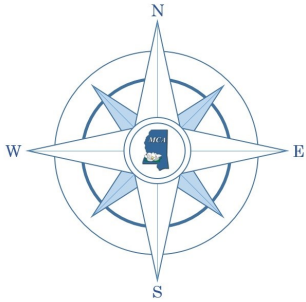


Fall 2023



MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

THE COMPASS

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

As we approach time for our annual conference, I want to thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to serve you as members of the Mississippi Counseling Association. We have an outstanding conference planned with a variety of session topics, including supervision, tele-mental health, ethics, general counseling, school counseling, and mental health counseling. We have two dynamic keynote speakers for Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. There will be exhibitors present from all over the state as well. This is an excellent networking opportunity for counselors, and I hope to see you all there. Please join us in Biloxi, Mississippi at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention Center on November 8-10, 2023. When booking your conference hotel at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, be sure to tell them that you are with the Mississippi Counseling Association to get the conference rate.

I would also like to encourage each of you to attend MCA Day at the Capital on January 23, 2024. We will spend the day introducing ourselves to the policy makers that serve in our legislature. Additionally, we will attend both the House and Senate sessions. My vision is to continue to foster an environment for a unified organization to acknowledge the unique set of skills each counseling professional has to offer, while working to continuously improve the profession. Please consider advocating for our profession, and those that we serve.

Once again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve, and for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Karla Weir, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, NCSC
MCA President 2023-2024

VOTE!

It is time to vote for MCA Officers. Newly elected officers will take office on July 1, 2024. Be sure to login to your MCA account to vote. Every vote matters! **November 9, 2023** is the deadline to vote.

Running for President-Elect-Elect:

Heather Norton
Pacey Regan

Running for Secretary:

Amanda Desnoyers
TJ Hendrix

Amendment 1 and Amendment 2

Inside this issue:

MCA Executive Directors	2
MCA Emerging Leaders	3
MCA Ethics Chair	4
MLPCA Supervision Workshop	5
MS Board of Examiners	6



Message from the Executive Directors

In July we completed our first year as MCA Executive Directors and have enjoyed it so much! Our favorite thing about this past year has been getting to know all of you!

As we reflect on our first year, we are reminded of the mission of MCA: 1) to encourage the personal and professional development of counselors, 2) to influence decisions that affect the counseling profession, 3) to promote progress, understanding and improvement of counseling, and how MCA can provide opportunities to members toward the realization of that mission.

To encourage the personal and professional development of counselors: MCA regions and divisions offer many workshops for personal and professional development throughout the year. These workshops provide CEUs and/or contact hours for MCA members.

Also, our annual conference in Biloxi this year (November 8-10) is always a great time to not only earn CEUs/contact hours but to network with other counselors in attendance.

To influence decisions that affect the counseling profession: Each year MCA attends Day at the Capitol in January. This year it is scheduled for January 23,

2024. At the Day at the Capitol event, MCA members have the opportunity to speak directly with lawmakers and encourage a positive image for counselors throughout the state. MCA also has a Government Relations committee that works tirelessly to stay up to date on the laws affecting the counseling profession.

To promote progress, understanding and improvement of counseling: MCA encourages committee membership, positive social media postings, and involvement in region, division, and/or association leadership roles to promote advocacy of the counseling profession. There is always a place for service and support is accessible to help promote success. Contact us or one of our Executive Board members for details on available areas of service. It has been an honor to serve you this past year, and we look forward to many years to come. As always, if there is anything we can do for you please contact us.



Paulette Edwards



Lori Parker



MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
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Emerging Leaders Voices

Emerging Leader 2023–2024

By Charles Cody Hester, Mid-Eastern Region

Counseling for me is about being a companion to all clients and meeting them where they are to best meet client's needs. For me, an emerging leader in the counseling profession means to have the mental fortitude and patient heart to inform, model, and feed best practices to the counseling profession and fellow counseling professionals. Emerging leaders are cognizant that the profession can not thrive with only one person but requires different prospective to maintain the healing beauty of counseling. Emerging leaders also desire for all counselors and people we touch to take pride in the counseling profession.

Most importantly, emerging leaders exert action to all the words or descriptors used to encompass the enigma of counseling. Emerging leaders use their openness to change, and the humility required to be a well-rounded multiculturally competent counselor to provide vertical and horizontal growth for the counseling profession. Just like any other professional, counselors have the drive to bring awareness to a specific topic. Emerging leaders also want to strive promoting a profession that includes everyone, not just the most systematically supported individual in the profession. Finally, being emerging leader is also about having self-care to promote the profession, so for me it's about eating good and having a good conversation on the couch.

Emerging Leader 2023–2024

by Demyia Graham, Delta Region

As an Emerging Leader in the Counseling Profession, this leadership position gives me the chance to grow as a professional and leader in the counseling field. As the profession of counseling further solidifies its identity in the mental health sector, I too, will grow in my identity as an Emerging Leader in the Counseling Profession.

