

Licensing For LPC, LCSW, LMFT in Georgia

Presented by:
**Licensed Professional
Counselors Association of GA**

Licensed Professional Counselors Association of GA

- ▶ **Formed in 1987**, the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia (LPCA), is the only GA. professional independent not-for-profit organization for clinical counselors.
- ▶ With membership of 9000+ representing 10,359 Licensed Professional Counselors (including associates as of 8/7/23), LPCA GA is one of the largest state chapters in the USA.
- ▶ LPCA's mission is to promote the profession and the professionalism of clinical counselors by providing education and working to help our members maintain the highest professional and ethical standards.
- ▶ LPCA of Georgia members succeed in state lobbying efforts to pass unanimously in the House of Representatives and the Senate **the first in the USA** Professional Counselor Licensure Compact Legislation (HB 395 in 2021).

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- ▶ Initiates collaborative relationships based on our principles of inclusiveness and mutuality with any and all organizations vested in mental health.
- ▶ Since 2002, LPCA has had a representative monitoring the monthly GA Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapist.
- ▶ Provides over 1,800+ consultations per year, assisting those within the USA and those coming in from other countries with obtaining their license in Georgia.

LPC Licensure Code Changes Needed

- ▶ Trained and Advanced Educated Counselors should be authorized to perform advanced assessment testing
 - ▶ All assessment test are owned and restricted by testing companies to insure that only those “qualified” to administer the test may purchase the advanced tests
 - ▶ LPC profession has been built upon assessment - it is central to diagnosing and providing the proper health care services

Recommend: Code change to remove language in Section 43-10A-22 that restricts qualified LPCs from performing psychological testing.

LPC Licensure Code Changes Needed

- ▶ Move doctoral program to “master’s degree or higher”
- ▶ Add CACREP to LPC code section
- ▶ Overall Code ”Clean-up”

Obstacles in Working Towards Licensure

- ▶ Lack of internship sites since Community Services Board are no longer offering LPC internships that leads to advanced training
- ▶ Business model moving to 1099 instead of W-2 due to additional strains on business.
- ▶ No funding for professional innovation
- ▶ Universities not developing applied research to improve clinical mental health advancements in service
- ▶ Burnout in healthcare is reaching crisis proportions

CSB - WORKFORCE ISSUES

- ▶ **Need to reinstate the format for Community Service Boards (CSBs) and other state contracted sites to offer LPC internships – master level counselors working on gaining the hours for licensure.**
 - ❖ **At this time the state’s contract does not allow an LPC to be pulled “off line” to supervisor interns.**
 - ❖ **This impacts the CSB’s ability to provide mental health care services. Limits care in the under-served population.**
 - ❖ **This limits the number of sites available for masters level interns working towards licensure.**
 - ❖ **This puts a strain on hospitals, serving as mental health sites, instead of utilizing CSBs and other alternative sites.**
 - ❖ **THIS COST TAX PAYERS MONEY**

ISSUES IMPACTING LPC LICENSING PROCESS.....

- ▶ **ASSOCIATE LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELOR LICENSING CONCERNS**
- ▶ **LPC LICENSING CONCERNS**
- ▶ **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO CURRENT CONCERNS**



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