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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.

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
**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

**Senate Bill 204: Interstate Compact for Licensure Portability**
- **Sponsor:** Roegner (Dis. 27 - R)
- **Status:** Reported out of Committee – awaiting a vote by the full Senate.
- **OCA Action:** OCA is a proponent of SB 204. CRC 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)
- **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)
- **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)
- **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.

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**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 CE credits are pending.

- **Leadership Certificate Program, continued on page 3**

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.
Module 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.

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).