

Wisconsin Mental Health Counseling Association

W M H C A

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

• LEADERSHIP

• MEMBERSHIP

• ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

• MEDICARE INCLUSION

• AMHCA AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

• WCA WISCONSIN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

• WCA WISCONSIN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION CONNECTION.

FROM THE DESK OF DEB LAU SCHINGEN, WMHCA PRESIDENT:

Greetings to all WMHCA members/soon to be members. This is a long overdue newsletter. There are not enough hours in the day to get everything done so things like newsletters get put on the "back, back burner."

LEADERSHIP

Having been at the helm of this association for too many years, it is time for a new president to take over. **JANICE A. GNAS** is a Wisconsin Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified AODA Counselor with an International Certification (ICRC) Wisconsin Certification (CADCIII), and Substance Abuse Professional for the Department of Transportation (SAP) she graduated from the University of

Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Masters of Science in Educational Psychology in 1988, after completion of Two two-year post-baccalaureate counseling certifications and internships 1981 to 1988 from Mount Mary College and Thomas Merton Institute, she also completed a Masters in Business Administration in 2003 from Cardinal Stritch University. Ms. Gnás is a provider of Employee Assistance Program services to a wide variety of companies and for a wide variety of clients and their dependents. She is a Psychotherapist in Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse treatment in South-eastern Wisconsin, for the past twenty years also affiliated with major healthcare organizations,

she is currently in private practice and an independent contractor.

MEMBERSHIP

We need to get our membership back on track. Many of you have shown your support of the association and we greatly appreciate it. We need to increase membership so that we can be on top of changes taking place in the profession. We need to be proactive. You are going to be given the option of either joining WMHCA for \$45 or, a dual membership with both WCA and WMHCA for \$75.00. WCA has also been in the process of reorganizing and they want to increase their numbers so this could be a Win-Win for both groups.

L I C E N S E D P R O F E S S I O N A L C O U N S E L O R S

It was recently brought to my attention that a new rule is set to go into effect January 1, 2007 that will affect all LPCs who practice psychotherapy without supervision. This Rule states that in order for LPCs to practice independent of supervision they must.

1. Pass the NCMHCE (National Counseling Mental Health Certification Exam).

2. Have taken a minimum 6 credits or 9 quarter hours of post bachelor's training in psychotherapy modalities.

3. Have a signed State affidavit by a supervisor qualified and authorized to practice psychotherapy that the individual has completed at least 3000 hours super-

vised clinical professional counselor practice in less than 2 years, including at least 1000 hours of face-to-face client contact and including DSM diagnosis and treatment of individuals. This rule was approved by the LPC Board in 2004. I don't know about the rest of you but, I never heard anything about this Rule.

L I C E N S E D P R O F E S S I O N A L C O U N S E L O R S

Unless this Rule is repealed, many LPCs in clinical practice will be scrambling to find a supervisor who can make sure they are still able to see their clients.

I have spoken with Jeff Scanlon, Bureau Director of Health Science Professions, he indicated that the current board is trying to get this Rule repealed but there is no guarantee. The hope is that it will be repealed in October. The current Board is comprised of LaMarr Franklin (public member), Leslie Miniken, Evelyn Pumphrey and Susan Putra (Chair).

In talking with Dismas Becker (Lobbyist) he stated that rules are not usually retroactive as this one is and generally they would allow for a grandfathering process. This seems to be very punitive and it is singling out LPCs. In speaking with Colleen James (former Board member) this action may have resulted from a social worker feeling his colleagues (LPCs) at work did not have adequate training for psychotherapy and this led to

the LPC section "assassinating" its constituents.

After talking with Dismas, I did not feel that we were completely lost. The current board can come up with a rule to cancel out the current rule but that would require more time and energy. An attempt can be made to get a Freeze on enacting this Rule, January 2007.

My question is why would our own board members agree to such a piece of legislation without any communication to members. It may be that they don't have to consult with members. It may be that they don't know how to contact members. It may be that they had no idea what the repercussion would be of such a rule. LPCs are not without fault because we should all be informed on what the Board is doing which means going online to the State of Wisconsin/DRL: <http://DRL.Wi.gov/prof/coun/whatsnew.htm>.

I don't know how much free time you have in your schedule but I know I have very

little time to check the website on a regular basis. Now it is going to be something that gets checked much more often.

At this point the one thing to do is send your thoughts on repealing this Rule to Jeff Scanlon as well as planning to be present for the public hearing. Check the DRL website. Also plan to attend the next Professional Counselors board meeting scheduled for August 1, 2007 at 1:00 pm, located at 1400 E. Washington in Madison, WI.

"My question is why would our own board members agree to such a piece of legislation without any communication to members."

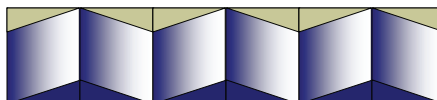
Deborah Lau Schingen

M E D I C A R E I N C L U S I O N

AMHCA has again introduced HR 5324, the Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2006. This legislation will provide Medicare beneficiaries with greater access to qualified providers. LPCs would be included in this legislation. We will keep you informed or you can go direct to AMHCA.org.

M E N T A L H E A L T H W E E K

Once again WMHCA received a signed Proclamation from both Governor Doyle and Mayor Barrett recognizing Mental Health Week and Year.



A M H C A C O N F E R E N C E

The annual AMHCA conference is being held in the "Gateway City" (St. Louis) July 20-22, 2006. Please check the website for details or the *Advocate*. It is a fun conference and will provide you an opportunity to connect with fellow LPCs from across the country.

For any National Legislative questions/concerns please contact Beth Powell at the AMHCA office (800) 326-2642.

**WMHCA
COALITION**

The Coalition continues to work on the Outpatient Clinic rules. The final draft of changes should be out before the summer is over. Please understand that these rules WILL NOT eliminate the need for supervision if you work with Medicaid/Medicare clients. The mandated clinics will still require supervision. A public hearing will be required before these can be adopted. Membership in WMHCA will keep you abreast of all the changes.



“It may be that they don’t have to consult with members. It may be that they don’t know how to contact members. It may be that they had no idea what the repercussion would be of such a Rule. LPCs are not without fault because we should all be informed on what the Board is doing. . . .”
Deborah Lau Schingen

MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL

Membership/Renewal Application

- Membership Renewal
- New Member

I am willing to work on the following committee/s:

- Membership
- Legislative
- Public Awareness
- Professional Development
- Administration

I would consider an office:

- YES
- NO

DUES:

- \$45.00 WMHCA
- \$25.00 Student
- \$75.00 WMHCA and WCA

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

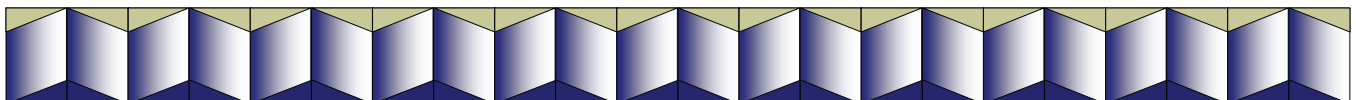
Email Address: _____

Please remit application with your check made payable to WMHCA

c/o INNER DYNAMICS, INC.
230 W. Wells Street #309
Milwaukee, WI 53203

To contact Deborah Lau Schingen (414) 276-3856
Janice A. Gnas (414) 220-4334

Comments:



**WISCONSIN MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELING ASSOCIATION**

C/o INNER DYNAMICS, INC.
230 W. Wells Street #309
Milwaukee, WI 53203

To:

**WISCONSIN
MENTAL
HEALTH
COUNSELING
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

