

Michigan Counseling Association
Licensure Committee Report

June 10, 2011

Submitted by Nancy G. Calley, Co-Chair, Licensure Committee

I. Board of Counseling - Administrative Rules Proposed Changes

We continue to monitor Board activities through observation at Board meetings and review of published documents and activities.

II. Veteran's Administration

With the development of the job classifications for positions in which counselors will be eligible to fill now completed, we are awaiting the initial job postings for these positions. We continue to monitor these activities with the Detroit and Ann Arbor VA Hospital systems, and will provide updates as they occur.

III. Medicare

The federal bill to include professional counselors as reimbursable mental health professionals has passed through the House, and is now on its way to the US Senate. If you have not already done so, we strongly encourage all Governing Council members to email or telephone their senators to urge support for the bill. This bill has tremendous significance to counselors and our continued efforts towards expanded recognition.

We have disseminated this information to all MCA members regarding this, urging all to directly contact their senators, and will continue to monitor the bill's journey in the Senate. In addition, we have made ACA aware of our statewide support and advocacy and reached out to them if they need any additional support. It should be noted that ACA has been a pivotal player in driving this legislation, however, without the continued efforts of all counselors, passage of the bill may be threatened.

IV. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM)

Continued discussions have occurred during this period in order to determine the most effective course of action to begin initial official dialogue with BCBSM. A sub-committee has been formed that includes a MMHCA representative, Irene Ametrano (former MCA Licensure Co-Chair), Noah Smith, an MCA member, and one of the Licensure Committee Co-Chairs. We anticipate action on this first step during the next reporting period.