

2025 Louisiana Counseling Association Conference

Baton Rouge Crowne Plaza Corporate Center

October 5-7, 2025

Cultivating Empathy:
Empowering Clients and
Counselors

Keynote Speakers:



2025 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

LCA 2025 LEADERSHIP

President:	Dr. Krystal Vaughn
President Elect	Dr. Kelle Falterman
President Elect (2026-2027)	Dr. Joseph Pistorius
Immediate Past President	Dr. Vicki Guilbeau

2025 Conference Committees

Conference Onsite Chair	Dr. Kelle Falterman
Film Festival Committee Chair	Dr. Tiffany Henderson
Sponsorship Committee Chair	Dr. Joseph Pistorius
Onsite Sponsorship Committee Chair	Dr. Heather Olivier
Professional Development Committee Chairs.	Dr. Christine Ebrahim
	Dr. Teneka Gash
Awards Committee Chair	Dr. Staci Whiteside
ADA Committee Chair	Dr. Domonique Lemieux
Door Prize Committee Chair	Dr. Christine Ebrahim
Help Desk Chair	Dr. Anita Pool
Volunteers	Robyn Sonnier, LPC
	Emma Carline
	Ashley Petty
Neurodiversity Room	Dr. Heather Olivia
T-shirts and Logo Items	Dr. Tessia Guillory Ozenne
Decorations	Kimberly Koll

2025 Credit Information

The sessions for the LCA Conference are 1.5 CE clock hours. There are a few sessions which will extend into the next one or two time slots. These sessions will award 3.0 CE clock hours. You **must attend the entire time to receive credit for the session**; partial credit will not be awarded. If the sessions have been approved for Diagnosis, Ethics, or Supervision, the session information will indicate that.

We owe thanks to the leadership of the various divisions; they have invited presenters to share their expertise with you. The session descriptions will identify if a session is part of a division track.

The LCA Conference sessions have been submitted for review to LASACT, LAPT, Social Workers. The sessions have been approved to award credits for LPCs, PLPCs, Certified School Counselors and NCCs/ NCSCs. LCA has been approved by the LPC Board to review LMFT CE clock hours---- Rules and Regulations: Chapter 35, 3503 (C)(2)(a)(i)

If the conference is approved for LAC hours and if you are a Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC), do not forget to complete and submit the LASACT form. This can be found on the LCA website https://www.lacounseling.org/lca/Conference_handouts.asp and on the registration table.

CE Clock hours will be offered for LPCs, LMFTs, NBCC and LAC, Social Workers, and Play Therapy (if approved by their Boards).

LCA is proud to announce that it has been added to the LPC Rules as an approved reviewer for LMFT hours. LCA will use this new opportunity to review and approve LCA sponsored CE workshops only.

Please be aware the rules governing credit approval are different for LPCs and LMFTs.

Ethics: For LMFTs to receive credit for Ethics, the AAMFT Code of Ethics must be used in the workshop. LPCs may receive credit for a course using the Code of Ethics of any mental health license.

Supervision: A Licensed LMFT is preferred for sessions approved for supervision credits.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 4, 2025

8:00 Sponsor Sign in and Set Up

12:00 Volunteer Luncheon

Volunteer Training

Bag Stuffing

Sunday, October 5, 2025

8:00-11:00 Committee Meetings

Government Relations/Advocacy
Room 224

Division Board Meetings

LSCA Cypress 1

LASERVIC Levee

LCCA Riverboat

PLCA Room 225

LMGCA Creole Queen

8:00-11:00 Sponsor Sign-in and Set Up

Registration Opens

11:00-1:00

LCA Luncheon and Awards (2.0 CEs)

1. TBA

Presenter: Elsa Soto Leggett, Ph.D., LPC-S,
RPT-S, President of ACA

1:00 Registration Open

1:00-1:30 Visit Sponsors

1:30 Neurodiversity Room Opens
Creole

1:30-3:00 Content Sessions (1.5 CEs)

2. *LPC Board and LMFT Advisory Committee
Yearly Review*

Facilitator: Jamie Doming, Executive
Director, and Board Members

The LPC Board and the LMFT Advisory
Committee will discuss changes to the Rules
affecting the two licenses and the future for
LPCs and LMFTs

Room:
Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.),
NBCC

3. *Gambling Today: The Unconventional
Becomes the Conventional*

Presenters: Robert Pledger, M.A.
Robert Henson, CAC, CCGC
Robert Hetrick, LAC, CCGC

With gambling more accessible than ever,
problem gambling is a growing concern. This
session explores its evolution, prevalence, and
impact in Louisiana, highlighting the need for
screening and treatment. Counselors will learn
strategies to assess and support clients
struggling with gambling-related issues and
their broader personal and financial
consequences.

Room:
Track: LAAOC
Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT
(Diagnosis), NBCC

4. Cancelled



5. *First Do No Harm: Ethics in Diagnosis*

Presenter: Brian Canfield, Ed.D.,
LPC-S, LMFT

This presentation will examine ethical considerations of clinical diagnosis and how diagnostic labels may potentially harm clients. Specific strategies and suggestions will be presented to help clinicians ethically utilize clinical diagnoses - particularly when a diagnostic label is needed to receive insurance payment for services.

Room:
Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT
(Diagnosis), NBCC

6. *Helping Your Clients Find a Meaningful Life Through Work*

Presenter: Ron Cathey, LPC-S,
LMFT-S, CCC

Because work is a part of our lives and who we are as humans, it is important that we lead our clients to explore more than work-interest, skills/abilities, and personality in choosing a field of study or career path. Through my experience, the discussion and exploration of values and what a meaningful life would look like for them is most important. In this presentation, we will explore how to facilitate this process with our clients of all age groups and in all counseling settings.

Room:
Track: LCDA
Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.),
NBCC

7. *A Primer on Psychopharmacology: Psychopharmacology Presented Through a Historical Perspective*

Presenter: Abdul Majid Khan,
MD in Psychology

A Primer on Psychopharmacology, presented in a chronological manner in terms of development and availability.

Room: :
Approved for: LPC, (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.),
NBCC

*Plan to attend the Presidential
Reception*

8. *Expressive Play Therapy for Children and Adolescents: Drama, Movement, Art, Part 1*

Presenters: LeAnne Steen, Ph.D.,
T-S
Mariah Gale, BA

Expressive Play Therapy is a form of play therapy with directed and free play activities meant to engage a child in therapeutic games, exercises, art, improv, drama in ways that facilitate the therapeutic relationship and insight. Play is a language, and mental health professionals need to know how to use the language of play to meet children in their preferred developmental zone in order to engage and facilitate true therapeutic experiences in the room. In this presentation we will discuss the use of trauma informed expressive play therapy with individuals, groups, and even families in order to facilitate therapeutic healing experiences. This presentation is both didactic and experiential and we will learn about using expressive play with children from 4 years old through high school age.

