



PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SECTION

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

Room 121B, 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison

Contact: Dan Williams (608) 266-2112

June 26, 2018

The following agenda describes the issues that the Section plans to consider at the meeting. At the time of the meeting, items may be removed from the agenda. Please consult the meeting minutes for a record of the actions of the Section.

AGENDA

9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – OPEN SESSION

- A. Adoption of the Agenda (1-3)**
- B. Approval of the Minutes of January 30, 2018 (4-7)**
- C. Administrative Matters – Discussion and Consideration**
 - 1. Staff Updates
 - 2. Delegation of Authorities **(8-11)**
 - 3. Section Member – Term Expiration Date
 - a. Allison Gordon – 7/1/2018
 - b. Tammy Scheidegger – 7/1/2020
 - c. Kathleen Miller– 7/1/2021 (*re-appointed, not yet confirmed*)
 - d. Monica Vick – 7/1/2019
- D. Society of Counseling Psychology/American Psychological Association (APA) Letter – Discussion and Consideration (12-14)**
- E. Legislation and Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration**
 - 1. Implementation of MPSW 14.01 Relating to Academic Program Equivalent to Professional Counseling Degree
 - 2. Update on Legislation and Pending and Possible Rulemaking Projects
- F. Deliberation on Items Added After Preparation of Agenda:**
 - 1. Introductions, Announcements and Recognition
 - 2. Election of Officers
 - 3. Appointment of Liaison(s)
 - 4. Delegation of Authorities
 - 5. Administrative Matters
 - 6. Education and Examination Matters

7. Credentialing Matters
8. Practice Matters
9. Legislative and Administrative Rule Matters
10. Liaison Reports
11. Board Liaison Training and Appointment of Mentors
12. Informational Items
13. Division of Legal Services and Compliance (DLSC) Matters
14. Presentations of Petitions for Summary Suspension
15. Petitions for Designation of Hearing Examiner
16. Presentation of Proposed Stipulations, Final Decisions and Orders
17. Presentation of Proposed Final Decision and Orders
18. Presentation of Interim Orders
19. Petitions for Re-Hearing
20. Petitions for Assessments
21. Petitions to Vacate Orders
22. Requests for Disciplinary Proceeding Presentations
23. Motions
24. Petitions
25. Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed
26. Speaking Engagement(s), Travel, or Public Relation Request(s)

G. Public Comments

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION to deliberate on cases following hearing (s. 19.85(1)(a), Stats.); to consider licensure or certification of individuals (s. 19.85(1)(b), Stats.); to consider closing disciplinary investigations with administrative warnings (ss. 19.85 (1)(b), and 440.205, Stats.); to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (s. 19.85 (1)(f), Stats.); and to confer with legal counsel (s. 19.85(1)(g), Stats.).

H. **Deliberation on DLSC Matters**

1. **Deliberation on Monitoring Matters**

- a. Review of Fitness-to-Practice Evaluation Results – Curt Clausen, L.P.C. **(15-43)**
- b. Requesting Removal of the Practice Limitation Relating to the Treatment of Male Clients – Charity Nikolay, L.P.C. **(44-62)**

2. **Proposed Stipulations, Final Decisions, and Orders**

- a. 16 CPC 047 – Clifford J. Kuster, M.S., L.P.C. **(63-69)**
- b. 17 CPC 004 – Vicki J. Marquardt, L.P.C. **(70-74)**

3. Case Closings

I. **Deliberation on Order Fixing Costs**

1. Curt E. Clausen, Respondent, DHA Case Number SPS-17-0016/DLSC Case Number 16 CPC 043 **(75-82)**

J. Deliberation of Items Added After Preparation of the Agenda

1. Education and Examination Matters
2. Credentialing Matters
3. DLSC Matters
4. Monitoring Matters
5. Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Matters
6. Petitions for Summary Suspensions
7. Petitions for Designation of Hearing Examiner
8. Stipulations, Final Decisions and Order
9. Proposed Interim Orders

10. Administrative Warnings
11. Review of Administrative Warnings
12. Proposed Final Decision and Orders
13. Matters Relating to Costs/Orders Fixing Costs
14. Case Closings
15. Board Liaison Training
16. Petitions for Assessments and Evaluations
17. Petitions to Vacate Orders
18. Remedial Education Cases
19. Motions
20. Petitions for Re-Hearing
21. Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed

K. Consulting with Legal Counsel

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

L. Voting on Items Considered or Deliberated on in Closed Session, If Voting is Appropriate.

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE: JULY 24, 2018

MEETINGS AND HEARINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND MAY BE CANCELLED
WITHOUT NOTICE.

