



Mississippi Counseling Association
A Branch of American Counseling Association
Serving Mississippi since 1950

MCA
PO BOX 353
LONG BEACH, MS 39560

SPRING 2018

Message from the President

It has been a whirlwind year with MCA full of many wonderful accomplishments that I hope you are proud of! This year we reached an all-time high in membership of over 1200 members, passed a piece of legislation, won a national award for advocacy, and strengthened our field more than ever. The conference in Tupelo reached many counselors in our state who have been unable to attend past conferences due to distance, and we look forward to hosting future conferences in this location – and yes, now we know, we need bigger rooms! So keep your eye out Tupelo – we will be back! After this conference, membership increased to over 1200 members, and we have implemented the Member Get a Member campaign. Please continue to recruit future members and make sure they mention your name on the application! In January, over 50 counselors attended Day at the Capitol where we met with legislators regarding LPC licensure guidelines. Our lobbying efforts were successful and House Bill 708 was signed by the Governor on March 19th! MCA was also awarded the 2018 ACA's State Branch Advocacy Award in Atlanta and was highlighted for our efforts in advocating for counselors to receive Medicaid reimbursements for children. And - the counseling field in Mississippi is becoming more and more united! It is so heartwarming to see the many specialties of our counseling field supporting each other and demonstrating one voice. It is together where we are strong, and I am so honored that you have allowed me to be part of your MCA experience. I look forward to working with each of you in the years to come and seeing you again in November!

Kimberly R. Hall, PhD, LPC-S, NCC,
NCSC, ACS
President 2017-2018
Mississippi Counseling Association



THE COMPASS

ACA State Branch Advocacy Award

Jayne Sullivan

Each year, the American Counseling Association National Awards program recognizes and celebrates the achievements of ACA members who distinguish themselves through their work and, in doing so, enhance the field of professional counseling. The ACA National Awards program salutes outstanding achievements by member counselors with 23 awards. Nominations for an ACA National Award must be made by an ACA member or by an ACA division/organizational affiliate, branch, region, or committee (unless stated otherwise). We are pleased to announce that this year at the ACA Conference, the Mississippi Counseling Association was awarded the ACA State Branch Advocacy Award.



The Mississippi Counseling Association has advocated consistently and effectively for the furtherance of counseling in the State of Mississippi. One longstanding goal has been to successfully include Licensed Professional Counselors as providers under the Mississippi Medicaid program.

In January of 2016 this was successfully achieved through a group effort that involved several MCA leaders, especially the Government Relations Committee, the Mississippi Licensed Professional Counselors Association, and the MCA Administrative Council. This was achieved through a willingness of our members to be open to the possibility of partnering with other mental health professions in the provision of services, and conversation and communication directly with the Office of Medicaid which led to the inclusion of LPCs as Mississippi Medicaid providers for individuals under 18. In Mississippi we are proud to see a strong collaboration of our mental health, private practice and school counselors working toward this goal. The inclusion of LPCs as providers touched all aspects and communities which leads to a stronger bond across all divisions in our association. This inclusion has provided access to mental health services across the state leading to the members of our organization working together to find the necessary resources in each area. Team work among our members is stronger because of the working together on Medicaid. The Government Relations Committee, along with Capital Resources, Lee Ann Mayo specifically, spent many years working on this issue. The Government Relations Co-Chairs Karla Weir and Jayme Sullivan, Lynn Ethridge, along with Stephen Stafford, president of MLPCA at the time, Dr. Walter Frazier, a member of the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors, and an organized list of MCA members worked not only on legislation, but met with representatives from the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, and representatives from an autism advocacy association in an effort to increase the provision of services in Mississippi. The dedication of our members and our MCA board to advocate for our underserved population led to one of our legislators, Will Crump, insisting that Medicaid include LPCs as providers for children under 18 as soon as possible.

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MCA 2018 Fall Conference

Carolyn Anderson

Conference planning is underway for 2018 in Biloxi. Committee Chairs will be gathering in Biloxi in June to make sure conference runs smoothly. Our conference co-chairs are Marsha Bishop and Donna Barefoot Simmons. This conference is going to be a conference of new and exciting changes for attendees. We will not have Wednesday Learning Institutes but rather three-time slots for educational sessions and an opening general session that will end everything at 5:30 p.m., just in time for the Presidents Reception.

