



AMERICAN COUNSELING
ASSOCIATION

Current Issues Facing the Counseling Profession

www.counseling.org/kaplan

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LISTEN, YOU
CAN'T BE A
GROUP THERAPY DOG
IF YOU KEEP
CHEWING THE
TALKING STICK.



HE'S A COMMUNITY-SERVICE DOG.



Two Game-Changing Issues

- **External to the profession**
- **Internal to the profession**



External to the Profession

CODIFIED LGBT DISCRIMINATION



LGBT Societal Advances

- **Sex**
- **Adoption**
- **Same-sex marriage**
- **A start to transgender acceptance**



And in our world....

**Condemnation of
conversion therapy**



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180 Backlashes

- **Anti-transgender legislation**
- **Pro conversion therapy legislation**
- **Religious refusal legislation**



Tennessee

- **Legislation offered that allowed LPCs to deny services to clients based on “sincerely held principles” of the LPC, in violation of the ACA Code of Ethics.**
- **Stripped the power of the State board to sanction LPCs.**
- **Passed as part of an effort to attack the ACA and counseling profession.**



No counselor...providing counseling or therapy services shall be required to counsel or serve a client as to goals, outcomes, or behaviors that conflict with the sincerely held principles of the counselor



Internal to the Profession

PATHWAYS TO PROFESSIONALISM



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Pathways to Professionalism

LICENSURE



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Pathways to Professionalism

INITIAL LICENSURE



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A movement toward CACREP

- Beginning in 2018- a degree from a CACREP accredited school is required to obtain a license in **Ohio**.
- **Kentucky, New Hampshire, and North Carolina** have also introduced CACREP requirements.



- **Delaware** now requires the NCC for both initial and reciprocal licensure – a de facto CACREP requirement.
- The **Virginia** Board recently voted to approve a CACREP degree for licensure.



On the other hand....

- **New Jersey** is proposing to remove the licensure requirement that a degree contains the word “counselor” or “counseling”.



**ACA's answer is to
move forward
together**



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Moving forward.....

To unify the profession, ACA endorses graduation from a CACREP/CORE accredited program as the pathway to licensure.



Together.....

ACA advocates that all counselors licensed by July, 2020 are qualified to have the same options and privileges as graduates from CACREP and CORE programs.



Pathways to Professionalism

LICENSURE RECIPROCALITY



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Current Approaches to Licensure Portability

	ACA ¹ proposal	AMHCA/ACES/NBCC proposal www.nbcc.org	AASCB proposal www.aascb.org	20/20 BBT ² www.counseling.org/20-20
Licensure title				Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
Licensure scope of practice				See ³ below
Required years of Practice	0	2	5	
Required exam(s)	none		NCE or NCMHCE State jurisprudence exam is optional	
Required training/ Certification	none	Graduation from a clinically focused CACREP accredited program <u>or</u> certification as an NCC		

¹THE AMERICAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

Licensure Portability Model

Whereas the mission statement of the American Counseling Association is to enhance the quality of life in society by promoting the development of professional counselors, advancing the counseling profession, and using the profession and practice of counseling to promote respect for human dignity and diversity; and

Whereas advocating for licensure portability that allows professional counselors licensed at the independent practice level in one state to have the mobility to utilize their education and training and to serve the public by becoming licensed at the independent practice level in another state supports the mission of the American Counseling Association;

Therefore, the American Counseling Association promulgates the following licensure portability model:

A counselor who is licensed at the independent practice level in their home state and who has no disciplinary record shall be eligible for licensure at the independent practice level in any state or U.S. jurisdiction in which they are seeking residence. The state to which the licensed counselor is moving may require a jurisprudence examination based on the rules and procedures of that state.

² **The Building Blocks to Portability Project from the *20 /20: A Vision for the Future of Counseling* profession-wide initiative.**

³**The independent practice of counseling encompasses the provision of professional counseling services to individuals, groups, families, couples and organizations through the application of accepted and established mental health counseling principles, methods, procedures and ethics. Counseling promotes mental health wellness, which includes the achievement of social, career, and emotional development across the lifespan, as well as preventing and treating mental disorders and providing crisis intervention. Counseling includes, but is not limited to, psychotherapy, diagnosis, evaluation; administration of assessments, tests and appraisals; referral; and the establishment of counseling plans for the treatment of individuals, couples, groups and families with emotional, mental, addiction and physical disorders. Counseling encompasses consultation and program evaluation, program administration within and to schools and organizations, and training and supervision of interns, trainees, and pre-licensed professional counselors through accepted and established principles, methods, procedures, and ethics of counselor supervision. The practice of counseling does not include functions or practices that are not within the professional's training or education.**

How ACA can help you keep up with current national issues

- ACA Connect
- Read *Counseling Today*
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- Read ACA e-News
- Subscribe to the ACA blogs www.my.counseling.org
- Subscribe to the ACA government affairs newsletter: dharp@counseling.org



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Let's schmooze!



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