Times listed for meeting items are approximate and depend on the length of discussion and voting. All meetings are held at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin, unless otherwise noted. In order to confirm a meeting or to request a complete copy of the board's agenda, please call the listed contact person. The board may also consider materials or items filed after the transmission of this notice. Times listed for the commencement of disciplinary hearings may be changed by the examiner for the convenience of the parties. Interpreters for the hearing impaired provided upon request by contacting the Affirmative Action Officer, 608-266-2112.

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SECTION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PRESENT: Allison Gordon, Kathleen Miller (*via GoToMeeting; arrived at 10:33 a.m.*), Tammy Scheidegger, Monica Vick (*via GoToMeeting*)

STAFF: Dan Williams, Executive Director; Laura Smith, Bureau Assistant; Sharon Henes, Rules Coordinator; and other DSPS Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Tammy Scheidegger, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was confirmed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Monica Vick, to adopt the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2017

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Monica Vick, to approve the minutes of December 5, 2017 as published. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Election of Officers

Slate of Officers

NOMINATION: Tammy Scheidegger nominated the 2017 slate of officers to continue in 2018.

Dan Williams called for nominations three (3) times.

Nomination carried by unanimous consent.

The 2017 Slate of Officers was reelected to continue in 2018.

2018 ELECTION RESULTS	
Chair	Tammy Scheidegger
Vice Chair	Kathleen Miller
Secretary	Allison Gordon

Appointment of Liaisons and Delegates

2018 LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Credentialing Liaisons	Kathleen Miller, Tammy Scheidegger, Allison Gordon, Monica Vick
Education and Examination Liaison	Tammy Scheidegger
DLSC Monitoring and Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Liaison(s)	Kathleen Miller
Screening Panel (beginning February 2018)	Tammy Scheidegger (Alternate: Kathleen Miller)

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, to affirm the Chair's appointment of liaisons for 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegated Authorities

Delegated Authority for Urgent Matters

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, that, in order to facilitate the completion of assignments between meetings, the Section delegates its authority to the Chair to appoint liaisons to carry out the duties of the Section in accordance with the law. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegated Authority for Application Denial Reviews

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, that the Section counsel or another department attorney is formally authorized to serve as the Section's designee for purposes of Wis. Admin Code § SPS 1.08(1). Motion carried unanimously.

Document Signature Delegation

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, that the Section delegates authority to the Chair to sign documents on behalf of the Section. In order to carry out duties of the Section, the Chair has the ability to delegate this signature authority to the Section's Executive Director for purposes of facilitating the completion of assignments during or between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Credentialing Authority Delegations

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, to delegate authority to the Credentialing Liaisons to address all issues related to credentialing matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Education Delegations

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, to delegate authority to the Office of Education and Examination Liaison(s) to address all issues related to education and examinations. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Kathleen Miller moved, seconded by Monica Vick, to convene to closed session to deliberate on cases following hearing (s. 19.85(1)(a), Stats.); to consider licensure or certification of individuals (s. 19.85 (1)(b), Stats.); to consider closing disciplinary investigation with administrative warning (ss.19.85(1)(b), Stats. and 440.205, Stats.); to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (s. 19.85 (1)(f), Stats.); and, to confer with legal counsel (s.19.85(1)(g), Stats.). The Chair read the language of the motion. The vote of each member was ascertained by voice vote. Roll Call Vote: Allison Gordon-yes; Kathleen Miller-yes; Tammy Scheidegger-yes; Monica Vick-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, all external communication contacts will be terminated for purposes of going into Closed Session.

The Section convened into Closed Session at 10:54 a.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Section reconvened into Open Session at 11:08 a.m.

VOTING ON ITEMS CONSIDERED OR DELIBERATED ON IN CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, to affirm all motions made in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

(Be advised that any recusals or abstentions reflected in the closed session motions stand for the purposes of the affirmation vote.)

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES AND COMPLIANCE (DLSC) MATTERS

Proposed Stipulation(s), Final Decision(s) and Order(s)

16 CPC 042 – R.M.P.

MOTION: Kathleen Miller moved, seconded by Allison Gordon, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Roger M. Pumphrey, DLSC case numbers 16 CPC 042. Motion carried unanimously.

