

MMHCA ADVOCATING FOR LPCs

January 3, 2025

Our Accomplishments Since November 2023

Presented by:

Your elected board members,
here to serve you:

Chris DeBoer, President
Krystin Sankey, Treasurer
Carol Berger, Secretary
Dr. Joy Creel, Member at Large
Dr. Larry Pfaff, Member at Large
Lauri Rowe, Member at Large
Dr. Elizabeth Teklinski, Chair of
Education & Outreach





BACKGROUND

Innovation and Growth at MMHCA



Since November 2023, your MMHCA Board has tirelessly fought for Michigan Licensed Professional Counselors. From providing invaluable resources to addressing critical issues, our board has delivered measurable impact for our members. Here's how we've been working for you!

Continuity in Advocacy: MMHCA continues to work with Acuitas, Michigan's leading lobbying firm, to advocate for LPCs and ensure their voices are heard in Lansing.

New Branding Strategy: MMHCA developed a cohesive branding strategy to better represent the vision and values of our association.

New Committees Established: Focused on Education, Outreach, and Legislative Advocacy to address the evolving needs of LPCs.

Brand-New Website: Launched an updated, user-friendly platform at www.MMHCAnow.org to provide members with easy access to resources, updates, and events.



Legislative Actions

These efforts include tackling Medicaid and insurance clawbacks, examining Compact policies, and evaluating the impact of private equity firms like Alma, BetterHelp, and Headway on client care and data privacy. The MMHCA Board is also exploring how AI may reshape traditional care models.



Medicaid Involvement

In recent months, we've partnered with Meridian Medicaid leadership to address systemic challenges. Outcomes include workshops for members and progress toward improved reimbursement practices.



Health Innovations

MMHCA spearheaded training on integrating mental health counseling into medical settings through "Incident To" billing, ensuring LPCs play a critical role in innovative healthcare delivery.



Healthcare Initiatives Overview

Key Healthcare Legislative Actions



Collaborative Efforts Promote Change:

Our partnerships with the National Association of Social Workers - Michigan and other professional organizations have driven collective advocacy for key legislative changes, including insurance parity and enhanced supervision practices.



Enhancing Patient Care Through Legislation:

Advocated for policy changes enabling LPCs to bill Medicare, ensuring LPC services are accessible to underserved populations. MMHCA also hosted the 2024 Medicare Workshop, attended by 200+ members, to educate LPCs on billing updates.



Tracking Legislative Impact:

MMHCA continuously evaluates the impact of our advocacy through surveys, town halls, and member feedback ensuring member needs are prioritized in every legislative push.



Regional Therapist Networking Events

Building Connections, Enhancing Growth



Workshops and Seminars

Dynamic Learning Opportunities:

MMHCA offers in-person and online workshops led by seasoned practitioners to support professional growth and member success.

Topics to be Covered:

- Medicare Q&A Sessions
- Human Trafficking Requirements
- Implicit Bias Training
- Ethics in Counseling
- Cultural Competency
- Trauma-Informed Care

Bylaws Update

Partnered with MMHCA's attorney and members to revise and update the 2012 Bylaws, ensuring alignment with current practices and standards.

Bridging Initiative

Through the Bridging Newsletter and workshops like Pathways to Licensure and Interview Skills, MMHCA delivers essential resources to students statewide. Networking events ensure graduate students connect with LPCs, offering the support they need to succeed as they transition into their professional careers.

Consultation Groups

Peer Consultation Groups:

Complimentary monthly sessions for LPCs to explore real-world counseling challenges, share insights, and receive peer support.

Supervisor Peer Consultation Groups:

Designed to assist supervisors in addressing challenges, sharing strategies, and enhancing mentoring capabilities.

Student Inclusion:

Graduate students are welcome to gain exposure to the counseling profession and engage in real-world problem-solving.

Podcast Launch: Addressing Pet Loss Grief

MMHCA launched its debut podcast, exploring the deeply personal and often overlooked topic of grief from pet loss.

Fostering a Professional Community

Statewide Networking Opportunities:

These events promote collaboration, mentorship, and the development of meaningful professional relationships among LPCs, supervisors, and students statewide.

In-Person Networking in Marshall:

Earlier this year, MMHCA hosted a successful networking event in Marshall, MI bringing counselors together to exchange ideas, strengthen professional connections, and create a supportive local community.

Expanding Regional Events:

Building on the success of the Marshall event, MMHCA plans to host additional regional networking events to promote collaboration and cultivate thriving professional communities statewide.

