

**Dear LCPCM Members,**

It has been a year of change for LCPCs, trending toward equity and allowing for increased access to services for people all over the country. Our advocacy efforts continue as we are always trying to find ways to increase access and equity, supporting all counselors. The Counseling Compact has 27 states (as of July) participating, with another 8 states pending legislation and Medicare will begin paneling LCPC providers on January 1, 2024. LCPCM has been working to increase awareness and connection with graduate students across Maryland who are close to becoming licensed counselors. We have also had many LGPCs requesting supervision subsidies, supporting affordable access to Board Approved LCPC Supervisors. In addition, LCPCM has hosted various webinars (which will continue throughout the year) in addition to our Spring conference which focused on EFT and Alexithymia. We continue to offer education and support to counselors and will be hosting our first in-person event since 2019 this October. This year, we have tapped into our greatest resource – our members – to provide presentations to enrich our practice! As we continue to advocate for all professional counselors in Maryland, I hope to have more great news and updates to share with you in the coming months.

**I look forward to seeing you all soon!**

Hillary Alexander, LCPC, NCC, Board Approved Supervisor, LCPCM President

**Jaelynn's Law Passes: Clinical Implications for LCPCM Members**

Governor Wes Moore signed Jaelynn's Law last month. The new law requires parents to safely store their guns if a child 17 or younger is in the home, particularly if the child has a mental health challenge. The law goes into effect on October 1, 2023.

Jaelynn's Law was named after 16-year-old Jaelynn Willey who was shot and killed by a school shooter at her Maryland High School in 2018. The shooter gained access to his father's unsecured gun.

Jaelynn's Law has significant implications for LCPCM Members who are working with families with youth with suicidal or homicidal thinking. Clinicians can reference the new law to help families understand that the best way to mitigate a potential suicide or violent act involving their child is to safely store their gun.

A parent's gun is often the weapon a youth will use to take their own or another's life. With 44% of American households reporting gun ownership in 2020, gun violence has now surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death for youth.

Clinicians must today assume that many of their families own a gun and must inquire whether their child client knows where the gun is and whether they could gain access. This is a best practice formally known as Lethal Means Assessment.

For parents who have 2nd Amendment objections to safely storing their gun, clinicians can educate them that gun storage devices have evolved to allow quick access to their weapon. Gun Lock Boxes have been developed with a Jack-in-the Box mechanism that can quickly provide access to their gun, triggered by biometric fingerprint recognition or a pass code.

A depiction of one such Gun Lock Box, available on Amazon, is shown below:



For parents who still refuse to secure their gun, even in an innovative Gun Lock Box, clinicians can counsel their families that Jaelynn's Law carries significant penalties if their child harms themselves or another with an unsecured gun in the home.

LCPCM Members can also employ an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) to remove household guns with the support of the courts and law enforcement, if their child client manifests a danger to self or others, and the parents refuse to safely store or remove their gun from the home. Sadly, many clinicians are not familiar with this critical law, and others are reluctant to employ it, since it is not mandated in the way child abuse reporting is.

Gun violence is at historic proportions in our state, worsened by the psychological trauma of the pandemic. While seemingly a narrow strategy to reduce gun violence, Jaelynn's Law in truth could have a major impact, because of its research-based understanding of where most youth are obtaining a gun – sadly, from their parents and their own homes.

By Larry Epp, Ed.D.

**Find a Therapist**

The Find a Therapist page has a new look! Check it out and take a look at your profile to be sure you have the correct contact information (home vs office).

**New LCPCM Secretary**

Welcome to Lauren Ortiz, who is joining the board in the role of secretary. Lauren began this position in July 2023.

LCPCM would like to thank Lester Burney for his time and commitment to the role of secretary.

**Call to Action: We Need You!**

We are thrilled with the increase in membership involvement in our monthly Board meetings. It has given new ideas and fresh perspective. Please consider joining one of our committees (see below) so we can continue to increase member involvement. Busy? Consider joining the LCPCM Listserv email group to stay in the know (see links below, members only). Have ideas for trainings or the newsletter? WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! Contact [mylcpcom@gmail.com](mailto:mylcpcom@gmail.com) to share all your good ideas.

**Virtual Committee Positions Available**

**Professional Development Committee**  
Chair-Hillary Alexander, LCPC

**Membership Committee**  
Chair-Mollie Thorn, LCPC

**Graduate Student and LGPC Service Committee**  
Chair-Dr. Sandra Lynch Ervin

**Strategic Planning Committee**  
Chair-Angela Mazer

**National Issues**  
Chair-Larry Epp, LCPC

Contact [mylcpcom@gmail.com](mailto:mylcpcom@gmail.com) to get in touch with committee chairs.

**LCPCM ListServ**

If you are a member and are not currently receiving or able to send listserv emails and wish to, please send an email to [mylcpcom@gmail.com](mailto:mylcpcom@gmail.com). We will confirm that your membership is current and you will be added and sent instructions on how to use ListServ.

**Featured Member**



**Lauren Ortiz, LCPCM**

Lauren began her journey as a clinician working with underserved youth and their families. Her passion for serving under resourced populations has led her to working with teens and adults experiencing homelessness and into the prisons. Her passion for addressing trauma in a variety of capacities transitioned into private practice where she specializes in C-PTSD in teens and adults, largely working with the ND and LGBTQ+ communities.

Lauren is a newer member of LCPCM and is a part of the legislative and strategic planning committees. She strives to stay involved in advocacy efforts in order to best represent LCPCs that continue to work with underserved communities, hoping to give a voice for the resources they most need in order to successfully work with these populations.

When not working, Lauren enjoys spending time with her cats, chickens, and children. She is an avid reader and loves getting out and soaking up as much sun as she can.

*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 [mylcpcom@gmail.com](mailto:mylcpcom@gmail.com).*

**Upcoming Events**

**2-Day SUPERVISION TRAINING with Marsha Riggio, PhD**  
Thursday, September 21-22, 2023 9:30 AM | Online Zoom

**WEBINAR**

Friday, August 11, 2023 10:00 AM | Online Zoom

The Role of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Preventing Gun Violence

Presented by Jen Pauliukonis, MPH and Lisa Geller, MPH

Registration closes August 4 at 11:59 PM

**Save the Date**

**FALL CONFERENCE**

Friday, October 27, 2023 9:00 AM | *Martin's Crosswinds, Greenbelt*

Morning presenters: Sharnise Hendrick & Carly Falk (Dissociation) 9-12 pm

Afternoon presenters: Myrja Paul & Tyler Mabry (Therapist Burnout) 1-4 pm

Registration opens soon

**Training**

We are pleased to announce that the [Supervision 2 day Training Program](#) (18 CEU's) will be offered in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Please check the website for dates and registration.

A New Class, Supervision Refresher Course will be offered annually beginning in 2023. 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 [mylcpcom@gmail.com](mailto:mylcpcom@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 [mylcpcom@gmail.com](mailto:mylcpcom@gmail.com).