)
- OCA Action: OCA opposes this bill. President Kim-Appel is crafting an official statement on behalf of the OCA expressing concern with the bill

House Bill 454: Enact the Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act

- Sponsors: Click (Dis 88 – R); Grendell (Diss 76 – R)
- This bill will ban gender affirming care for transgender and gender diverse youth in the state of Ohio. It would endanger an already vulnerable population and force counselors to choose between following state laws or counseling ethics.
- Status: In committee, proponent testimony has been heard, OCA will provide opponent testimony in the fall.
- OCA Action: OCA opposes HB 454. One of the talking points on our recent legislative advocacy day was sharing our concerns with legislators about it.

OCA Supervision Taskforce Update

by Dr. Stephanie Drcar, OACES Representative



OHIO CSWMFT BOARD NEWS

OCA President, Dr. DoHee Kim-Appel, created the OCA Supervision Taskforce at the outset of her presidency. The taskforce was created to address the problem that dependently-licensed counselors (and counselor trainees) face when seeking a supervisor. As counselors may know, there is no one central database of counselor supervisors in Ohio. Finding an available supervisor usually happens via professional connections and word of mouth. Ohio counselors deserve an accessible and equitable resource for finding a supervisor!

I was honored to be selected as the chair of the taskforce and I have been working with a dedicated group of Ohio counselors: Dr. Mike Lewis, Christine Banks-Van Allen, Savannah Long, and Debbie Tkac. Together we were tasked with creating a directory of Counselor Supervisors (LPCC-S) in the state of Ohio who would like to be connected with counselors and counselor trainees for supervision. The explosion of familiarity and comfort using virtual platforms means that more options for supervision exist for folks in Ohio, regardless of location. The registry also features other key information such as clinical areas of specialty, cost of supervision, locations/virtual availability information, and information about the supervisor's approach to supervision.

We are concluding our work soon and have finished collecting data to populate the registry. There are more than 250 supervisors who will be in the first version of the directory! We are currently building a WordPress website that will host the directory and will be linked at the OCA website via the Resources tab. We hope to have the registry live and available for use in June of this year.

The work of the Supervision Taskforce will come to a close in the end of June of this year but OACES will steward the supervision registry moving forward. OACES has created the OACES Supervision Directory Committee that will take over the directory in July 2022 and Savannah Long will chair the committee. The OACES Supervision Directory Committee will maintain the directory and solicit new additions on a regular basis. We look forward to announcing that the registry is live via the OCA listserv in the near future!

On March 21, 2022, rule changes went into effect. These changes had been in progress for nearly a year. Licensees were notified about the proposed changes several times.

The rules reflect the recommendations of licensees and stakeholders. An updated Laws and Rules PDF, as well as links to the Revised Code and Administrative Code can be found [here](#).

Several changes were made to the rules regarding continuing education. The Board is always seeking ways to improve the experience for licensees and applicants. One part of that commitment was our adoption of CE Broker.

Using CE Broker has allowed us to process continuing education approvals, but also created a place where licensees can find approved continuing education programs. Currently there are over 20,000 approved programs.

The Board also recognizes that many licensees earn CEs approved by licensure boards in other states or take continuing education programs offered by State of Ohio agencies. In response to the current state of continuing education, the Board passed several rule changes.

CE Rule Change Summary:

- Online programs taken after 6/19/2022 that are not preapproved or offered by a pre-approved provider will not be accepted for post-program approval.
- CE programs approved by other state counseling, social work, or MFT boards will be accepted by CSWMFT.
- CEs directly related to the scope of practice offered by other State of Ohio agencies or boards will be accepted by CSWMFT.
- The follow agencies are covered by the rule change: Board of Nursing, State Medical Board of Ohio, Chemical Dependency Professionals Board, Department of Developmental Disabilities, Bureau of Workers Compensation, Department of Job and Family Services, State Board of Psychology, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Youth Services, Attorney General of Ohio, and Supreme Court of Ohio. By a vote of the Board, additional State of Ohio Boards or Departments may be granted approval.

Licensees can find approved CE programs by visiting [here](#).