16 CPC 039 – M.M.C.

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Molly M. Christofferson, DLSC case number 16 CPC 039. Motion carried unanimously.

Case Closings

MOTION: Kathleen Miller moved, seconded by Allison Gordon, to close the DLSC cases for the reasons outlined below:

1. 16 CPC 007 (St.) – Insufficient Evidence
2. 16 CPC 007 (Sa.) – Prosecutorial Discretion (P2)

Motion carried.

DELIBERATION ON PROPOSED FINAL DECISION AND ORDER IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST CURT E. CLAUSEN, RESPONDENT, DHA CASE NO. SPS-17-0016/DLSC CASE NO. 16 CPC 043 AND OBJECTIONS

MOTION: Monica Vick moved, seconded by Kathleen Miller, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Proposed Decision and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Curt E. Clausen, Respondent – DHA Case No. SPS-17-0016/DLSC Case No. 16 CPC 043. Motion carried unanimously.

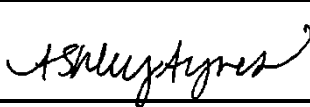
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Allison Gordon moved, seconded by Monica Vick, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1) Name and Title of Person Submitting the Request: Ashley Ayres Monitoring and Intake Supervisor Division of Legal Services and Compliance		2) Date When Request Submitted: December 18, 2017 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Items will be considered late if submitted after 4:30 p.m. and less than: ▪ 10 work days before the meeting for Medical Board ▪ 14 work days before the meeting for all others </div>	
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: Professional Counselor Section			
4) Meeting Date: April 16, 2018	5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Appointment of Monitoring Liaison and Delegated Authority Motion	
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/> Both		8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Fill out Board Appearance Request) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required:
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: Adopt or reject the Roles and Authorities Delegated to the Monitoring Liaison and Department Monitor document as presented in today's agenda packet.			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> 11)  Signature of person making this request </div> <div style="width: 60%; text-align: right;"> Authorization December 18, 2017 Date </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> Supervisor (if required) </div> <div style="width: 60%; text-align: right;"> Date </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda) </div> <div style="width: 60%; text-align: right;"> Date </div> </div>			
Directions for including supporting documents: 1. This form should be attached to any documents submitted to the agenda. 2. Post Agenda Deadline items must be authorized by a Supervisor and the Policy Development Executive Director. 3. If necessary, Provide original documents needing Board Chairperson signature to the Bureau Assistant prior to the start of a meeting.			

Roles and Authorities Delegated to the Monitoring Liaison and Department Monitor

The Monitoring Liaison (“Liaison”) is a Board/Section designee who works with department monitors to enforce Board/Section orders as explained below.

Current Authorities Delegated to the Monitoring Liaison

The Liaison may take the following actions on behalf of the Board/Section:

1. Grant a temporary reduction in random drug screen frequency upon Respondent’s request if he/she is unemployed and is otherwise compliant with Board/Section order. The temporary reduction will be in effect until Respondent secures employment in the profession. The Department Monitor (“Monitor”) will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison.
2. Grant a stay of suspension if Respondent is eligible per the Board/Section order. The Monitor will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison.
3. Remove the stay of suspension if there are repeated violations or a substantial violation of the Board/Section order. In conjunction with removal of any stay of suspension, the Liaison may prohibit Respondent from seeking reinstatement of the stay for a specified period of time. The Monitor will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison.
4. Grant or deny approval when Respondent proposes continuing/remedial education courses, treatment providers, mentors, supervisors, change of employment, etc. unless the order specifically requires full-Board/Section approval.
5. Grant a maximum of one 90-day extension, if warranted and requested in writing by Respondent, to complete Board/Section-ordered continuing education.
6. Grant a maximum of one extension or payment plan for proceeding costs and/or forfeitures if warranted and requested in writing by Respondent.
7. Grant full reinstatement of licensure if Respondent has fully complied with all terms of the order without deviation. The Monitor will draft an order and obtain the signature or written authorization from the Liaison.
8. Grant or deny a request to appear before the Board/Section in closed session.
9. (*Except Pharmacy*) Accept Respondent’s written request to surrender credential. If accepted by the Liaison, Monitor will consult with Board Counsel to determine if a stipulation is necessary. If a stipulation is not necessary, Monitor will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison. If denied by the Liaison, the request to surrender credential will go to the full Board for review.
10. (*Except Pharmacy*) Grant Respondent’s petition for a reduction in drug screens per the standard schedule, below. If approved, Monitor will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison.
 - a. Year 1: 49 screens (including 1 hair test, if required by original order)
 - b. Year 2: 36 screens (plus 1 hair test, if required by original order)
 - c. Year 3: 28 screens plus 1 hair test
 - d. Year 4: 28 screens plus 1 hair test
 - e. Year 5: 14 screens plus 1 hair test
11. (*Dentistry only*) – Ability to approve or deny all requests from a respondent.

