

# THE BOARD INSIDER



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

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### BOARD OFFICE HOURS

Monday	8:30—5:00
Tuesday	8:30—8:00
Wednesday	8:30—5:00
Thursday	8:30—8:00
Friday	8:30—5:00
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

On behalf of the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, I bring you greetings! The Board is comprised of dedicated professionals who license qualified professionals to provide mental health services, diligently protect the public and execute our fiduciary responsibilities.

This is a very exciting time for our profession. In addition to the Board's regular duties, we are embarking on a very important legislative agenda you can read about in this inaugural edition of the "The Board Insider." We believe this legislation, SB300/HB678, will benefit our profession, protect our citizens, and enhance our ability to practice outside of the state of North Carolina. We ask for your support of SB300/HB678.

The Board's commitment to increase operational efficiency and ease of access has resulted in new extended office hours until 8:00pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. In addition, the licensing decision process is now occurring in a timely manner. Board members and staff will better utilize the automated application and renewal process so all applicants with completed and approved applications will receive licenses. This process allows licensees to continue or begin practicing without waiting for the Board's impending ratification. This is a process followed by several other State licensing boards.

Please enjoy this inaugural edition of the "The Board Insider."

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Denauvo M. Robinson, NCC, LPCS  
Board Chair, NCBLPC



**DENAUVO ROBINSON**  
BOARD CHAIR

### NCBLPC Mission

*The mission of the Board under NC GS Article 24 section 90-329 states that, it is declared to be the public policy of this State that the activities of persons who render counseling services to the public be regulated to insure the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.*

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[www.ncblpc.org](http://www.ncblpc.org)



# 9,472 LICENSED

## OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINT PROCESS

1. Submit the complaint on the Board's Complaint Form. Additional documents needed to complete the complaint form are: the Code of Ethics, Article 24 and Title 21 Chapter 53. These documents are also available on this website. Specific breaches of the *Code of Ethics* or law (Article 24 and Title 21 Chapter 53) need to be listed on the complaint form or on additional pages, and any additional evidence deemed as essential should also be included with the complaint form.
2. The completed complaint form is received in the Board's office. The complaint is logged into a database and assigned a complaint number. The counselor is sent a certified letter and a copy of the complaint and is given an opportunity to respond in writing to the complaint. A letter is also sent to the person filing the complaint acknowledging the receipt of the complaint and informing the person of the complaint number. After receiving the complaint number any additional information forwarded to the Board's office should include the complaint number so it can be easily identified as additional information to the complaint.
3. Copies of the complaint are also forwarded to the Board's Ethics Committee for review. When the counselor's reply is received, this is also forwarded to the members of the Ethics Committee.
4. At the next scheduled Ethics Committee meeting, the Ethics Committee reviews the details of the complaint received and the response from the counselor. The Ethics Committee makes a decision as to what the next step should be. The Ethics Committee meets approximately every three months.
5. All complaints must follow due process and are not resolved immediately.



## ONLINE IS EASIER! DID YOU KNOW?

- Military Licensure
- Apply Online
- Verify a License
- Find a Counselor
- File a Complaint
- Renew your license
- Distance Counselor Policy
- Submit a Change of Address



# MEET THE BOARD

**Denauvo Robinson**  
Board Chair

**Kyla Kurian**  
Vice Chair

**George Greer**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Katherine Glenn**  
Ethics Chair

**Charles Wentz**  
Board Member

**Michael Brooks**  
Board Member

**Gussie Tate**  
Board Member

## 2019 IMPORTANT DATES

<b>January 1</b>	Renewal period opens for all LPC Associates, LPCs and LPC Supervisors. All requirements must be completed before renewal can be issued.
<b>January 17</b>	NCBLPC Board of Directors Meeting
<b>January 21</b>	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (Office Closed)</i>
<b>February 15</b>	NCBLPC Board of Directors Meeting
<b>April 11</b>	NCBLPC Board of Directors Meeting
<b>April 19</b>	<i>Good Friday (Office Closed)</i>
<b>May 27</b>	<i>Memorial Day (Office Closed)</i>