Room:
Track: ACAC-LA
Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT
(Diagnosis) NBCC

9. *Roundtable Sessions* *Room:*

Please see end of program for the description of each Roundtable session.

Roundtables are set for 10 participants each. Once those 10 seats, please find a seat at another table.

a. The Weight of War: Moral Decisions through the Perspectives of Combat Veterans of the Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom

b. Healing Ourselves, Empowering others: Self Care as a Social Justice Practice

c. The Impact of Childhood Isolation and Loneliness on Substance Abuse Disorder

d. Addressing Spirituality in Counseling: An Ethical Necessity

e. Empowering and Healing Rest Practices for Counselors and Clients

f. Integrating Trauma-informed Counseling into Supervision and Counselor Education

g. Ethical Considerations for Integrating AI-Powered Tools in Clinical Practice

h. The Dark Triad and Related Disorders: Intersections with Custody Cases

i. Exploring the Role of Psychoeducation for Increasing Relational and Sexual Satisfaction for Couples

j. Thriving in Private Practice: Strategies for Creating Impact and Income in Counseling

k. Shining a Flashlight on Success: Effectively Sharing School Counseling Data

l. Suspension is not an Intervention: Building Inclusive Discipline Practices

m. Supporting Parents to Help Kids Heal

n. Attachment Theory and Sexuality: Exploring Intimacy, Orientation, and Empathy-Based Counseling

o. Cultivating Sustainable Site Partnership to Enhance Fieldwork Training: The Practicum and Internship Coordinator as a Bridge Between Students, Programs, and Placement Site



3:15-4:45 Content Sessions (1.5 CEs)

10. LPC PAC Meeting: Legislative Update and How Counselors Can Make a Difference

Presenter: Mary Feduccia, Ph.D., LPC-S

Stay up to date on the state and federal legislative issues that could impact your practice. Learn specific ways you can help politically and legislatively to promote the interests of LPCs and the clients we treat. Please join us whether you are a member of the PAC or you are interested in learning more about it.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

11. Story-Informed Trauma Therapy Introduction: A Systemic Model for Trauma Recovery

Presenter: Michele Louviere, LMFT

Trauma is the “gateway” to a variety of psychological, emotional, physiological, social, and relational sequelae, dysfunctions, and disorders. Trauma, in one form or another, is what brings most of our clients into therapy.

Room:

Track: LAMFC

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC

12. Integration to Elevation

Presenters: Donna Barnes

Johnson, ED.D., LPC-S, NCC

Susan Thornton, Ph.D., LPC-S,

NCC, LPP, RPT-S

Integrating the skills learned in graduate school, as well as post graduate is essential to the promotion of success for the clinician. The purpose of this presentation is to equip attendees with the necessary skills needed to nurture their journey in the mental health field.

Room:

Track: LAAOC

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

13. Managing Burnout with Supervision

Presenters: Amanda Walker, Ph.D.,

LPC-S, CRC

Tieranni Parquet, LPC-S

The course of the past few years has brought challenges to our professional lives. Many professional counselors and supervisors have developed burnout. Burnout results in decreased job satisfaction and turnover for counselors/supervisors. Supervisors will learn how to implement a culture that promotes self-care in our dramatically changing world.

Room:

Track: LACES

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

14. Expanding Access and Equity: Integrating Telehealth into Comprehensive School Counseling Programs

Presenter: Delarious Stewart, Ph.D.,
LPC-S, LSSP, NCC, NCSC

This session explores how school-based telehealth counseling aligns with the ASCA National Model to enhance student well-being. Participants will examine ethical, legal, and practical considerations, gaining strategies to implement virtual counseling, advocate for equitable access, and support students' academic, career, and social/emotional development amid systemic barriers.

Room:

Track: LSCA

Approved for: LPC (Telehealth), LMFT (Telehealth), NBCC

15. Culturally Competent Approaches to Grief Support in Mental Health Counseling

Presenter: Anetria Thompson-Hardeman, LPC

Grief is deeply personal yet profoundly shaped by cultural traditions, religious beliefs, and historical experiences. In diverse communities across Louisiana, particularly among Black, Creole, and Indigenous populations, grief support must be attuned to these influences. This session will equip mental health professionals, grief counselors, and social workers with culturally competent strategies to better support bereaved individuals. Participants will explore cultural grief expressions, traditional mourning rituals, and the role of faith and community in the grieving process.

Through interactive discussions, case studies, and practical implementation strategies, this session will help mental health professionals bridge cultural gaps in grief counseling, provide more inclusive support, and acknowledge the intersection of personal, historical, and collective grief experiences.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Multiculturalism), NBCC, LMFT (Multiculturalism)

16: From Praise to Progress: Delivering Feedback that Drives Growth in Counselor Supervision

Presenters: Joseph Pistorius, Ph.D.,
LPC-SA, NCC

Heather Olivier, Ph.D, LPC, NCC

This session explores the critical importance of feedback in counselor education and supervision. Attendees will learn to provide timely, evaluative, supportive, critical, and developmental feedback, while considering cultural and neurodiversity factors. Practical techniques will be discussed with audience participation and real world examples to foster effective supervisory relationships.

Room:

Track: LACES

Approved for LPC (Supervision), NCC

5:00-6:00 Division Mixer

Room: Bayou/Levee

6:00

Presidential Reception

Everybody come and celebrate the 2025
LCA Conference

Monday, October 6, 2025

6:30-7:15 Yoga Cypress 1

6:55-7:55 LASERVIC Prayer Service

17. Spirituality and Grief: Leaning on Religious and Spiritual Beliefs to Facilitate Healing

Presenter: Dr. Kelle Falterman, LPC-S

Research indicates that religious or spiritual beliefs are positive indicators of grief healing. In a study by the National Institute of Health, strength of spiritual belief was an important predictor of bereavement outcome. Those with no spiritual belief took longer to resolve their grief and maintained higher grief scores at the 14-month follow-up.

(For the first time the prayer Service will offer
1.0 CE clock hours)

Room:

LASERVIC

LPC (Gen.) LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

Track:

Approved for:

7:00 Continental Breakfast

8:00-9:30 Content Session (1.5 CEs)

18. *When Love Leads: Navigating Conversations and Creating Safe Spaces for LGBTQ+ Youth*

Presenters: Ledora Yerks Birdlow, LPC-S, NCC, ACS, Clinical Sexologist
Kayla Rico, PLPC, NCC
Shadinea Whittington, PLPC, NCC

Creating safe, affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth begins with intentional conversations rooted in empathy and understanding. This session equips caregivers, educators, and counselors with inclusive communication strategies, explores the profound impact of affirmation vs. rejection, and provides practical tools to foster environments where LGBTQ+ youth feel seen, valued, and supported.