Current Authorities Delegated to the Department Monitor

The Monitor may take the following actions on behalf of the Board/Section, draft an order and sign:

1. Grant full reinstatement of licensure if CE is the sole condition of the limitation and Respondent has submitted the required proof of completion for approved courses.
2. Suspend the license if Respondent has not completed Board/Section-ordered CE and/or paid costs and forfeitures within the time specified by the Board/Section order. The Monitor may remove the suspension and issue an order when proof completion and/or payment have been received.
3. Suspend the license (or remove stay of suspension) if Respondent fails to enroll and participate in an Approved Program for drug and alcohol testing within 30 days of the order, or if Respondent ceases participation in the Approved Program without Board approval. This delegated authority only pertains to respondents who must comply with drug and/or alcohol testing requirements.

Proposed (New) Delegations to the Monitoring Liaison

The Monitoring Unit is proposing the following additions to the Monitoring Liaison's authority:

1. Board Monitoring Liaison may determine whether Respondent's petition is eligible for consideration by the full Board/Section.
2. Board Monitoring Liaison may approve or deny Respondent's request to be excused from drug and alcohol testing for work, travel, etc.

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1) Name and Title of Person Submitting the Request: Carrie Cusick, LPPA Stephanie Oren LPPA		2) Date When Request Submitted: 1/8/2018 Items will be considered late if submitted after 12:00 p.m. on the deadline date which is 8 business days before the meeting									
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: Professional Counselor											
4) Meeting Date: 04/17/2018	5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Review of Credentialing delegated authority									
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session		8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Fill out Board Appearance Request) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required:								
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: Credentialing is requesting the following delegated authorities: 1. Authority to the credentialing liaisons to address all issues related to credentialing matters. 2. Authority for DSPS staff to approve applications where criminal background checks have been approved for a previous Professional Counselor training license credential and no criminal activity has occurred since that approval. 3. Authority for DSPS staff to approved education that meets CACREP requirement.											
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">11) Signature of person making this request</td> <td style="width: 40%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">Authorization Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carrie Cusick & Stephanie Oren</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1/8/18</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Supervisor (if required)</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda) Date</td> </tr> </table>				11) Signature of person making this request	Authorization Date	Carrie Cusick & Stephanie Oren	1/8/18	Supervisor (if required)	Date	Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda) Date	
11) Signature of person making this request	Authorization Date										
Carrie Cusick & Stephanie Oren	1/8/18										
Supervisor (if required)	Date										
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AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1) Name and Title of Person Submitting the Request: Dan Williams Executive Director		2) Date When Request Submitted: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: small;">Items will be considered late if submitted after 12:00 p.m. on the deadline date which is 8 business days before the meeting</div>	
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: Professional Counselor Section			
4) Meeting Date: 6/26/2018	5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Society of Counseling Psychology/APA letter- Discussion and Consideration	
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session	8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Fill out Board Appearance Request) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required:	
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: <p>From: Michael Scheel <mscheel2@unl.edu> Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2018 12:49 PM To: Williams, Dan - DSPS <Dan1.Williams@wisconsin.gov> Subject: letter supporting inclusiveness of masters counseling training</p> <p>Dear Wisconsin masters counseling licensing board,</p> <p>With this email, I am sending you a letter (see attached) which addresses the desire of the organizations represented in it for your state licensing board to continue to take an inclusive and comprehensive orientation toward masters counseling training, accreditation, and licensure. Our letter originates from the Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP) and is signed by myself, the VP for Education and Training of SCP, as well as Dr. Arpana Inman, the president of the Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP), Dr. Barry Chung, the president of the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP), Dr. Elaine Johnson, the president of the Alliance of Professional Counselors (APC), and Dr. Anabel Bejarano, the president of the Council of Masters in Counseling Training Programs (CMCTP). We have put a great deal of time and thought into this communication to you. Our hope is the letter conveys our unified stance of inclusiveness and comprehensiveness toward masters counseling training.</p> <p>You may like to reply to us with questions or other responses. Please feel free to use my email, mscheel2@unl.edu. I will be sure to pass your sentiments along to all those represented in the letter.</p> <p>Michael J. Scheel, PhD, ABPP Professor APA Fellow SCP VP for Education and Training Associate Editor, The Counseling Psychologist University of Nebraska-Lincoln 38 Teachers College Hall Lincoln, NE 68588-0345 402-472-0573 (w) 402-730-7481 (c)</p>			



