

As citizens of Louisiana we are all impacted by the events of the past week in Baton Rouge and also in Minnesota and Dallas. Each of us will react to these events based on our life experiences. However, as professional counselors we have an ethical responsibility to work with all of our clients in an effort to find a way to promote healing. Catherine Roland, President of ACA and a member of LCA, has said that she "encourages members to turn their anger and frustration toward efforts to ensure that our clients, who are impacted directly, and indirectly through vicarious trauma, have the resources they need to cope and thrive." It is not LCA's position to take sides in this situation but to encourage our members to stop and discover ways that we can use our skills in promoting communication and healing among the diverse populations that we serve. As professional counselors, we are uniquely positioned to advocate for and model positive/constructive responses.

The LCA leadership is encouraging each of the LPC networking groups to use their July, August, or even the September meeting to hold a summit meeting to discuss the ways that LPCs in this state can move to the forefront in helping promote healing among our diverse populations. If there is not a group in your area, you may wish to organize a summit in your area. Counselor Educators may want to use this opportunity as a teaching moment and an opportunity to allow a safe place for our future counselors to process their reactions and also share their ideas for facilitating conversation and healing.

Diane Austin
LCA Executive Director

Being that one of the horrific events took place in our state, LCA is proud to say that our members and leadership are on the front lines and prepared to assist those directly and indirectly impacted by these tragedies. Let's join hands as ONE and not allow these acts to divide us. We need to heal these racial divides and promote unity and respect among all groups across the state says Iman Nawash, LCA President. I am encouraging LPC's across the state of Louisiana to consider ways to inform, educate and answer the questions raised.

The Louisiana Counseling Association recognizes that positive change starts with all of us standing up for the values we cherish – diversity, inclusiveness and respect for others. We will keep families and individuals involved in our thoughts as we continue to work to build stronger, safer communities.

Thank you,
Iman Ennabut-Nawash, Ph.D., LPC-S
President, Louisiana Counseling Association