Room:
Track: SAIGE-L Approved
for: LPC (multicultural), LMFT
(Multiculturalism), NBCC

19. *Wellness Defined: Unlocking your Full Potential*

Presenters: Teneka Gash, Ph.D., PLPC, RSW

Ashlie Gray, PLPC

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the importance of self-care to prevent burnout, impairment, setting boundaries, recognizing signs of burnout, and implementing practical techniques for physical, emotional, and mental rejuvenation. It aims to purposely provide an in-depth understanding of a counselor's ethical responsibility while adhering to the ACA Code of Ethics. This presentation also aims to promote awareness and serves as a stance of advocacy for all professions. Attendees will learn evidence-based strategies to incorporate self-care practices into their daily routines, manage stress, and maintain a healthy work-life balance.

Room:
Track: LAMCD
Approved for: LPC (Ethics) LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

20. *Beyond Strength: Examining the Psychological Impact of Resilience in the African American Communities*

Presenter: Monique Jones, PLPC, NCC

This workshop examines the complex psychological impact of strength narratives within African American communities, focusing on the "strong Black woman" construct and the effects of father absenteeism on African American adolescents. While resilience is often celebrated, these narratives can impose emotional burdens that shape identity, emotional well-being, and relationships. Participants will explore the dual impact of abandonment in African American males and enforced independence in African American females, gaining insight into the mental health consequences of these narratives. Through culturally responsive counseling strategies, attendees will learn to balance recognizing resilience with fostering emotional healing and empowerment

Room:
Track: LCSJ
Approved for: LPC (Multicultural), NBCC

21. *Cultivating the Identity of Licensed Professional Counselors: Self-efficacy, Integrity, and Advocacy Practices for Students and Provisionally Licensed Counselors.*

Presenters: Michelle de la Paz, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT
Elyse Arnold, B.A.
Ashli Savoy King, LPC, NCC

Counseling students, PLPCs, supervisors, and educators can benefit from understanding key aspects of professional counselor development. Participants will gain valuable insights on professional identity, particularly from the beginning stage of the counseling student through provisional licensure status. Presenters outline important concepts novice counselors should exhibit and supervisors and educators should instill in future professionals

Room:
Track: PLCA, LACES
Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC

**22. LSCA, LMHCA, SAIGE-LA Ethical Seminar,
Part 1: Upholding Ethics and Equity:
Clarifying the Roles of Academic and Mental
Health Counselors in Diverse School
Communities**

Presenters: Bernell Elzey, Ph.D., LPC,
CSC, NCC Wendy D.
Rock, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, NCSC
Ledora Yerks-Birdlow, M.Ed.,
LPC-S, NCC Tamara
L. Tisdale, Ph.D, LPC, NCC
A'Rean Thornton-Williams,
MA, PLPC

This interactive workshop explores the distinct roles of school counselors and school-based mental health professionals, focusing on ethical collaboration to support LGBTQ+ youth and students with disabilities. Participants will gain practical tools for navigating ethical dilemmas and fostering inclusive, equity-driven practices in diverse school communities. Part 1 focusing on academic school counselors.

Room: Track:
LSCA, LMHCA, SAIGE-L Approved for:
LPC (Ethics), NBCC

**23. Empowerment thru Wellness: Counselors
Recognizing and Reclaiming Compassion**

Presenter: Elsa Soto Leggett, Ph.D.,
LPC-S, RPT-S, President of ACA

As professional counselors, we are the instrument of our work. As such we open ourselves up to the needs of our clients, considering the world through their perspective and experiences. As professional counselors, we connect with their emotions and pain through empathy whereby laying ourselves vulnerable. This places us at risk for compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma, and burnout (Lawson et al, 2007). These elements can lead to impairment and significant compromise to client care. Recognizing, reclaiming, and prioritizing our own wellness, nurturing our emotional and mental capacity empowers us. Likewise, feeling empowered in our counseling work boosts our overall wellbeing (Coaston, 2017). As well professional counselor we are better able to empower our clients and to lead them to take ownership of their own healing.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.),
NBCC

**24. Culturally Responsive Care in Perinatal
Mental Health: Addressing Diverse Needs**

Presenter: Arkeria Robertson, LPC
This session explores the importance of culturally responsive care in perinatal mental health. Attendees will learn strategies to address cultural influences on maternal mental health, reduce disparities, and implement inclusive practices. Through case studies and evidence-based approaches, participants will gain skills to support diverse perinatal populations effectively.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Multicultural), NBCC,
LMFT (Multicultural)

*Don't forget the film festival
tonight*

9:45-11:45 Keynote General Session

**25. The Role of Forgiveness in Counseling and
Beyond**

Presenter: Rick Balkin, Ph.D., LPC,
NCC

Forgiveness and reconciliation are addressed using the Forgiveness Reconciliation Model (FRM) as a theoretical framework. The FRM has cross-cultural applications, established from previous quantitative research. The researcher's experiences studying forgiveness and reconciliation from survivors and perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide in 1994 are used to expand understanding and application of the FRM to client care in the context of helping clients work through conflict and forgiveness.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT
(Diagnosis), NBCC

11:45-1:30 Division Luncheons
(1.5 CEs)

To receive credit for a Division Luncheon, participants must be registered and checked in on the APP. Participants may not attend and “not eat.”

LSCA Luncheon Cypress 2

26. *Rooted to Rise: Navigating Change, Innovating with Courage, and Thriving Through Self-Care*

Presenter: Dr. Ebonee Magee-Dorsey, State of Mississippi Educator License, LPC, NCC, NCSC

This inspiring keynote challenges school counselors to navigate uncertainty with purpose, innovate with courage, and prioritize self-care. Attendees will leave empowered to thrive personally and professionally while remaining anchored in their “why”.

Track: LSCA

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

LMHCA Mississippi/Delta

27. *Family Healing through Forgiveness: The Impact of Substance use in the Family*

Presenter: Tracey M Duncan, Ph.D., Ed.S., LPC (NJ) ACS

The luncheon presentation is designed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of how substance use disorder (SUD) affects the family system. Attendees will explore the theoretical framework surrounding the impact of SUD on family dynamics, including common behavioral and emotional patterns that emerge with affected families. The session will also highlight the role of forgiveness as a therapeutic tool in the healing process, offering insight into its practical application. Additionally, participants will be introduced to two effective family intervention strategies that incorporate the process of forgiveness to foster recovery and resilience within the family unit.

