

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2022 Virtual Committees Now Forming

Committee Chairs are inviting you to join. Choose the committee that interests you the most and email the Chair for more information.

Membership on an LCPCM committee is easier than ever now that meetings are on-line. It is an exciting opportunity to work with LCPCs and LGPCs from all over the state. Meet new colleagues, contribute to the advancement of your profession, while having a stimulating and enjoyable time. LCPCM needs your ideas and talents to achieve our vision as an association.

Professional Development Committee (plan trainings, webinars, conferences)

Chair-Hillary Alexander, LCPC, President Elect: hillarybethalexander@gmail.com

Membership Committee (provide services to members, new member outreach, and non-member recruitment)

Chair-Mollie Thorn, LCPC, Past President: mollie.thorn@gmail.com

Graduate Student and LGPC Service Committee (focus on the unique needs of developing clinical professional counselors)

Chair-Dr. Sandra Lynch Ervin, LCPC, Secretary: drslynchervin@gmail.com

Strategic planning Committee (Help LCPCM's progress toward achieving our goals)

Chair-Angela Mazer, LCPC, Treasurer: acblank14@yahoo.com

Legislative Committee (Working with LCPCM's professional lobbyists, you can have a voice in the laws and regulations effecting LCPC practice and the patients we serve.)

Chair-Susan Roistacher, LCPC, President: roistacher@verizon.net

Legislative News
Maryland's New Minor Consent Law

By Larry Epp, Ed.D., LCPC
 Director, Outcomes and Innovation
 Families and Communities Service Line

LCPCM supported Maryland's New Minor Consent Law and testified in support of it in the Maryland Legislature. The new law went into effect on October 1st and allows mental health providers to see youth **12 to 15 without parental consent** if the minor can offer a **mature** reason to be seen. Youth 16 and up already have the capacity to consent to mental health treatment without parental consent.

While the new law did not identify the specific issues that would prompt its use, these would likely include very serious concerns, such as parental rejection of a child's sexual orientation or gender identity; serious mental illness or suicidal ideation not responded to by the parent; or when a mobile crisis provider cannot reach a parent to offer an emergency evaluation.

The new law gives mental health providers broad discretion to determine "mature reasons" to allow youth to offer their own consent to mental health treatment against the wishes of parents, or without their knowledge. However, most legal authorities advise that this new law be used judiciously and in those rare circumstances when it is indisputable that mental health services are needed, and not simply when the youth simply does not want parents to know they are in treatment.

Unfortunately, the new law does not allow the provider to bill insurance, if the parents did not consent, so there is a built-in incentive within the law to work with the youth to allow parental involvement in treatment. Also, the new law does not apply to consent to medication administration for youth between the ages of 12 and 15. In essence, the new law's primary function is to "open the door" to mental health services rather than sustain ongoing services.

It always best to consult with your legal counsel if you feel uncertain if it is appropriate to provide treatment without parental consent, as this decision can be fraught with liability. However, mental health providers, particularly in schools, report that this new law has been life saving for some youth, allowing them to receive an urgent assessment or ongoing care in families that are averse to mental health services. The law has been a benefit to providers offering LGBTQ+ Youth Support Groups, since it permits youth to seek mental health services even in families rejecting of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

LCPCM was pleased with the passage of the New Minor Consent Law, since it offers another tool to mental health providers to support vulnerable youth in complex family circumstances.

The Maryland Psychiatric Society has provided a very readable interpretation of the new law at, <https://mdpsych.org/2021/11/lower-age-for-consent-took-effect-october-1/#:~:text=Senate%20Bill%2041%20reduces%20the,same%20capacity%20as%20an%20adult.>

[Lower Age for Consent Took Effect October 1 | Maryland Psychiatric Society](https://mdpsych.org/2021/11/lower-age-for-consent-took-effect-october-1/#:~:text=Senate%20Bill%2041%20reduces%20the,same%20capacity%20as%20an%20adult.)

Senate Bill 41 reduces the age of consent from 16 to 12 years for those seeking mental health treatment. If the licensed provider determines that the child is mature and capable of giving informed consent, a child in Maryland may now seek and receive treatment without parental consent in the same capacity as an adult.

mdpsych.org

Featured Members


Hi, my name is Hillary Alexander, LCPC and I am the President-Elect for LCPCM. In addition to this role, I am also the committee chair for Professional Development. I have been an active board member since 2016, initially holding the position of secretary until moving into my current role in October 2021. I was introduced to LCPCM by my professor at University of Baltimore, Dr. Elaine Johnson, who encouraged all of her graduate students to attend the conferences and become a student member. I continued my membership to LCPCM after becoming passionate about the advocacy and legislative efforts of the organization. Issues like TRICARE, CACREP, and anything that could potentially restrict the practice of professional counselors have fueled my devotion to LCPCM.

I began my counseling career in crisis intervention before moving on to work with addictions. Currently, I am a therapist and supervisor at a large OMHC in Baltimore where I specialize in working with adults who are experiencing depression, anxiety, and trauma. In 2014, I developed an intern program for the agency and have focused on supporting the growth of graduate students while they work to become licensed counselors.

My current passions include supporting efforts for inclusive practice, license portability, and resourcing quality continuing education programs for our members and other mental health professionals. I hope my work at LCPCM inspires others to join what I consider to be an essential organization for professional counselors.

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.

Upcoming Events

[2022 ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE](#)

Friday, April 22, 2022 9:00 AM | Zoom Meeting

[Q AND A DISCUSSION PANEL FORMAT](#)

Friday, April 29, 2022 2:00 PM | Zoom Meeting

[2-Day SUPERVISION TRAINING with Marsha Riggio, PhD](#)

Thursday, June 16, 2022 9:30 AM | Zoom Meeting

Training

We are pleased to announce that the [Supervision 2 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 Nahley at mylcpcm@gmail.com.