Furthermore, I have participated in experimental learning opportunities that have allowed me the chance to further my personal development. To me, the chance to work with counselor trainees, counselor students, newly professional counselors, and experienced counselors, is invaluable to my growth as a counselor trainee. The diverse knowledge shared with me by these counseling health professionals has only assisted me in becoming a more competent and effective counselor student and trainee.

Additionally, I have been able to gain insight knowledge, experience, and training on how a professional counseling association works towards and completes its missions, goals, and objectives. The MCA Administrative Council and its members welcomed my questions and inquiries. They also have encouraged me to participate in MCA and have shared knowledge and wisdom on how to further grow as a counselor in this profession.

To me, being an Emerging Leader in the counseling profession means that I gained leadership and training that is invaluable to my future as a new professional counselor. I have learned firsthand ways in which the counseling profession participates in advocacy on behalf of the counseling profession, counselors, and the counseling professional's clients. In addition, this position has allowed me the chance to gain professional development experience by serving on a task force that has given me the chance to develop and present on a counseling topic that I am passionate about. I am grateful for the opportunity to have these experiences as a counselor trainee and student.

Message from the Mississippi Counseling Association Ethics Chair

By Rosanne Nunnery, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, BC-TMH, C-DBT, CGP

It has been an honor to be the MCA ethics committee chair. I, along with fellow committee members, have learned so much from individuals that request consultation. CEUS specific to ethics are required every renewal licensure period, thus, ethical sessions are a hot commodity for provisionally and fully licensed professional counselors in Mississippi. It can be hard as a presenter to capture an audience when presenting on ethical topics. More than once I have stood in front of a crowd and watched as the faces of the audience slowly stare off, doze off, or scroll their phone. Ethics presenters will integrate case studies to develop consultation groups, ask for open ideas and application to ethical decision processes, and challenge ideas and beliefs especially regarding codes specific to values.

All these strategies are used to remind professionals to utilize the code of ethics on a regular basis (ACA, 2014). What I have found over the years of participating, presenting, and consulting on ethics issues, is most individuals want to perform ethically and legally. However, the more students and professionals become more autonomous with independent licensure, the more commonly I have seen folks place the ethical standards in their desk draw versus having the code on the top of the desk ready to use at any moment.

What does this mean? When we are being monitored closely, it is as if the standards of ethics are viewed as an adherent rulebook. However, as time goes on, I have heard some licensed professionals refer to the code of ethics as a guidebook but not a requirement and even one person told me that the codes are “optional.” I used to get on the defensive, but it is far more productive to have a conversation about this counselor’s worldview. This creates conversation regarding where they earned their degree, the steps taken to achieve full licensure, and then exploring the reason why the code of ethics is not merely a guidebook but contain standards that uphold the legitimacy of our professional along with protecting not only the client but the public from harm. I ask individuals to explore with me if the code of ethics is not reviewed or ethical decision-making model adhered, how will a counselor have a guide with what is appropriate? When we do not utilize a standard of practice, we leave both counselors and clients in vulnerable positions. We need to remember that the ACA code of ethics (2014) adherence demonstrates that professionals are “living out an ethical commitment” (p.3).

Reflecting on living out a “commitment”, we are in the present/here and now and commitment reinforces the dedication to a specific cause or activity. Counselors’ dedication is to the well-being of the client. Thus, if you ever wonder “should I consult the code of ethics?” The answer I will always give is “YES”! Our profession, clients and communities are relying on us to uphold the standards of the many counseling professionals before us. If you do not know what to do after reviewing the code of ethics, always know you can consult with the MCA ethics committee.

American Counseling Association. (2014). *Code of ethics*. Author.



Reflections from MLPCA Supervision Workshop

By Rob'Dreka Shaw-Shields, LPC-S, NCC, BC-TMH, CCTP

Counseling is a growing field in mental health. There are many students leaving CACREP Accredited Programs and pursuing P-LPCs. Many of them need supervisors to help them on the journey to licensure. The Mississippi Licensed Professional Counseling Association (MLPCA) hosted a 45-hour Supervision workshop on multiple days throughout August and September to train LPCs so that they may become Qualified Supervisors. In this year's workshop, there were a total of 18 participants registered for the workshops.

Holly Reeves, MLPCA's Past President, hosted the workshops. "The workshop has been going well. All attendees have been using GroupMe to create a community of support and communication," she said. Among the participants were 6 Counselor Educators that taught various sections of the workshop: Dr. Fred Hall, Dr. Deb Wells, Dr. Kate Johnson, Dr. George Beals, Dr. Rosanne Nunnery, and Dr. Lynn Ethridge. All speakers were eager to do their part in contributing to more LPC-Ss in the state of Mississippi. Participants gained a wealth of knowledge during the training. They learned about roles and functions of the clinical supervisor, models of supervision, methods, techniques, and the supervisory relationships. They were also taught how to be culturally responsive, provide group supervision, evaluations, administrative responsibilities, and most of all how to do it all ethically.