Many exciting programs are being confirmed as this newsletter comes to you. We will have ACA President, Dr. Gerard Lawson will be with us on Wednesday for the Opening General Session. We are also in the process of confirming our Thursday morning general session. We have presenters from Florida Counseling Association and waiting to hear from Louisiana Counseling Association. More information and schedules will be out by the end of June.

One of the biggest changes will be the two buffet lunches for those who register for the conference. These lunches will replace the seated awards luncheon. The MCA awards will be presented at the Thursday morning General Session.

Our registration process will be changing as well. More information will be provided at a later date so be on the lookout.

Government Relations Update

Thank you to everyone who made MCA Day at the Capitol a success! We had approximately 50 members and students in attendance to advocate for the counseling profession and those that we serve. We would also like to thank MLPCA and MSCA for providing refreshments for the table display in the rotunda. Several meetings took place throughout the day with legislators, and attendees were recognized in both the House and the Senate sessions that day. Additionally, attendees witnessed the HB 708 pass the House Public Health Committee. This bill, which allows provisional licensure for LPC's, has passed and has been signed by the governor.

I would also like to thank our lobbyist, Lee Ann Mayo with Capitol Resources, MCA administration, MCA members and all of those who assist with government relations and advocacy. I am proud to announce that MCA won the 2018 ACA Branch Advocacy award. It is such an honor for our organization!

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MCA's National Winners
52nd Annual Poetry and Poster Contest
Leading the Way to a Future Full of Possibilities
Leigh Bartlett

MCA submitted eighteen (18) state winners to the national Poetry and Poster Competition to be considered for national prizes. We are please to announce that eight (8) of those won national prizes. Join me in congratulating them on a job well done.

NATIONAL WINNERS REPRESENTING MISSISSIPPI

Poetry

Senior Grades 9-12

- 1st: Mariah Alexander, Florence High School
- 2nd: Kacy J. Bell, Choctaw Central High School
- 3rd: Lynora Willis, Choctaw Central High School

Poster: Category C-1

Primary Grades K-2

- 1st: Kyler Brown, Stonebridge Elementary School

Senior Grades 9-12

- 1st: Aaliya Morton, Northwest Rankin High School
- 2nd: Hailey Layne, Northwest Rankin High School

Poster: Category C-2

Senior Grades: 9-12

- 2nd place: Ruby Landford, Clinton High School Career Complex
- 3rd place: Julia Jordan, Clinton High School Career Complex

Please visit <https://ncda.org/aws/NCDA/pt/sp/ncdmonth> to view the amazing work of our Mississippi winners!

The Compass, Summer 2018

Article Submission Deadlines

Publication Date: August 31, 2018

Editorial content and photos due

August 20, 2018

Email to: Carolyn.anderson@mscounselor.org

ACA State Branch Advocacy Award (continued from page 2)

This was achieved without legislative involvement, but through changes in policies and procedures. The Mississippi Division of Medicaid also agreed to explore and expand the provision of services by LPCs to adults in the near future.

Including LPCs as Mississippi Medicaid providers has already increased the access of children to counseling in our underserved areas. It has also served to increase the appreciation and recognition of counseling to the public.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

July 23 - 25, 2018, MCEC
Strong Roots, Sustainable
Future National Training
Seminar, Washington, DC

November

November 7-9, 2018, MCA
Fall Conference, Biloxi, MS

Government Relations Update (continued from page 3)

Additionally, I would like to encourage everyone to take part in government relations and advocacy with MCA. We are preparing for the 2018-2019 year, please contact me or Jayme Sullivan if you would like to participate on this committee. It truly makes a difference to our profession and those we serve.

Karla Weir,
MCA Government Relations
And Advocacy Co- Chairman
Kwkar2@hotmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ALL AUTHORS

We are in need of articles for the Spring 2018 Compass. Please consider writing an article and submitting it for publication. The article should be 200—300 words in length and can cover topics of interest to counselors..