Annual and Regional Events:

These events are tailored to support students transitioning into professional practice, providing mentorship, licensure guidance, and opportunities to connect with experienced LPCs.

Stay Connected with MMHCA

Visit our website: www.MMHCAnow.org

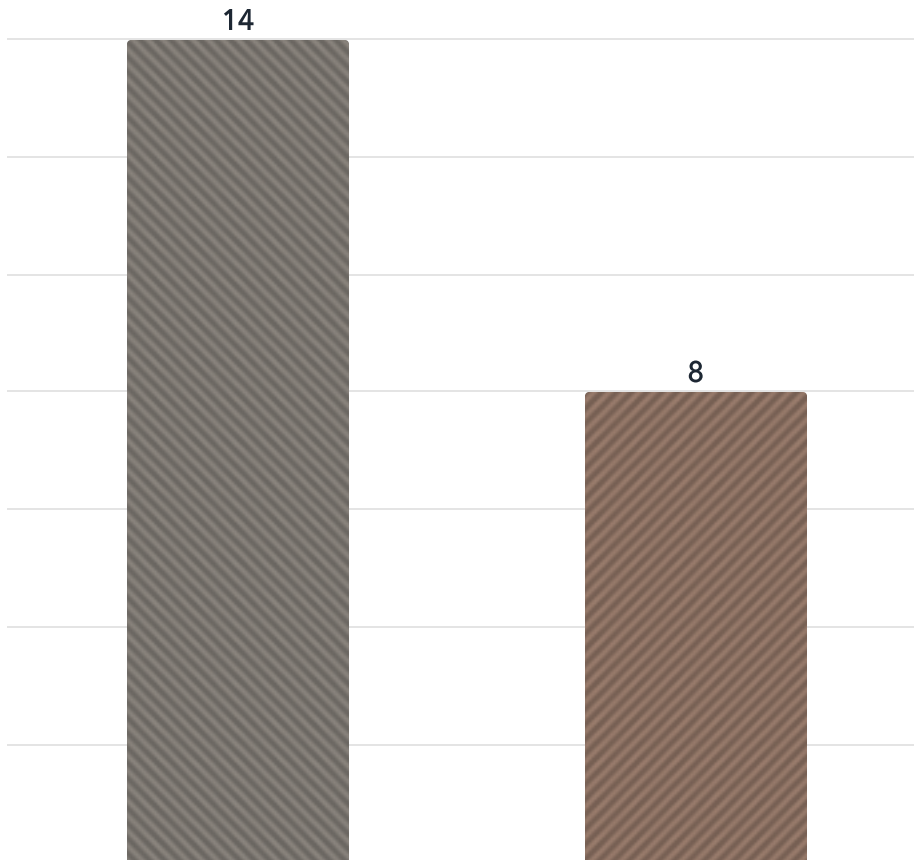
MMHCA provides free assistance for student members, especially help with completing LLPC applications and finding qualified supervisors. [Contact our Bridging Chair, Lauri Rowe at lauri.rose@gmail.com](mailto:lauri.rose@gmail.com) with questions.



Transparency in Action:

Over the past year, MMHCA has recorded and shared **14 board meetings** with you, ensuring every member has access to critical discussions and decisions.

Additionally, we've shared **eight legislative updates**, keeping you informed and empowered about key policy changes impacting LPCs in Michigan.



Board meetings recorded and published with full transparency.

Legislative updates shared for members.





Protecting LPCs from Insurance Takebacks

MMHCA recognizes the financial challenges posed by insurance clawbacks and has made this issue a top priority. We've partnered with Acuitas, Michigan's leading lobbying firm, and joined forces with the **National Association of Social Workers - Michigan (NASW-MI)** to address this critical issue.

- Collaboration with NASW-MI: Joint efforts to create equitable legislation and prevent unjust financial burdens on mental health professionals.
- Legislative Advocacy: Engaging with lawmakers and stakeholders to draft policies that protect LPCs and improve reimbursement practices.
- Member Resources: Regular updates on progress and workshops to educate members on minimizing take-back risks. Our top 2025 priority!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Become a member or renew your membership today! Thank you!
via



www.MMHCAnow.org



Monthly Supervisor Member Consultation Group began in September 2024 and continues each month with Medicare Q & A to begin monthly in January 2025

Michigan Mental Health Counselors Association Presents:



FREE TO MMHCA MEMBERS
Peer Consultation Group for Counselors

Next Session: Tuesday, December 10th
@ 12 PM EST

This group meets every second Tuesday of the Month.