Track: LMHCA

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis.), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC

LACES Luncheon Levee

28. *How a Quantitative Researcher Came to the Conclusion that the Declaration of Statistical Significance Should Die and Counseling Research Should Adapt.*

Presenter: Dr. Rick Balkin, Ph.D., LPC, NCC

The declaration of statistically significant findings has led to the misapplication of statistical results for over 50 years and a replication crisis of findings in social science research. In this presentation, we will discuss the problem of declaring a finding as statistically significant and how counseling researchers can pave the way for more meaningful research in our profession and beyond.

Track: LACES

Approved for: LPC (Gen.); LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

LCCA Luncheon Cypress 1

29. *The Clinician’s Mirror: Embracing Identity to Empower Ethical Practice*

Presenter: Dr. Asha Gibson, LPC-S, NCC

In today’s shifting social landscape, clinicians are called to do more than serve; they are called to see. This presentation invites mental health practitioners to turn inward, examining how their own intersecting identities— race, gender, culture, faith, and lived experiences— shape both the therapeutic space and ethical decision-making. By embracing self-awareness as an ethical imperative, clinicians can foster deeper client connections, navigate cultural complexities with humility, and contribute to a more unified, inclusive mental health community. Through reflection and actionable strategies, this session empowers practitioners to align who they are with how they heal— ethically, authentically, and effectively.

Track: LCCA

Approved for LPC (Ethics), NBCC, LMFT (General)

11:45

Lunch On Your Own

Visit Sponsors

(Don't forget to play Bingo with the Sponsors)

30. Poster Sessions Presentations and Judging Atrium Hall

Approved for 1.5 only for LPCs (Gen.)

See the end of this Program for the descriptions of the Poster Sessions

1:45-3:15 Content Sessions (1.5 CEs)

31. *Building Empathy and Empowerment: Strengthening the Client-Counselor Partnership*

Presenters: Jackie Matte, Ph.D, PLPC
Ashli Savoy King, LPC, NCC
Teneka Gash, PhD., PLPC, RSW

This presentation aims to share the importance of cultivating relationships with an emphasis on cultural humility. This presentation highlights the importance of empathy and empowerment to foster a therapeutic environment where clients feel understood, supported, and capable of change. As equality knows no gender, this presentation aims to empower clients and counselors

Room:

Track: LAMCD

Approved for: LPC (Multiculturalism), LMFT (Multiculturalism), NBCC



32. *Hidden in Plain Sight" The Underdiagnosis of Eating Disorders in the African American Community*

Presenters: Gracishone Floyd, LPC,
NCC

Deatrice Green, Ph.D., LPC
Keisha Green, PLPC

This presentation examines the underdiagnosis of eating disorders in the African American community, exploring cultural misconceptions, clinical bias, and systemic barriers. It highlights the role of race, gender, and socioeconomic factors while advocating for culturally informed diagnostic and treatment approaches to ensure equitable mental health care.

Room:

Track: LMHCA

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC

33. *Counselor Advocacy: U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans Administration*

Presenter: Christian Dean, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT-S, NCC, LCA Advocacy Specialist

As counselors gain recognition to serve as uniformed mental health professionals by one of the Uniformed Services is a great first step, counselors still have barriers to gain access to the other Uniformed Services that have mental health professionals (U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force). Additionally, counselors have continued progress with access to Veterans Affairs (VA) positions but continue to face challenges with VA specific internship programs as well as with civilian employment within the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force. The presentation will explore research conducted about the Uniformed Service experience (non-mental health) and interest (all positions) of counselors with the Uniformed Services and the VA.

Room:

Track: LMCGA

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

**34. LSCA, LMHCA, SAIGE-LA Ethical Seminar,
Part 2: Upholding Ethics and Equity:
Clarifying the Roles of Academic and Mental
Health Counselors in Diverse School
Communities**

Presenters: Bernell Elzey, Ph.D., LPC,
CSC, NCC

Wendy D. Rock, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC,
NCSC

Ledora Yerks-Birdlow, LPC-S, NCC
Tamara L. Tisdale, Ph.D, LPC, NBCC
A'Rean Thornton-Williams, PLPC

This interactive workshop explores the distinct roles of school counselors and school-based mental health professionals, focusing on ethical collaboration to support LGBTQ+ youth and students with disabilities. Participants will gain practical tools for navigating ethical dilemmas and fostering inclusive, equity-driven practices in diverse school communities.

Part 2 focusing on mental health
counselors

Room:

Track: LSCA, LMHCA, SAIGE-L
Approved for: LPC (Ethics), NBCC

**35. Beyond the DSM: A Spectrum-Based
Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment Selection**

Presenter: Gary Gintner, Ph.D, LPC-S

Research shows that mental disorders are better conceptualized as spectrums rather than categories as in the DSM. This program reviews the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology which organizes symptoms and traits into symptom clusters and spectrums. The five major spectrums are discussed regarding underlying mechanisms and treatment options

Room:

Track: LMHCA

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT
(Diagnosis), NBCC

**36. Integrating Clinical Excellence, Spiritual and
Religious Values in Counseling**

Presenter: Daniel Jurek LPC-S, LMFT

This seminar explores how meaning, transcendence, and connectedness shape human spirituality. Counselors play a vital role in guiding clients toward inner peace and psychological wellness, even in adversity.

We'll examine the ethical principles of LASERVIC (an ACA division) and how they support clients' spiritual and personal growth.

Room:

Track: LASERVIC

Approved for: LPC (Ethics), LMFT (Gen.),
NBC

**37. Working Through Conflict and Forgiveness
with your Client...and Yourself**

Presenter: Rick Balkin, Ph.D., LPC,
NCC

This presentation is about the process of working through forgiveness. Contextual and cultural aspects of forgiveness are explored with stories, humor, clinical examples, research, and empirical findings. The content of this presentation is presented in such a way as to bridge the student, educator, and clinician. In other words, emerging and veteran clinicians might benefit from the theoretical and empirical underpinnings of working with clients through the forgiveness process, and everyone might benefit from the processing and self-help components of the model.