<b>June 20</b>	If mailing your renewal information please make sure it is received in our office by this date.
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Renewal Deadline</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>Late fee</b> is assessed for those who have not renewed
<b>July 4</b>	<i>Independence Day (Office Closed)</i>
<b>July 25</b>	NCBLPC Board of Directors Meeting

<b>September 2</b>	<i>Labor Day (Office Closed)</i>
<b>October 18</b>	NCBLPC Board of Directors Meeting
<b>November 11</b>	<i>Veterans Day (Office Closed)</i>
<b>November 28-29</b>	<i>Thanksgiving (Office Closed)</i>
<b>December 24-26</b>	<i>Christmas (Office Closed)</i>
<b>December 31</b>	<b>Renewal deadline for Corporations:</b> Professional Corporation (PC) or Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) or Professional Association (PA)



# FAQs

## SUPERVISION

Q.

*Does the Board retroactively count hours?*

A.

No. You must submit a board approved supervision contract and receive approval prior to rendering counseling services.

Q.

*Who is responsible for submitting Quarterly and Final Supervision Reports?*

A.

The Supervisor; we do not accept these submissions directly from applicants.

Q.

*Can I have more than one supervisor?*

A.

With Board approval, yes. However, we must receive a Final Supervision report from each supervisor we have approved a contract for. If you had a contract approved and did not receive supervision from that supervisor, we still need a Final Report indicating no supervision took place.

Q.

*I'm starting a new job. Will my job be eligible to count towards the 3,000 hours of supervised professional practice?*

A.

Section 90-330 of the LPC Practice Act defines the Board's definition of counseling. You must be able to present yourself to the public as a professional counselor offering counseling services that include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. **Counseling.** – Assisting individuals, groups, and families through the counseling relationship by evaluating and treating mental disorders and other conditions through the use of a combination of clinical mental health and human development principles, methods, diagnostic procedures, treatment plans, and other psychotherapeutic techniques, to develop an understanding of personal problems, to define goals, and to plan action reflecting the client's interests, abilities, aptitudes, and mental health needs as these are related to personal-social-emotional concerns, educational progress, and occupations and careers.*
- b. **Appraisal Activities.** – Administering and interpreting tests for assessment of personal characteristics.*
- c. **Consulting.** – Interpreting scientific data and providing guidance and personnel services to individuals, groups, or organizations.*
- d. **Referral Activities.** – Identifying problems requiring referral to other specialists.*
- e. **Research Activities.** – Designing, conducting, and interpreting research with human subjects. The "practice of counseling" does not include the facilitation of communication, understanding, reconciliation, and settlement of conflicts by mediators at community mediation centers authorized by G.S. 7A-38.5*

Q.

*My license is due for renewal in a few months and I want to apply for the LPC license. Should I renew my LPCA license?*

A.

In order to be granted the next level of licensure (LPCA to LPC or LPC to LPCS), your current license must be active.





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## DEAR NCBLPC LICENSEE,

Greetings from the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (the Board)! We have some exciting news to share with you. We have been in discussion with various counseling professionals and organizations in North Carolina and other state boards about various issues that affect our licensees and the public. From this interaction and the work we do as the Board, we are in the process of developing a legislative proposal on the following: **a)** license name change, **b)** a health care/impaired professional counselor program for Licensed Professional Counselors and **c)** licensing reciprocity.

## NAME CHANGE

The North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (NCBLPC) is proposing a name change to North Carolina Board for Professional Clinical Mental Health Counselors **a)** to further define and clarify our professional identity, **b)** to be in concert with the nomenclature used by National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA), and Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and **c)** to align ourselves with the nomenclature being used in the Medicare provider recognition bills for mental health counselors namely, S. 1879 and H.R. 3032. These bills, if made into law, would allow Medicare enrollees access to medically necessary covered services provided by mental health counselors who are properly trained and licensed to deliver such services.