Krystin J. Sankey, MS, LPC
The group is led by MMHCA's Treasurer, a compassionate therapist specializing in anxiety, depression, trauma, and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy.

Those planning to attend must register for the session in advance.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Michigan Mental Health Counselors Association Presents:



FREE TO MMHCA SUPERVISOR MEMBERS
Supervisor Peer Consultation Group

Next Session: Thursday, December 19th
@ 12 PM EST

This group meets on the third Thursday of each month




Dr. Lawrence A. Pfaff
The group is led by Professor of Psychology and graduate Counselor Associate Professor

Those planning to attend must register for the session in advance.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Connect with us at: [Facebook.com/MichiganMHCA](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganMHCA)

[k.com/MichiganMHCA](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganMHCA)



Michigan Mental Health Counselors Association Presents:



FREE TO MMHCA MEMBERS
Exclusive Medicare Monthly Q & A Webinar: Unlock the Answers to Medicare Billing and Compliance

First Session: Wednesday, January 8
@ 12 PM EST
Beginning in February 2025, this group will meet on the first Wednesday of each month.



Elizabeth M. Teklinski, PhD, LPC, NCC, NPT-C
Author of Medicare Post 2024: The Mental Health Counselor's Comprehensive Manual to 'Incident To' Billing Best Practices, Procedures, and Compliance Strategies.

- Clear answers to Medicare billing and reimbursement questions.
- Key insights on "Incident-To" policies and their impact on your practice.
- Free "Incident-To" Care Plan Template for all attendees.

Register with your member discount code for 100% off.

Connect with us at: [Facebook.com/MichiganMHCA](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganMHCA)



Members, check your 12/06/24 email to register for the consultation groups.



Supporting Michigan Counselors with Impactful Advocacy and Outreach

Advocacy Accomplishments

- **Key Legislative Interventions:** MMHCA has successfully intervened to protect LPC rights and advance the profession, including efforts to address insurance clawbacks and insurance parity.
- **Partnership with Medicaid Leadership:** Collaborating with Meridian Medicaid leadership to improve reimbursement processes and member support.
- **Representation in National Advocacy:** MMHCA Board members and our lobbyist actively participate in the Counseling Compact Commissioners' Meetings, advocating for Michigan counselors' inclusion in nationwide policy changes.

Engagement and Outreach

- **72 New Social Media Followers:** In just 90 days, MMHCA has expanded its reach and community online.
- **17 Educational Posts:** Shared vital updates and resources for member support.
- **913 Social Media Reactions:** Reflecting active engagement and interest in our shared content.
- **Top Post Performance:** The Pathway to Counseling Licensure in Michigan infographic garnered 551 reactions and 20 replies, a testament to its value.

Training and Professional Development

- **14 Monthly Board Meetings:** Publicly accessible with full transparency through YouTube recordings.
- **200+ Members Trained:** Attended workshops on Medicare, practice management, and supervision strategies.
- **Monthly Supervisor Member Consultation Groups:** Supporting supervisors with ongoing professional development and resources.
- **Free Conference Access:** Sponsored members' admission to the Psychiatry Reimagined Conference (June 2024).

Collaborations and Partnerships:

- **Partnered with NASW-MI:** Joint efforts to tackle critical issues like insurance clawbacks and meeting with legislators to promote vital understanding.
- **Supported by Acuitas Lobbying Firm:** MMHCA's trusted advocate since 2018, instrumental in passing HB 4325 and advancing LPC rights.
- **Student Engagement:** Published Bridging Newsletters and hosted networking events to connect students and professionals.

Member-Centered Initiatives:

- **Members Engaged:** Reached through monthly newsletters packed with resources and updates.
- **Survey Responses:** Acted on feedback from our November 2023 and May 2024 surveys to meet member needs better.
- **Town Hall Transparency:** Hosted open discussions to share progress and hear directly from members.

Looking Ahead, Our Commitment:

- **Expanding training opportunities for LPCs and supervisors.**
- **Strengthening legislative advocacy to protect counselors' rights.**
- **Increasing engagement with graduate students and new professionals.**

The MMHCA Board has created a dedicated **Accomplishments 2024** page on our website to highlight our progress and achievements over the past year. Members can visit this page for a comprehensive overview of our advocacy, education, and outreach efforts.



www.MMHCAnow.org

MMHCA ADVOCATING FOR LPCs

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE **NOVEMBER 2023**

Download Report