Forgiveness is examined under a cultural and developmental perspective by examining how environment and religion might influence how forgiveness is conceptualized. The model presented in this presentation approaches forgiveness from a theoretical model initially conceptualized from Judaism and broadened to a general population. A validated measure and the research findings related to both the measure and the model are provided and explained, so that attendees obtain a tool for themselves or working with others in a clinical setting.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT
(Diagnosis), NBCC



38. Counseling Supervision: A Review of Ethical Codes and Practices, Part 1

**Presenter: Christine Ebrahim Ph.D.,
LPC-S, NCC**

American Counseling Association (ACA) Code of Ethics (2014) outline several codes that pertain ethical practices for supervision. Both Supervisors and supervisees need to understand the codes and expectations for ethical behavior. This interactive program will review the more common ethical codes and discuss navigating some of the more common ethical dilemmas in supervision

Room:

Track: LACES

**Approved for LPC (.75-Ethics; .75 Supervision)
NBCC, LMFT (General)**

3:30-4:45 Content Sessions (1.5 CEs)

39. *Spiritual Self-Harm? Diagnosis of and Help for Those Who Struggle with Moral or Religious OCD*

Presenter: Andy Wiggins, PLPC

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) affects a large part of people who suffer with anxiety disorders. When OCD and religious beliefs or morals collide, it can remove any joy that is to be found in religious or spiritual experience. This is known as scrupulosity. Diagnosis of scrupulosity takes OCD diagnosis one step further. Scrupulosity is very treatable, but an awareness of the diagnostic and treatment considerations can lead to a significantly better experience for both the client and the clinician

Track: LASERVIC

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), NBCC

40. Collaborative Care for College Students

Presenters: Krystyn Dupree, LPC-S,
NCC

Calvary Sampson, LPC, NCC

Serving a college population comes with unique challenges when you have limited staff and resources, with a campus of thousands of students. The college years see the highest amount of onset of mental health conditions, with an estimated 75% of long-term mental

health conditions starting by age 24 (Kessler et al., 2005; McGorry et al., 2011). Xiao et al. (2017) expressed that with increases in enrollment and the college student population, that this population has an increased risk of developing psychological stress and mental health struggles. During this presentation we will explore how university and college counseling centers benefit from building strong partnerships with local resources and providers to ensure that students get the proper care and can remain successful in their studies. Room:

Track: LCCA

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

41. LCA Government Relations Townhall

**Presenter: Adrienne Trogden, Ph.D.,
LPC-S**

**What is in the legislative future for LCA?
Attend the Town Hall meeting to find out.**

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Gen), NBCC

42. Play with Purpose: Diagnostically Driven Pop Culture Interventions

**Presenters: Deatrice Green, Ph.D.,
LPC-S, RPT-S**

Keisha Green, PLPC

This presentation explores how pop culture can enhance play therapy interventions for specific mental health diagnoses. Attendees will learn creative, culturally responsive strategies to support clients with ADHD, anxiety, trauma, and more – bridging clinical goals with characters, games, and stories that resonate with today’s youth.

Room:

Track: ACAC-L

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC, Play Therapy



43. *Shame Resilience: Cultivating Empathy in Counselors and Clients*

Presenters: Melissa Bowen, LPC-S
Deb Hill, PLPC

Shame and empathy have a conflicting relationship. One blocks the other, while the other heals the first. Learn to move clients from feeling trapped, powerless, and isolated toward connection, power, and freedom. Understand shame and build resilience. Empower adults and children with empathy despite insidious shame mechanisms in the world.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

44. *A Counselor's Guide to Getting Kinky with Chronic Illness and Pain*

Presenters: Sarah Stillwell, Ph.D.,
LPC-S, NCC Sophia
Bologna, B.A.

Disabled persons feel stigma with both visible and invisible disabilities; thus, the need for competent providers is paramount when providing counseling to the disabled community. Sexual practices, including kink, are becoming more popularized as a form of empowerment, communication, and embracing autonomy that many have lost due to chronic conditions.

Room:

Track: SAIGE-L

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

3:30-6:30 Content Sessions (3.0 CEs)

45 *Supervision Connection: Panel Discussion on Navigating the Supervision Process with a Supervisor & Supervisee Meet and Greet Immediately Following.*

Presenters:
Joseph Pistorius, Ph.D., LPC-SA, NCC
Michelle de la Paz, LPC-S,
LMFT

Christine Ebrahim, LPC-S, NCC

Panelists will provide practical strategies and critical information for navigating the provisional licensure process. Additionally,

participants will engage in a dialogue with counselor educators and supervisors about post-graduate supervision topics. Panelist Michelle de la Paz will include information for LMFTs.

Immediately following, participants will have an opportunity to meet and interview potential supervisors who are looking to accept new supervisees. So, Students, are you looking for a Board Approved Supervisor? Here is your chance. **Room:**

Track: LACES

Approved for: LPC (Supervision), LMFT (Supervision) NBCC

5:00-6:30 Content Sessions (1.5 CEs)

46. *Take a Walk in My Shoes: Enhancing Cultural Competence and Advocacy in Counseling*

Presenters: Tyranique Harding Berry,
PLPC

Elnora Vicks, PLPC

Cultural competence is a critical component of ethical and effective counseling. However, many counselors continue to struggle with recognizing and addressing implicit biases, microaggressions, and the lived experiences of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) individuals. Take a Walk in My Shoes is an interactive and reflective session designed to deepen counselors' understanding of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) while fostering greater cultural humility in their practice.

Room:

Track: LCCA

Approved for: LPC (Multiculturalism), NBCC

47. *Cultivating Empathy on the Path to Licensure: Strategies for Growth, Resilience, and Professional Success*

Presenter: Miranda Brown, Ph.D.,
LPC-S, NCC

This workshop equips pre-licensed counselors with essential guidance for navigating the licensure process while fostering professional resilience and empathy. Participants will explore strategies for overcoming challenges, maintaining self-care, and developing a strong professional identity. This session also introduces private practice consideration, empowering attendees to thrive as ethical and compassionate counselors

Room:

Track: LACGS, LCA

Approved for LPC (Gen) NBCC, LMFT (Gen)

48. *Healing Through Lyrics: Using Taylor Swift's Music in Counseling*

Presenters: Holly Walters, Ph.D., LPC-S, CRC

Adrianne Frishhertz, Ph.D., LPC-S,
RPT-S

Jade Hurter, B.A.

This seminar explores how Taylor Swift's music can be used in therapy to promote emotional awareness, mindfulness, and schema restructuring. Counselors can integrate her lyrics into sessions, using familiar songs to help clients reframe their thoughts, enhance emotional regulation, and create new meanings through mindfulness practices and other activities.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC

49. *Expressive Play Therapy for Children and Adolescents: Drama, Movement, Art, Part 2*

Presenters: LeAnne Stein, Ph.D., T-S
Marian Gale, B.A.

Expressive Play Therapy is a form of play therapy with directed and free play activities meant to engage a child in therapeutic games, exercises, art, improv, drama in ways that facilitate the therapeutic relationship and insight. Play is a language, and mental health professionals need to know how to use the language of play to meet children in their

preferred developmental zone in order to engage and facilitate true therapeutic experiences in the room. In this presentation we will discuss the use of trauma informed expressive play therapy with individuals, groups, and even families in order to facilitate therapeutic healing experiences. This presentation is both didactic and experiential and we will learn about using expressive play with children from 4 years old through high school age.

