

THE COUNSELING ADVOCATE

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



Special Edition: Minority Mental Health Month

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WELCOME TO THE ADVOCATE!

A MESSAGE FROM OHIO COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (OCSJ)

Black Lives Matter. This sentiment has become more profound given the recent and unnecessary murders of African Americans due to police brutality and racially motivated actions. The fight for civil rights and equality is never-ending due to the systemic racism pervading this country, placing minorities, specifically this group, at a severe disadvantage. This disadvantage is layered, being recognized not only in law enforcement, but also institutions. Pertinent to our work, oppression within educational institutions is evident, for example achievement tests aid in weeding out “poor performing” (read: Black, Brown, Indigenous) students, who are then labeled as “unteachable” and “oppositional”, leading to higher potentiality of contact with the criminal justice system. Clinically, Black persons and People of Color historically do not seek treatment due to biases, but when engaged receive poorer mental health treatment, are often misdiagnosed, overly medicated or provided diagnoses that are racially motivated (i.e., ODD vs. ADHD) leading to more likelihood of criminal (“oppositional”) labeling and underutilization of mental health care. These are just a few examples of the unfortunate realities and lived experiences of these groups who attempt to navigate through a system filtered with flaws, created and maintained to support white supremacy. Well hidden and ignored by most whites, however painfully obvious and impactful to Black persons and other Persons of Color. These senseless murders only further perpetuate the urgency that we as Counselors must place on protecting the welfare of African Americans within a flawed system. Operating within a flawed system is only further complicated with consideration that this system was never intended to protect this disenfranchised group. OCSJ challenges Counselors to use their platform to validate and give voice to those who have been silenced by the individualistic, materialistic, competitive system of capitalism that concentrates power in the hands of those with the most resources. We must do the work to dismantle the oppressive systems, thereby acknowledging racism while working to rebuild and invoke some semblance of humanity that serves all persons.

[CLICK HERE FOR WHAT YOU CAN DO FROM HOME!](#)

The Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities (SAIGE) of Ohio (formerly ALGBTICO) will be collaborating with OCSJ to address the needs of minority clients.

OHIO COUNSELING
ASSOCIATION

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY? SHARE IT IN THE ADVOCATE!

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ISSUES IN PROGRESS

HB 606 & SB 308

- Provides immunity from civil liability for health care providers, including behavioral health providers, during and after a government-declared disasters or emergency due to COVID-19
- Bill Status: SB 308: Referred to Committee; HB 606: Passed

HB 700

- Contains a provision that allows counselors, among other providers, to administer long-acting/extended-release naltrexone by injection to those addicted to drugs. The bill also requires MHAS to procure injectable extended-release naltrexone and distribute it as needed to counselors and other providers listed in the bill.
- Bill Status: Introduced

HB 679

- Establish and modify requirements regarding the provision of telehealth services, including but not limited to requiring health plans to cover telehealth, provisions requiring secure technology and transmission of patient information, informed consent required for telehealth, and other billing and non-billing provisions.
- Bill Status: Passed the House

**July is officially
Minority Mental
Health Month in
Ohio!**

MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH PROCLAMATION

On July 1st, 2020 Governor Mike DeWine signed a resolution proclaiming July 2020 as Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in Ohio. Requested by the Ohio Counseling Association, the proclamation was submitted in conjunction with national efforts to increase BIPOC mental health awareness. In an effort to ensure that social justice, diversity, and inclusion are not just proclamations but also values inherent in our mental health services provided across the state, OCA and our divisions and chapters will be providing continued opportunities for education, research, and practical strategies to increase minority mental health awareness and access to equitable services. Be on the lookout for various events and resources from OCA, divisions, and chapters that will continue the effort of BIPOC mental health awareness.

RESEARCH

Interested in learning more about minority mental health and social justice advocacy? Click the link below to check out research articles and research reviews from our very own OCA Emerging Leaders!

[Click here for research articles and reviews!](#)

OCA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Sean Gorby, Ph.D., LPC
 - Government Relations Committee Chair
- Elise Raghavan, CT
 - Government Relations Committee Intern
- John Schmoll, Opioid Abuse Counselor
 - Central Ohio Counseling Association Chapter Representative
- Susannah Coaston, Ed.D., LPCC-S, CWC (OH)
 - Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association Chapter Representative
- Cat Gillson
 - Miami Valley Counseling Association Chapter Representative
- Lindsay Heckman, LPC
 - Northwest Ohio Counseling Association Chapter Representative
- Damon Drew
 - Northwest Ohio Counseling Association Member-at-Large
- Maddie Stevens, M.S.Ed., LPC, NCC
 - Southeast Ohio Counseling Association Chapter Representative
- Staci Tessmer, M.A., LPCC-S, NCC
 - Ohio Association for Specialists in Group Work Chapter Liaison
- Tom Davis, Ph.D, LPCC-S, ACA Fellow
 - Member-at-Large
- Stephanie S.J. Drcar, Ph.D
 - Ohio Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Liaison

COMING SOON: Be on the look out for a needs assessment from your GRC Liaison!