Organizing this workshop has been riveting! Mississippi Counseling Association has been very helpful with letting MLPCA use their virtual platform for trainings. It has been a great collaboration. Barry Pickreign, MLPCA's current President, has expressed sincere gratitude and is supportive of future supervision workshops. Communication is underway with the current executive board about a possible workshop in the Spring. If you are interested in any upcoming MLPCA Workshops, joining MLPCA is the best way for updates. You may join MLPCA by visiting the website at mlpca.net.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

President-Elect Elect Heather Norton Pacey Regan	Secretary Amanda Desnoyers TJ Hendrix
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Amendment 1

Strategic Planning shall be comprised of the five most recent MCA past presidents and the immediate past presidents of MLPCA and MSCA. If an MCA past president is unable to serve, another MCA past president shall be appointed by the chair of Strategic Planning. If the MLPCA or MSCA immediate past president is unable to serve, the current president of the division shall select another past president to serve. All members of Strategic Planning must be a current member of MCA.

Amendment 2

To be a candidate for MCA President, one must have served, as a region president, division president, or a voting member of the Executive Board.

All voting is done electronically.

Voting is now open and continues until midnight on November 9, 2023.

Voting stations will be available at the November conference.

You must be a current MCA member to vote.

You must log into your MCA account to access the ballot.

You can only vote once.



MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
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MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

Phone: (228) 249-1191
Email: mcaoffice@mscounselor.org

Editorial Staff
Co-Editor: Mary Bess Pannel
Co-Editor: Khaliyah Mitchell

THE COMPASS

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SPRING 2024
SUBMISSIONS DUE FEB. 29
PUBLICATION MARCH 31

PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS
TO
MPANNEL@DELTASTATE.EDU

Calendar at-a-Glance

MCA Conference Biloxi, MS	Nov. 8th-10th
MCA Virtual Conference	Nov. 9th
Day at the Capital Jackson, MS	Jan. 23, 2024
Delta State University Woodall Conference	Mar. 1st, 2024

Message from the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors

Greetings from the LPC Board,

I hope each of you are doing well and are welcoming the fall weather! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the MCA Conference in Biloxi in November. I hope you will join us in welcoming our two new Board members who were appointed in July 2023: Dr. Anthony Bullock, Congressional District IV; and Kerri McKnatt, Congressional District II. They have hit the ground running! Although the LPC Board is only required to meet twice per year per our Statute, we have been busy over the past year.

Since August of 2022, we have met either in person or virtually 21 times. In addition to reviewing and approving applications and conducting other duties of the Board, the Board made significant changes in the Rules and Regulations that govern MS licensees beginning in 2022. The Board worked with the Centers for Credentialing and Education (CCE) to develop a Pass/Fail Jurisprudence Exam for new licensees. Mississippi now requires the successful completion of the Pass/Fail Jurisprudence Exam and either the NCE or NCMHCE for licensing. The requirements for on-site supervision also changed, no longer requiring an LPC on-site but rather any professional licensed to provide psychotherapy services independently in Mississippi.

The Rules and Regulations now include a “Non-Practicing Status” license for those who are not currently practicing counseling but do not wish to retire or relinquish their license. For full changes, please visit our website at www.lpc.ms.gov and review the current Rules and Regulations. The Board now has on-site fingerprinting capabilities. Licensees can make an appointment to have their fingerprints completed and process at the Board office. We are in process of developing tutorials for filing a complaint, applying for licensure, completing the Declaration of Practice and completing the Supervision Contract to our website. Ms. LeeAnn Mordecai, Executive Director, was voted by the Board to be the MS representative for the Counseling Compact.

The purpose of the Counseling Compact is to allow counselors licensed in their home state (primary state of residence) to obtain a privilege to practice in other states, which will enhance mental health services throughout the nation. Currently there are 30 states who have joined the Compact. For updates on the Compact, visit www.counselingcompact.org. The Board is also in the process of developing packets for universities to assist graduates in applying for licensure. Preliminary research has begun on the development of an impaired professionals/diversion program for impaired counselors.

The Board continues its’ responsibility to regulate the practice of counseling in Mississippi as we seek to protect the public health, safety and welfare of Mississippians.

Please feel free to reach out to any Board member for general questions, suggestions or concerns.

Dr. Kimberly Sallis, Board Chair, Congressional District I
Dr. Melissa Windham, Board Vice-Chair, Congressional District III
Dr. Richard Strebeck, Secretary, Congressional District-at-Large
Dr. Lewis Anthony Bullock, Congressional District IV
Ms. Kerri McKnatt, Congressional District II