May 2021

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AMHCA Newsletter: AMHCA Membership Edition

AMHCA CEO Announces Retirement

Mr. Miller's leadership in the mental health services community will be greatly missed and his contributions will be the solid foundation with which the organization will continue to be an increasingly strong force in the field. Mr. Miller's support for the organization and its members will be a guiding beacon to help us continue our dedicated mission to improve the lives of our members.

We are incredibly grateful for his influence and management of our team, the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and multitude of Chapter leaders, partners and volunteers. We will miss the unwavering support and joy he has brought to us and wish him nothing but happiness and relaxation in his next chapter.

Joel's Letter to Membership

Nominate a Peer or State Chapter for an AMHCA Award!

Each year the association recognizes outstanding member contributions to the profession through its award program.

Nominate a peer, student or state chapter for one of the following awards:

Dr. Linda Seligman Counselor Educator of the Year Award
Public and Community Service Award
Researcher of the Year Award
Mental Health Counselor of the Year Award
Student and Emerging Professionals Award
Outstanding Article in The Advocate Magazine
Outstanding State Chapter Award

AMHCA award nominations forms are submitted online through our website. Look for the criteria and nomination forms on the specific awards page.

Award nominations are due by June 4, 2021.

More Information

New Member Guide and Member Benefits page

With the new interactive member guide, AMHCA members can

- meet the staff and board,
- get a guide through the essentials of the membership portal, and
- have an introduction to the many benefits of our interactive website.

Member Guide

On the new member benefits page you can see the many benefits of your membership with AMHCA as well as links to the multiple member discounts you receive by being a member.

Member Benefits Page

Mental Health Awareness Month

May Is Mental Health Awareness Month
This year's campaign:
Mental Health Care Available for Health Care Professionals and First Responders

In the face of an unrelenting crisis, many health care professionals have a tendency to emotionally disconnect from others. Unfortunately, this "flight, fight, or freeze response" is an entirely ineffective protective coping mechanism. Emotionally, mentally, and physically disconnecting yourself ultimately alienates others when they are in a place, where caring support is genuinely and justly needed. Isolating and repressing our emotions is often a precursor to other serious mental concerns, such as compassion fatigue, burnout, secondary traumatic stress, etc.

The mental health specialists/professionals with the training, expertise, and aptitude to aid first responders include clinical mental health counselors (e.g., LPCs, LCMHCs), psychologists, social workers (LCSWs), and marriage and family therapists (MFTs). They are trained, experienced, and specifically licensed to address individuals experiencing mental, emotional, physical, and cognitive distress.

For suggested activities for promoting Mental Health Awareness Month such as public relations, marketing, social media posts and more go to our landing page:
https://www.amhca.org/mentalhealthmonth

Go To Resources

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Advocacy Update

Congress Introduces Mental Health Counselors in Medicare Legislation

READ UPDATE

Bipartisan legislation that would include licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs), as well as licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs), as Medicare providers, has just been introduced in the United States Senate.

The Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2021, S. 828, was introduced in the Senate by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Representative John Katko (R-NY) introduced the companion legislation (HR 432) in January in the House.

This bipartisan legislation would require Medicare to finally recognize LMHCs as Medicare-eligible providers of covered behavioral health services to older adults and other Medicare beneficiaries.

The Advocate Magazine is Now Digital

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Latest magazine is a special conference issue!

READ NOW

Chi Sigma Iota Reviews AMHCA's "Essentials"

READ REVIEW

"Essentials of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Profession is an outstanding resource for both new and experienced counselors to gain a deeper understanding of the mental health community and foundational views of the clinical mental health counseling profession. Created by American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), this book serves as resource that outlines not only the core values of the counseling profession; but also discusses the structure and ways the organization can assist and facilitate growth for clinical mental health counselors."

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To ensure that future mailings are sent to your inbox, please add info@amhca.org to your contact list.

The vision of the American Mental Health Counselors Association is to position clinical mental health counselors to meet the health care needs of those we serve while advancing the profession.

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