

THE COUNSELING ADVOCATE

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



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HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY? SHARE IT IN THE ADVOCATE!

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WELCOME TO THE ADVOCATE!

*A MESSAGE FROM SEAN GORBY,
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CHAIR*

Greetings from the Ohio Counseling Association's Government Relations Committee (GRC)! My name is Sean Gorby, and over the past three years, I have had the honor of serving you, your clients, OCA, and the citizens of Ohio as the chairman of this great committee. The work of this committee recently won the 2019 ACA State Branch Advocacy Award, an honor that truly reflects the great individuals who comprise this committee as well as the great work they produce.

The work of the OCA GRC is concerned with all matters of government activities at the local, state, and national level, with a primary focus on legislative advocacy. The term *legislative advocacy* can often be intimidating. Through efforts like this newsletter and Legislative Advocacy Day, the GRC desires to connect individuals like you to the advocacy process by simplifying the process, engaging you in the process, and capitalizing on YOUR strengths. At its core, legislative advocacy involves telling stories, informing others about the counseling process, and organizing advocacy efforts. As a counselor or counselor trainee, YOU are uniquely positioned to tell your stories, give voice to your clients' experiences, and serve as an expert about the counseling process. It is our hope that by engaging you in the process of legislative advocacy, our profession and the services we offer our clients will be even stronger than they are today!

Peace be the journey!
Sean Gorby, Ph.D.

ISSUES IN PROGRESS

- **House Bill 443 -- Ohio Mental Health Parity and Equity Act (MHPAEA)**
 - Primary Sponsors: Rep. Phil Plummer (R-Dayton) and Rep. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington)
 - Aim: Align state law with current federal law; raise awareness among individuals, families, and employers about their rights and responsibilities under the law; and facilitate greater implementation and enforcement..
 - Goal: Provide greater transparency and accountability that results in expanded access to mental health and addiction treatment services for Ohioans
 - Bill Status: Introduced
- **Senate Bill 246 -- Require Occupational Licensing of Out-of-State Licensees**
 - Primary Sponsors: Sen. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and Sen. (Rob McColley (R-Napoleon)
 - Aim: Create a process for all out-of-state applicants practicing a profession to get a license in Ohio without having to meet additional requirements or demonstrate competency for Ohio's standards.
 - Goal: Spur economic development in Ohio and make Ohio more attractive to work in the state
 - Bill Status: In Senate Committee (12/4/19)
- **House Bill 323 -- Grant Psychologists Prescriptive Authority**
 - Primary Sponsors: Don Manning (R-New Middletown)
 - Aim: Would allow psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications, should the meet the following criteria:
 - are a doctoral-level psychologist, licensed in the state of Ohio;
 - have completed a master's degree in Clinical Psychopharmacology;
 - have completed 700 hours of clinical supervision, 350 of which are under a psychiatrist;
 - have entered into and maintain a collaborative relationship with a state-licensed physician;
 - and have applied to the State Psychology Board and adhere to all relevant rules/regulations governing the prescription of medications in Ohio.
 - Goal: Aid in the shortage of psychiatrists and bridge the gap between clients and effective medication treatment/management to supplement mental and behavioral health treatment.

SAVE THE DATE

OCA LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY 2020

April 28, 2020
RIFFE CENTER | Columbus Ohio

CALL FOR EOCA AND NCOCA REPS!

We invite a member from the Eastern Ohio Counseling Association and the North Central Ohio Counseling Association to represent your chapter on the OCA Government Relations Committee.

Email The Counseling Advocate editors if interested.



Thanks to those OCA GRC members who participated in AOCC 2019 in Columbus, Ohio, November 6-8! Pictured here are some members after the learning session on advocacy, presented by our committee.

OCA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Gorby, Ph.D., LPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Government Relations Committee Chair ◦ Clinical Instructor at Capital University • Elise Raghavan, CT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Government Relations Committee Intern ◦ Master's Student at University of Toledo • John Schmoll, Opioid Abuse Counselor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Central Ohio Counseling Association Chapter Representative ◦ iCare Health & Wellness Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susannah Coaston, Ed.D., LPCC-S, CWC (OH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association Chapter Representative ◦ Certified Wellness Counselor, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services ◦ Assistant Professor, Northern Kentucky University • Cat Gillson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Miami Valley Counseling Association Chapter Representative ◦ Mahajan Therapeutics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay Heckman, LPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Northwest Ohio Counseling Association Chapter Representative ◦ Doctoral Candidate at University of Toledo • Damon Drew <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Northwest Ohio Counseling Association Member-at-Large ◦ Ohio State University • Maddie Stevens, M.S.Ed., LPC, NCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Southeast Ohio Counseling Association Chapter Representative ◦ Doctoral Student at Ohio University | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staci Tessmer, M.A., LPCC-S, NCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ohio Association for Specialists in Group Work Chapter Liaison ◦ Premier Behavioral Health Services ◦ Doctoral Candidate at Kent State University • Tom Davis, Ph.D., LPCC-S, ACA Fellow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Member-at-Large ◦ Professor Emeritus at Ohio University • Stephanie S.J. Drcar, Ph.D. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ohio Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Liaison ◦ Assistant Professor at Cleveland State University |
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