The Board staff researched the licensure names, education requirements, endorsement requirements, supervision requirements, etc., of the other 49 states and found that the majority (n=27) of the states' licensure names differed from Licensed Professional Counselor. Specifically, 15 states have identified themselves as mental health counselors by the following licensure names: Clinical Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner, Professional Clinical Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselor—Mental Health Service Provider and Licensed Professional Counselor of Mental Health.

Finally, the American Mental Health Counselors Association's (2016) wrote a white paper entitled The Professional Identity of Clinical Mental Health Counselors, which outlines the reasons for the need for clarification for the name for professional counselors. Further, the Licensed Professional Counselor Association of North Carolina is the state chapter of AMHCA and they have adopted the identity of Clinical Mental Health Counselors. We hope to have our license name specifically reflect that identity as well.

## **HEALTH CARE/IMPAIRED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR PROGRAM FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

It is estimated that approximately 10-15% of all healthcare professionals, including licensed professional counselors, will misuse drugs or alcohol at some time during their career (Baldisseri, 2007), and approximately 18% of the general population of adults experience mental illness each year (Nami, 2012). While these rates of mental illness and substance abuse/dependence reflect those of the general population, the prevalence is of particular concern because licensed professional counselors are responsible for the mental health of the clients and the public they serve in North Carolina. The opiate crisis is unquestionably a serious threat to the health and lives of North Carolinians (N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, 2019). Healthcare professionals have higher rates of abuse of opiates and benzodiazepines than the general population. It is further understood that licensed professional counseling is a stressful occupation and that licensed counselors experience burnout, compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma as they seek to provide mental health services to those suffering from psychological, psychiatric and substance abuse disorders. North Carolina lacks the health care/impaired professional counselor program that Virginia and South Carolina have established to assist licensed professional counselors in initiating and maintaining recovery from substance abuse, mental health or other difficulties that if left untreated, could negatively affect the ability to safely fulfill the duties of their profession.

## **RECIPROCITY**

There is a national movement among licensing boards of Licensed Professional Counselors to make licensure between states easier to secure. With our fluid society, the advancement of technology and the emergence of “distance counseling”, it is increasingly clear of the importance of counseling across state lines. For example, in North Carolina, 41 of the 100 counties border other states. A North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselor is prohibited (other than very short-term contact) from counseling across state lines without a license in an adjoining state. This condition also exists for Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Therefore, we hope to enact legislation that will allow The North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states with similar licensure requirements. The first objective would be to attempt negotiations with our contiguous states. An additional objective would be to negotiate agreements with other states, especially those east of the Mississippi River.

## **CONCLUSION**

We have consulted various counselors and counselor leaders and they have submitted questions about the name change and we have given our answers to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) for the name change. We hope that our answers provide clarity and an understanding of the rationale for the name change. We look forward to serving the citizens of our great state!

KIND REGARDS,

THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

# REMINDER FROM THE BOARD OFFICE

## APPLICATIONS

- Applications deadlines are for the application form and payment. Additional documents may be sent separately.
- Please review applications to make sure applications are as complete as possible.
- If your name or contact information change during the application process, please notify the Board as soon as possible.

## RENEWALS

- Please make sure that your Professional Disclosure Statement contains the Board's current address and contact information.
- Submit a copy of your Jurisprudence Exam certificate of completion for the license currently being renewed. The exam shall be completed after January 1, 2019.
- Copies of all CE Certificates/Documentation of Completion will not be required at the time of submitting your renewal packet.
- Documentation of continuing education is only required to be submitted if audited by the Board.

## OTHER LICENSEE REMINDERS

- A Licensee shall inform the Board of any change in his or her name within 60 days after any change. A name change form shall be submitted on forms available on the Board's website, and must include any required legal documentation, such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order.