Room:

Track: ACAC-L

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC, Play Therapy

50. *Introduction to Chronic Illness for Counselors*

Presenters: Victoria Rodriguez, LPC,
NCC

Shelby Ellis, PLPC

From chronic pain to diabetes, over 50% of Americans manage a chronic illness. Counselors play a unique role in treating the mental health effects of managing a chronic illness. This presentation introduces working with chronic illness to help close the gap in this specialty area of practice.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.), NBCC



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**7:00 Southeastern University Students
and Alumni Reception**

Room: Cypress 2

**Join current and former students of
SELU to celebrate your school.**

51. 7:00 LCCA Reception
Room: Cypress 1 (1.5 CEs)

Join us for an engaging and informative LCCA Mixer – a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow college counselors and other mental health professionals, learn more about how LCCA supports our field, and discover ways to get involved in shaping the future of college counseling in Louisiana.

Presenters: Kayleigh Underwood, MS, LPC-SA

Elnora Parker-Vicks, M.Ed., PLPC

Approved for LPC (Gen.), NBCC

7:30-9:30 Film Festival (2.0 CEs)

52. TBA

53. TBA

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

7:00 Continental Breakfast

8:00-9:30 Content Sessions (1.5 CEs)

52. *Redesigning Behavior: Addressing the Misdiagnosis of OCD and ADHD in Black Youth to Disrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline*

Presenters: Bernell Elzey, Ph.D., LPC, CSC, NCC

Korey Cleveland, B.A.

The school-to-prison pipeline disproportionately impacts Black students misdiagnosed with ADHD and ODD, leading to punitive discipline. This session equips counselors with culturally responsive strategies to challenge bias, reduce exclusionary practices, and advocate for equitable policies that foster social-emotional growth, reduce referrals, and support Black students' success.

Room:

Track: LSCA

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis.), LMFT (Diagnosis.), NBCC

53. *Counseling Supervision, Part 2*

Presenter: Christine Ebrahim, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC

American Counseling Association (ACA) Code of Ethics (2014) outlines several codes that pertain ethical practices for supervision. Both Supervisors and supervisees need to understand the codes and expectations for ethical behavior. This interactive program will review the more common ethical codes and discuss navigating some of the more common ethical dilemmas in supervision

Room:

Track: LACES

Approved for: LPC (.75-Ethics; .75 Supervision) NBCC, LMFT (General)

54. *Specialty Treatment Courts: Addiction and the Judicial System*

Presenter: Pamela Shultz, PLPC, NCC

This presentation on the Specialty Treatment Court Program will provide an overview of how these specialized courts address cases involving individuals with substance use disorders, mental health issues, or other underlying conditions that contribute to their criminal behavior.

Room:

Track: LAAOC

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

55. *Self-Care for Your Body: Thoughts on Sleep, Nutrition, and Exercise for a Sustainable Career in Mental Health*

Presenters: Matt Morris, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT-S

Reshelle Marino, Ph.D., LPC-S

Gabrielle Nata, M.A., PLPC

Whether you are an LPC or an LMFT, a Clinician, a Supervisor, or a Professor, you rely on your body everyday. Sitting and listening can take a toll! This self-care session delivers specific, practical strategies on sleep, nutrition, and exercise – empowering you to boost energy, sharpen focus, and prevent burnout

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC, LMFT

(Gen.)

56. *Children and Adolescents Impacted by Trauma: Empowerment Through a Gestalt Play Therapy*

Presenters : Laura Fazio-Griffith, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT, RPT-S

Michele Worthington, B.A. This presentation will outline the impact of different and varied traumatic events on children and adolescents. A Gestalt Play Therapy approach integrated with additional approaches and interventions will be discussed in terms of how to work with trauma in the playroom to promote client empowerment

Room:

Track: ACAC-L

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC, Play Therapy

57. *Spanish Versions of Mental Health Assessments: A Review for Counselors Who Work with Spanish Speaking Clients*

Presenter:

Christian Dean, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT-S, NCC Multicultural and social justice considerations in counseling include the use of mental health assessments in the client's preferred language. The presentation will analyze ethical considerations in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of Spanish versions of mental health assessments. A focus on clinical application to help inform diagnostic impressions and evaluate treatment outcomes will be emphasized

Room: Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC

58. *Considerations in Serving Clients Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deafblind*

Presenters:

Rose Angelocci, Ph.D., LPC, LPC-S, LMFT
Nicky Gillis, MA, NIC
Cathy Miller, MA, PLPC

This presentation will provide information and resources for mental health providers seeking to work with individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind. Presenters will share best practices for using interpreters, communication strategies for working with clients in this diverse community, and resources for additional training in this specialized field..

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.) NBCC

9:45-11:30 General Session (1.5 CEs)

59. TBA

Presenter: Heather Olivier, PhD., NCC, LPC-S

11:45-1:30 Division Luncheon (1.5 CEs)

LAMFC Luncheon

Bayou

60. *After the Flood Waters Receded: Reflecting on Systemic Trauma Recovery*

Presenter: Michele Louviere, LMFT Twenty years ago, Hurricane Katrina decimated communities, places of worship, businesses, schools, families, and individuals, leaving behind a tsunami of traumatic destruction. In the days and months following Katrina, therapists were baffled and ill-equipped to understand how to help encourage healing for those impacted from the complex layers of Katrina's trauma. Many therapeutic models view trauma recovery from an individual perspective, rather than a deeper systemic model. Upon reflection, two systemic therapeutic models, Story-Informed Trauma Therapy(SITT) and Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT), have proven highly effective in helping with systemic trauma recovery needed for Katrina survivors and other man-made and natural traumas. During our time together, we will explore the need for a systemic perspective in trauma recovery, as well as overview SITT and EFT as clear systemic road maps for healing.

Track: LAMFC

Approved: LPC (Diagnosis), NBCC, LMFT (Diagnosis)

LASERVIC Luncheon

Levee

61. *Spirituality and Grief: Leaning on Religious and Spiritual Beliefs to Facilitate Healing*

Presenter: Kelle Falterman, Ph.D., LPC-S

Research indicates that religious or spiritual beliefs are positive indicators of grief healing. In a study by the National Institute of Health, strength of spiritual belief was an important

predictor of bereavement outcome. Those with no spiritual belief took longer to resolve their grief and maintained higher grief scores at the 14-month follow-up.

