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Pennsylvania Counseling Association

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PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNSELING PROFESSIONALS

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April 23, 2007

Joan Kaylor, NCC, LPC , President
Pennsylvania Counseling Association
157 Waterdam Road, Suite 260
McMurray, PA 15317

Dear Joan,

David Arena was unable to attend the last PACP meeting, but he did pass on your concerns and those of Paul West. I wanted to fill you in on what PACP is doing at present and our plans for moving forward.

Spring seems to be in the air for our member professional organizations and, therefore, for PACP. Our professional groups, after a period of relative quiescence legislatively, seem to have new leadership and new member energy to move ahead with a legislative agenda. This gives PACP the opportunity to gear back up to a more active role in the coordination of marriage and family therapists' and professional counselors' legislative interests and efforts through the alliance that originated in 1991 for that purpose.

The PACP Board recognizes the need to get input from all of our member organizations and to develop a realistic legislative plan and budget if we are to move ahead with alliance efforts. With that goal in mind, we have scheduled a Summit Meeting for June 2, 2007. We want to include key members of each of our professional organizations. Please mark the date on your calendar. Details will be out to everyone as soon as possible.

A PACP website is being developed as a resource for our member organization's boards and members, all LPCs and LMFTs, and other interested individuals. We need an improved means of communicating in order to keep everyone well informed.

As you probably know, the continuing education regulations for LMFTs and LPCs have been published and are now in effect. That means that it is now time for our LMFTs and LPCs to begin accumulating 30 hours of CE credit (including 3 hours of ethics) which will need to be completed by the next licensure renewal in February 2009. Our members need to understand this requirement and be familiar with the list of approved providers for CE credits.

[There is a LPC opening on the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapist and Professional Counselors] It's important that we move to nominate a candidate that will provide a strong voice for your profession and the cooperation of our two professional groups. If we don't work together, the social workers, who outnumber us on the board, will have the votes to do what they think is best.

Morgan is setting up another meeting with Joan Erney, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, regarding LPCs and LMFTs being enrolled as MA providers. Another topic of interest will be the bill that Rep. Flo Fabrizio from Erie County is planning to introduce to name social workers in the definition of "health service doctor" in the third party payment law. Morgan has been in touch with Rep. Fabrizio about including LMFTs and LPCs in this bill. She's also had an LMFT from his district contact him.

The "diagnosis" issue is another one that Morgan continues to monitor and is working to coordinate with the social workers. She had someone research the use of "diagnosis" in the licensure of LMFTs and LPCs in other states. That gives us important data that Morgan has already used in talking with Jenna Mehnert, the new Executive Director of NASW-PA, about inserting "diagnosis" in the scope of practice for LPCs and LMFTs as well as LCSWs in any proposed legislation.

Morgan also got input from PACP about the definition of "qualified treatment professional" used in the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Regulation #125-54. She shared our concerns about the definition with a member of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission before the Commission completed their report on the regulation. I will be sending a follow-up letter to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

I'm looking forward to the opportunity for a larger group of LPCs and LMFTs to do some strategic planning to chart our future legislative course. I hope I'll see you at the meeting on June 2.

Sincerely,

Sally J. Tice, Ph.D.
PACP President
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cc: Paul West
David Arena