

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT**Dear LCPCM Members and Friends,**

As we move into a new year, I am filled with gratitude for the members of our LCPCM Board and others on our LCPCM team. This year LCPCM held our first ever organization development retreat facilitated by a professional consultant, Diane L. Dixon, EdD. We now have an excellent 3-year strategic plan to guide our work and revised mission and vision statements. We are all very proud of and dedicated to the following:

LCPCM Vision Statement

LCPCM will be a vibrant, responsive, and connected community that works to empower and inspire licensed professional counselors in Maryland.

LCPCM Mission Statement

LCPCM serves, connects, and advocates for Maryland's licensed professional counselors, protecting the viability of the profession by:

- Promoting and valuing high ethical standards
- Working for legislative equity and professional parity
- Offering opportunities for growth and clinical competency
- Advocating for client access to quality clinical mental health treatment

LCPCM Core Values

- Inclusion and equity
- Ethical Conduct and Integrity
- Connection
- Collaborative Teamwork
- Commitment to Mission

As you can tell, LCPCM is eager to grow and serve our members. This year's member survey, completed by many of you, provided essential information for the retreat process. Thank you to those who took the time to complete it.

Two important goals for this year stand out for me from the retreat. One is improved student and LGPC services; and the other to develop productive working committees. We realize that we need more hands to accomplish our vision. As the Board develops our committee structure, we will call on you for help. I hope you will be excited about the opportunity to contribute your knowledge and skills. Everything is still virtual, so participation is more manageable.

Lastly, our officers and others on our LCPCM team deserve special recognition for their commitment, dedication, and endurance throughout this very difficult year. Please take a moment to thank:

Hillary Alexander – President-Elect and Professional Development Chair
Sandra Lynch Ervin – Secretary and University Liaison Chair
Bob Castle – Treasurer and Chair of the "Becoming a Professional Counselor" e-book committee.
Molly Thorn – Past-President and Membership Chair
Larry Epp – former LCPCM President and our National/Interstate issues expert and advocate
Kizzy Pittrell and **Michelle McCoy** – At-Large members who donated their time to attending LCPCM meetings
Sharon Nalley – Business Manager, diligent financial accountant, and events coordinator
Angie Blank – LCPCM member and contributing expert and visionary
Courtenay Culp – former LCPCM President who offered her ideas and experience to enrich our discussions
Marsha Riggio – Supervision Training Program instructor.
Robyn Elliott – our state lobbyist extraordinaire and her new associate Scott Tiffin.

And, most importantly, our loyal LCPCM members - whose attendance at our conferences, webinars, and trainings continue to keep LCPCM relevant and vital.

Wishing you good health, peace, and love in the new year.

Susan Roistacher, *LCPCM Board of Directors President*

Letter to the Governor

Dear Governor Hogan:

Thank you for your leadership and the support of your administration in keeping Marylanders safe during the pandemic. The members of the Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland especially appreciated your efforts to promote telehealth and licensure flexibility as strategies for us to reach those in need of behavioral health services.

Now that the states are ending their public health emergencies, many jurisdictions are rescinding flexibilities put in place during the pandemic. Behavioral health providers are once again encountering obstacles in providing in-person or telehealth services in another state.

Now more than ever, it is critical that people are able to turn to their trusted behavioral health providers. We are in the midst of a true behavioral health crisis in the wake of the pandemic. Kaiser Family Foundation reports that between January 2019 and June 2019 only 11.0% of adults reported anxiety or depression symptoms but that number increased to 41.1% in January of 2021. However, we cannot serve our patients when they cross the state line for work, school, or family obligation.

Your administration has been very forward-thinking in addressing the issue of licensure portability. Through championing the Licensed Professional Counselors Compact during the 2021 session, Lieutenant Governor Rutherford laid the groundwork for professional counselors to be able to support their patients in any compact state.

We are writing to ask for your assistance in encouraging the leadership in neighboring jurisdictions to support the Licensed Professional Counselors Compact. If we could follow our patients throughout the region, we could minimize harmful disruptions in care. We need to take every feasible step to support Marylanders in accessing behavioral health services. The Compact offers a tangible solution in addressing the behavioral health needs of many Marylanders.

Please let us know how we can be helpful. I may be reached at roistacher@verizon.net or contracted through Robyn Elliott, our public policy consultant, at relliott@policypartners.net. We look forward to working with your administration on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Susan Roistacher LCPCM
LCPCM President

<https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-implications-of-covid-19-for-mental-health-and-substance-use/>

Featured Members

Each month we will feature a member of LCPCM and ask them to share with us information about their work, inspiration, and self-care.

If you would like to be featured, send a picture and a short summary to mylcpcm@gmail.com.

Training

We are pleased to announce that the [Supervision 3 day Training Program](#) (18 CEU's) will be offered in March, June, September, and December. Please check the website for dates and registration.

Bi-monthly **Webinars** are offered on a variety of topics. Each webinar provides 2 or 3 CEU's. See website for details.

Conferences

[Semi-Annual Conferences](#) are offered in April and October each year. 6 CEU's are provided usually with a morning speaker and a different afternoon speaker. In addition, legislative updates and information are provided. You will be notified by email when registration is available.

If you have any suggestions on topics and/or speakers, let us know at mylcpcm@gmail.com.

CLICK TO FIND OUT WHAT LCPCM CAN DO FOR YOU!

Supervision Subsidy | Advocacy | Affordable CEU's | Supervision Training | Membership Directory | Professional Liability Insurance | Leadership Opportunities | LGPC Student Liaison | Classified Ads | ListServ | Comprehensive Guide to Becoming a Professional Counselor in Maryland

If you are unable to find what you are looking for on the website, please contact our business manager, Sharon Nalley at mylcpcm@gmail.com.