Track: LASERVIC

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

LMGCA Luncheon

Mississippi

62 The Life of Military Working Dogs

Presenters: The Ft. Johnson Military Canine Handlers

Military working dogs play a crucial role in the Army, assisting soldiers in various tasks. They are trained for detection, patrol, and protection. Some of their key responsibilities include Explosive and Drug Detection – these dogs help detect explosives and narcotics, ensuring safety in military operations. Patrol and Law Enforcement – They assist in securing military bases and installations, supporting law enforcement personnel. Search and Rescue – Military dogs assist in locating missing persons or soldiers in challenging environments. VIP Protection – Some dogs are trained to provide security for high-ranking officials. Customs Support – They help in screening cargo and personnel for contraband. Handlers undergo specialized training to work with these dogs, ensuring they perform their duties effectively. We look forward to sharing information about military canine

Track: LMGCA

Approved: LPC (Gen.) NBCC

PLCA Luncheon

63. Cultivating Cultural Humility in Counseling: Addressing Four Roadblocks to Counselor Growth

Presenters Bonnie Strice, LPC, NCC
Kimberly Parker, LPC-S, LCDC
Track: PLCA

1. Increase awareness and knowledge of cultural humility and its importance in clinical practice.

2. Explore the impact of cultural biases and stereotypes on client-therapist relationships.

3. Enhance understanding of the unique challenges faced by diverse populations in therapy.

4. Introduce practical strategies for promoting cultural humility and fostering culturally

sensitive therapeutic alliances.

5. Provide resources and tools for ongoing self-reflection and professional growth in cultural humility.

Approved for LPC (Multicultural) NBCC

LCSJ Luncheon

Clemens

64. TBA

11:45

Lunch On Your Own

1:00-2:30 Content Sessions (1.5 CEs)

65. Military Substance Abuse and Co-occurring Disorder

Presenter: Pamela Shultz, PLPC, NCC
This presentation is essential for counselors seeking to enhance their understanding of the relationship between addiction and co-occurring disorders in military personnel. It explores the role of self-medication through addiction as a coping mechanism for PTSD, childhood trauma, and the challenges of military life. Additionally, this presentation will equip clinicians with the knowledge to recognize the impact of social stigma on the acceptance of mental health treatment within the military community.

Room:

Track: LMCGA

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), NBCC

66. The Silent Departure: Navigating Death and Grief Through a Multicultural Lens.

Presenters: Colleen Thomas, LPC-S
Teneka Gash, Ph.D., PLPC, RSW
Ashi Savoy King, LPC, NCC

As stated in the ACA Code of Ethics 2014, a core value of the counseling profession is to honor diversity and embrace a multicultural approach to supporting people's worth, dignity, potential, and uniqueness within their social and cultural context. This presentation aims to increase cultural humility by examining death, dying, and funeral rites through a multicultural lens. It also highlights the importance of multicultural competency

and the counselors' ability to practice cultural responsiveness. Group activities and thought-provoking discussions will be applied with an emphasis on race, culture, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, and educational background

Room:

Track: LAMCD

Approved for: LPC (Multiculturalism), NBCC, LMFT (Multiculturalism)

67. *Dear Colleague: A Panel Discussion on Navigating the Current Climate in Higher Ed.*

Presenters: Krystyn Dupree, LPC-S, NCC

Kayleigh Underwood, LPC-S, NCC

Join us for a panel discussion to explore recent changes in the landscape of college mental health and how these trends affect the delivery of clinical services to students within higher education institutions. Panelists will discuss how current trends impact student well-being, academic success, campus culture, and services provided. The panel will also offer strategies for counseling center providers to navigate current challenges and provide essential care while also following professional ethics and standards. Room:

Track: LCCA

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

68. *Ethics and Boundary Issues*

Presenter: Anthony Williams, LPC-S, LMFT, NCC

This session offers a broad look at ethics through five sources of ethical standards.

Room:

Track: LAMFC

Approved for: LPC (Ethics), LMFT (Ethics), NBCC

69. *Future Ready: Navigating Trends for Tomorrow's College Students: A Panel Discussion*

Presenters: Renisha Oubre, LPC-S

Bernell Elzey, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, CSC
Elnora Vicks, PLPC

Jessica Coalson, Certified School Counselor

To equip college counselors with insights into current trends affecting high school students, ensuring effective guidance for the next generation.

Room:

Track: LCCA, LSCA

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

70. *Kink-Aware Therapy 101*

Presenters: Sarah Stillwell, Ph.D. LPC-S, NCC

Logan Blouin, B.A.

This presentation equips mental health counselors with essential knowledge and skills in kink-aware therapy. It explores diverse sexual identities, consensual non-traditional practices, and ethical considerations, empowering counselors to create safe, non-judgmental therapeutic environments for clients with kink-related interests. Learn to foster understanding, acceptance, and effective support in your counseling practice.

Room:

SAIGE-L

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC

Track:

Approved

71. *Let's Pray About It*

Presenter: Janice Horton, LPC-S, LMFT, NCC, BCC

For many years the African American culture has relied on prayer to bring them through tough situations. Mental illness has been one of those situations that has been named an untruth, of the devil, or let's ignore it till it goes away. Times have changed and we need more than Prayer. This session will walk you through how prayer and a professional can coexist to bring forth mental health.

Room:

Track: LAMFC

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

Approved for:

72. *Behind Their Eyes: Trauma Through the Lens of a Child*

Presenters: Samonica Brown, LPC-S, NCC

Brittany Adger-Snowton, LPC-S, LMFT

Interactive/In-

depth exploration into the effects of trauma on children & adolescents. Assisting clinicians in shifting mindsets and taking a deep dive into that child's world to see how they are experiencing the world around them. Equip clinicians with tools needed to recognize pain-based behaviors and advocate for each child/adolescent.

Room:

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen.), NBCC

Roundtable Descriptions

a. The Weight of War: Moral Decisions through the Perspectives of Combat Veterans of the Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom

Presenter: Deborah Allsbrook, Ph.D.,
LPC-S, NCC

Moral injury, which can be thought of as a corollary construct to PTSD, better accounts for the clinical presentation of some combat exposed Military Members. Counselors who have a more nuanced understanding of moral injury will ultimately better serve those Military Members who present for treatment after having experienced combat related trauma. This presentation will focus on qualitative research on moral injury conducted by the presenter. Participants will be introduced to concepts surrounding moral injury, the themes discovered in the qualitative study, and implications for clinical practice.

