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2007-10-19 PCA Report of PACP Activities 2006 to 2007

Pennsylvania Counseling Association

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REPORT OF PACP ACTIVITIES 2006-2007

1. **LICENSURE REGULATIONS** - Monitored Licensure Board's development of additional regulations affecting LMFTs and LPCS. Sexual Misconduct regulations became effective August 2006 and Continuing Education regulations became effective in December 2006.
2. **NEW LICENSURE BOARD MEMBERS** - Identified two LPCS for open seats on the Licensure Board and continue working to get them appointed.
3. **LICENSURE RECIPROCITY** – Testified at the House Professional Licensure Committee hearing on August 7, 2007 in support of HB 1693. The bill provides for an endorsement process for individuals licensed as CSWs, PCs, and MFTs in other states that move to Pennsylvania and wish to become licensed here.
4. **MEDICAID** – Continue discussion with Joan Erney, Deputy Secretary for the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, regarding the enrollment of LMFTs and LPCs as Medical Assistance providers.
5. **WEBSITE** - Developing a PACP website that can be a resource for our member groups, LMFTs and LPCs, and other interested individuals and organizations.
6. **“HEALTH SERVICE DOCTOR” DEFINITION** - Testified on HB 1177 at the House Licensure Committee hearing on August 29, 2007. We spoke in support of the bill, amended to include LPCs and LMFTs, to add CSWs to the definition of “health service doctor” in Title 40 of the insurance law. Passage of an amended form of this bill could open the way for recognition of all three groups by Highmark Blue Shield. Discussion is continuing with NASW-PA, the clinical social workers, Rep. Fabrizio, the House Insurance Committee, and Highmark Blue Shield.
7. **“DIAGNOSIS” IN OUR SCOPE OF PRACTICE** – Been in discussion with NASW-PA and the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee regarding SB 841 that amends the licensure law to include “diagnose” in the scope of practice for LCSWs. We are lobbying for the inclusion of LMFTs and LPCs in this legislation.

We have researched the use of “diagnose” in the licensure of LPCs and LMFTs in other states so we have a factual basis from which to speak. This information was not available from our member groups’ national organizations. We will share our research with those groups so it can be available to our counterparts in other states. We are also in process of writing a definition of “diagnose” acceptable to our two professions that could be inserted in SB 841.

8. **PACP SUMMIT MEETING** - Held a strategic PACP planning session on June 2, 2007 for our member organizations’ presidents and representatives to work with the Board to outline shared goals for our continuing collaborative work on legislative and regulatory issues.
9. **MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS MEETINGS** - Continued representation of LPCS and LMFTS at meetings of behavioral health professions and organization associations organized by the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association.