Society of Counseling Psychology

Division 17, American Psychological Association

<http://www.div17.org>

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May 3, 2018

Dear State Professional Counselor Licensing Board:

We wish to update you on progress being made in the development of a **comprehensive and inclusive path** to master's level practice and licensure. We represent the leadership of several organizations dedicated to excellence in training professional counselors. We are concerned about the detrimental implications of ongoing efforts to limit pathways to licensure for counseling students. We want to call your attention to the merits of our shared mission to **retain broad avenues to training** professional counselors.

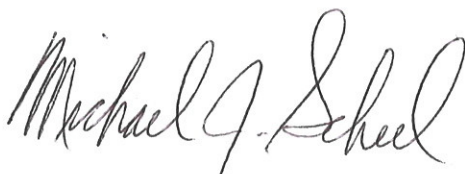
For the last nine years, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and allied organizations have attempted to limit the number and type of programs training license-eligible counselors. They promote the exclusive requirement of a degree from a CACREP-approved program. However, **more than 400 master's training programs not affiliated with CACREP** exist in the United States.

The Masters in Counseling and Psychology Accreditation Council (MPCAC) offers accreditation to **all** programs that meet its high standards. MPCAC fills the need for program accreditation for master's programs that CACREP does not serve including those based in psychology, counseling, and interdisciplinary departments. Both MPCAC and CACREP standards are geared toward meeting curricular licensing requirements in every state. The primary differences are MPCAC's greater emphasis on scientific foundations of counseling practice and in its inclusion of training in academic disciplines such as counseling psychology that have contributed to the development of the counseling profession. At last count, 30% of all masters' training programs are CACREP, 10% are MPCAC. Thus, fully 60% are unaffiliated.

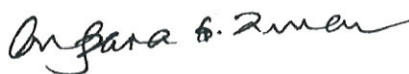
Most states need more mental health practitioners, not less, to address the mental health disparity problem in our country. To limit the number of programs eligible to train license-eligible counselors **flies in the face of this growing problem**. In 2014, the National Alliance for Mental Illness reported 44 million Americans as experiencing some form of mental illness, yet 60% of individuals with diagnosable mental illnesses in our country go untreated in a given year. In many regions there simply are **too few mental health practitioners** to address the growing need for mental health treatment.

The 400+ master's programs not affiliated with CACREP are an overwhelming majority of counseling training programs. These programs would be forced to close if licensure were restricted only to graduates of CACREP programs. The demise of these programs would be **disastrous to humanitarian efforts to increase mental health services to the underserved**. CACREP serves only programs that meet their narrow definitions of "counseling" and "counselor education." It specifically does not accredit programs in psychology, despite the fact that counseling psychology, clinical psychology, and school psychology all have long and successful histories of providing excellent training and producing top-notch master's clinicians. The CACREP-only initiative not only would limit mental health access to treatment, it would also restrict many deserving students from achieving their career goals of becoming professional counselors in states where they desire to work.

Thus, we strongly endorse an inclusive and comprehensive approach to master's level counseling training. We represent programs with long and successful histories (since 1946) of preparing students through counseling and psychology training to practice as professional counselors. Our programs align with individual state licensing requirements and are based on the *Competencies In Professional Counseling and Related Human Services* (Scheel, Lichtenberg, Fouad, & Jackson, 2012). These competencies promote high standards and emphasize science-practice integration, culturally sensitive and competent practice, social justice advocacy, contextualized evidence-based practice, and strengths-oriented prevention efforts. We are proud of the work being done to retain diverse career pathways to master's level licensure and practice. We are confident that our efforts are needed to address the mental health treatment disparity in the United States. We urge you to continue the good work you have been doing to regulate the licensure of professional counselors prepared in diverse ways.



Michael J. Scheel, PhD, ABPP
VP for Education and Training
Society of Counseling Psychology



Arpana G. Inman, PhD
President
Society of Counseling Psychology



Y. Barry Chung, PhD President
Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs



Elaine Johnson, PhD, President
Alliance for Professional Counselors



Anabel Bejarano, PhD President
Council of Masters in Counseling Training Programs