Track: LMCGA

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis) NBCC

b. Healing Ourselves, Empowering Others: Self-Care as a Social Justice Practice

Presenters: Joelle Nixon, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC
Taylor Tolds, PLPC
Tinesha Mitchell, PLPC

This panel will explore the intersection of self-care and social justice, highlighting the importance of self-care for advocates, counselors, and change-makers who work with marginalized communities. The discussion will address the challenges of burnout, compassion fatigue, and the necessity of sustainable well-being in social justice efforts

Track: LCSJ

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

c. The Impact of Childhood Isolation and Loneliness on Substance Abuse Disorder

Presenter: Michele Starkey, Ph.D, LPC
Dr. Starkey will outline an autopsy of the impact of a childhood cloaked in isolation and loneliness. Additionally, the presentation will also discuss the longstanding impact both

isolation and loneliness have on the children who carry those scars into adolescence and adulthood which oftentimes manifest as substance use disorder.

Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), NBCC

d. Addressing Spirituality in Counseling: An Ethical Necessity

Presenter: Amy Morgan, LPC

This presentation will explore current ethical guidelines regarding spirituality and will present current research on the role of spirituality in counseling. The presentation will propose that values and spirituality are intricately connected, thus knowing and addressing a client's values is an important, if not essential, part of the counseling process.

Track: LASERVIC

Approved for: LPC (Ethics), NBCC, LMFT (Gen.)

e. Empowering and Healing Rest Practices for Counselors and Clients

Presenters: Gerra Perkins, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, NCSC RPT-S

Kristy Brumfield, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, RPT

This presentation will discuss rest practices that empower, heal, and give us the capacity to prioritize our physical and mental health and that of others. The discussion will include specific practices that can be embedded in our daily routines. Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

f. Integrating Trauma-informed Counseling into Supervision and Counselor Education

Presenter: Mike Caverly, Ph.D., LPC

In this proposal, I explore the literature on how to teach trauma counseling. The best practice in trauma-informed counselor education; the neurobiological underpinnings to this approach, and specifics will be provided to assist supervisors working with PLPCs. Finally, an integration of trauma-informed principles can be applied to existing models. Approved for: LPC (.75 Diagnosis, .75 Supervision), NBCC, LMFT (Diagnosis)

g. *Ethical Considerations for Integrating AI-Powered Tools in Clinical Practice*

Presenters: Joselyn Brown, LPC, BC-TMH, ACS

Ebony Holliday, PLPC

This presentation addresses the ethical implications of integrating AI-powered tools in clinical practice for mental health counselors. It covers informed consent, data privacy, and algorithmic bias while highlighting the benefits of AI in enhancing client care. Attendees will learn best practices and strategies for responsible and ethical AI use. Approved for: LPC (Ethic), NBCC

h. *The Dark Triad and Related Disorders: Intersections with Custody Cases*

Presenters: Ida Chauvin, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT

Vicki Guilbeau, Ph.D., LPC-SA, NCC

LPC, LMFT, and NCSC Counselors who are court-appointed as co-parent facilitators may unexpectedly encounter clients with Dark Triad traits and find themselves needing increased skills in specific areas of psychological disturbance. To understand the profound effects of The Dark Triad and related disorders, narcissism and borderline personality will be explored
Approved for: LPC (Diagnosis), LMFT (Diagnosis), NBCC

Exploring the Role of Psychoeducation for Increasing Relational and Sexual Satisfaction for Couples

Presenter: Rashunda Miller Reed, Ph.D, LPC-S, LMFT-SC

Vinicia Magee, B.A.

Jade Hurter, B.A.

We will discuss and promote meaningful psychoeducational interventions for couples, focusing on mindfulness and forgiveness, which evidence shows lead to better sexual and relationship satisfaction (Koçyiğit et al., 2024; Leavitt et al., 2019). Come share your experience using psychoeducation. We will also discuss ethical considerations (ACA, 2014; AAMFT, 2015)
Approved for: LPC (Ethics .75, Diagnosis .75) NBCC, LMFT (Ethics .75, Diagnosis .75)

j *Thriving in Private Practice: Strategies for Creating Impact and Income in Counseling*

Presenter: Christy Pennison, LPC-S

Join Christy Pennison, LPC-S, for 'Thriving in Private Practice: Strategies for Creating Impact and Income. This session will offer essential guidance on practice planning, marketing, streamlining operations, and exploring new revenue streams to help you grow a thriving, value-driven practice with confidence and clarity

Approved for: LPC (General); NBCC

k.. *Shining A Flashlight on Success: Effectively Sharing School Counseling Data*

Presenters: Wendy Rock, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, NCSC

Anitra Banks Boyd, M.A.

Marchese Ahearn, M.A.

School counselors do incredible work, but if no one knows about it, does it make an impact? This session will dive into the why, what, and how of sharing school counseling data to inform education partners, advocate for resources, and demonstrate student success. Participants will explore effective ways to present data, such as concise one-pagers, engaging flashlight presentations, and other creative approaches. The session will also address timing for sharing results, tailoring messages for different audiences, and practical tools for making data-driven storytelling compelling and actionable. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use strategies to confidently share their program's success.
Track: LSCA

Approved for LPC (Gen.), NBCC

l. *Suspension is not an Intervention: Building Inclusive Discipline Practices*

Presenter: Delarious Stewart, Ph.D., LPC-S, LSSP, ACS, NCC, NCSC

This session explores how exclusionary discipline disproportionately impacts marginalized students and offers inclusive, research-based alternatives. Participants will examine social-emotional learning, restorative practices, and positive behavioral supports to create equitable school environments. Strategies for reducing suspensions and fostering student success will be shared.
Track: LSCA
Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

m. Supporting Parents to Help Kids Heal

Presenter: Jennifer Batina, LPC-S

Participants will learn basics about four parenting models, how these programs can foster a healthy attachment relationship that positively impacts child development, and how to incorporate them into parent consultations. Participants will learn how these parenting models support evidence-based trauma therapies for children.

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

POSTER SESSIONS

TBA

n. Attachment Theory and Sexuality: Exploring Intimacy, Orientation, and Empathy-Based Counseling

Presenter: Bonnie Dupuis, PLPC

Regina Champagne, PLPC

This presentation examines how attachment styles shape individuals' relationships with sex, sexual orientation, and intimacy. We will explore how insecure and secure attachments influence sexual behaviors and identity development, providing counselors with empathy-based practices to help clients navigate self-exploration, self-acceptance, and relational fulfillment.

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), NBCC

o. Cultivating Sustainable Site Partnership to Enhance Fieldwork Training: The Practicum and Internship Coordinator as a Bridge Between Students, Programs, and Placement Sites

Presenters: Anabel Mifsud, Ph.D., NCC

Brittany Gallineau, LPC-S

This roundtable session examines the pivotal role of practicum and internship coordinators in counselor education program. Attendees will explore best practices for field placement coordination, strategies to bolster site-program collaborations, and methods to improve support for site supervisors, thereby enhancing student success and fostering sustainable partnerships in fieldwork training.

Approved for: LPC (Gen.), LMFT (Gen), NBCC