



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- "PowerHouse Practice" conference series at the Virginia Beach Public Library in Virginia Beach
- amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006
- licensed professional counselors included as "substance abuse professionals" (SAPs)

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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER  
BY MICHAEL NAHL, LPC**

On July 1st, VACC begins its third year of independent existence. As most of you know, we have been around for twenty-five years, originally under the auspices of the American Mental Health Counselors Association and the Virginia Counselors Association. We retain our status as the state chapter of AMHCA but are now an independent state organization dedicated to serving the needs of clinical counselors in the public and private sectors.

It has been a very good year. Our membership is up substantially and we are solvent. We have been presenting at least two conferences a year for the last two years and have really enjoyed getting out to meet LPCs around the state. This year we have the ambitious goal of three conferences. We have two active local chapters – the Hampton Roads Association of Clinical Counselors and the Northern

Virginia Licensed Professional Counselors, and are trying to restore chapters in Richmond, Charlottesville, Roanoke, and the northwestern area of the



state. So if you live in those places, send us an e-mail and perhaps we can help you build a local chapter.

Our Executive Board has been great! Special thanks to Roger Snapp-Laplace, Michael Jeffrey, Kim Finn, Ed Navis, Daryl Keeler, Lynessa Spivey, Christina D'Amato, and Katherine Gardner. We also express our appreciation for the diligent work of our regional presidents – Vianne Powers (NCLPC) and

Michael Barton (HRACC). I also want to acknowledge those who contributed so much with their presentations for the PowerHouse conferences: Shelby Dodd, Roger Snapp-Laplace, Jinger Snapp-Laplace, Karen Johnson, and Michael Jeffrey. Congratulations to Shelby Dodd, our most recent Executive Board member!

Remember to use our website – [www.vacc.org](http://www.vacc.org). We have regular updates and provide many services: legislative issues, links, tools, a listing for clinical supervisors, a student page, and much more. You can e-mail all of our Board members from that page, and we make it a point to get back to you right away. So, thanks for making this a great year! We look forward to working for you and with you this next year!

Warmest regards!

**ED NAVIS BIOGRAPHY**

Ed Navis graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Rehab Counseling. He is currently employed as a counselor at the Department of Rehabilitative Services in Richmond. He also has a private counseling practice in the Richmond area. Ed has held various leadership positions on state and national levels of the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association. He has also been active in several community organizations such as Special Olympics and Virginia Swimming. Ed has served on the VACC Board for several years, most prominently as Secretary and Co-Chair of the Conference Committee.

## **Board Retreat held in Sandbridge** **By Kim Finn, VACC Treasurer**

The VACC Executive Board held its annual retreat in Sandbridge (Virginia Beach) from May 13 through the 15th. The Board members from throughout Virginia met to develop plans for the coming year. Topics addressed during the retreat included: membership recruitment, conference scheduling, legislative issues affecting LPC's, and advocacy. The Board also discussed committee assign-

ments, officer candidates, and the need to increase Executive Board members.

It was determined that VACC will present a clinical workshop as well as two conferences geared toward helping LPC's expand their businesses. The "PowerHouse Practice" conference series has been very well received. We presented two versions this year (at Sweetbriar College and in Virginia Beach), and received positive reviews

from attendees. The conferences also served as a successful way of increasing VACC's visibility throughout the state, and had the additional benefit of increasing membership.

In addition to the hard work, Board members had the opportunity to spend time networking with colleagues. The Board is energized and looking forward to serving VACC members during the coming year.



## **Clinical Supervision** **By Michael Jeffrey, LPC**

Let's say you are giving clinical supervision to a person for licensure. They are running a group of circuit court probationers and your supervisee asks them the question, "If you had six months to live, what would you want to do?" One writes, "I'd kill the President and the Governor." Your supervisee comes to you and says, "What do I do?"

Good Question. Hopefully you have a supervisee who has enough understanding of clinical ethics to ask for help. So many LPC's are reluctant to do clinical supervision that it might be helpful to go over some of the ground rules about accepting someone for supervision.

Get some kind of idea of the person for whom you are going to risk your license. Remember, if

they cause a problem, you have a problem, because you are supervising them. Ask for three references, one of them from a university professor. Have at least two sessions with the supervisee before you start. Make sure they are spreading their clinical supervision over a number of therapists. Your supervisee should want to open up their scope of practice and thus needs to deal with different clientele and different therapists. Have a signed contract in which your responsibilities and the supervisee's responsibilities are spelled out. Go over a code of ethics and have them give you their understanding of them. Be with them when they meet the prospective client so you can make a clinical judgment and document why the supervisee has the expertise and knowledge to work with the case.

Talk to another therapist about the supervisee and get some supervision yourself about the person

to make sure you keep a clinical

perspective about the person. Co-sign clinical notes every week and meet with the supervisee every week. Demand tapes and behind the door supervision so you can hear or see the client and supervisee working together. Make sure your supervisee is telling their client they are being supervised. Have a set period of time for the client to work with the supervisee and them switch off. You should to try and limit the amount of time (one year) before having the therapist move on

If anything happens that causes you to feel funny in your stomach, call for help. Expect the supervisee to make mistakes. If they can learn from them you have the making of a good therapist. If they can't, fire them.

## PowerHouse Practice Conference Series

### By Michael Nahl, LPC

VACC recently presented another



edition of its "PowerHouse Practice" conference series at the Virginia Beach Public Library in Virginia Beach on May 13th. The PowerHouse conference was designed to assist members in expanding one's ability to serve their clients and also their ability to improve their income. Morning sessions focus on practice specialty areas that one might be able to

develop and add to their repertoire. The most recent conference included presentations on psychological testing, hypnosis, EAP involvement, and substance abuse. Afternoon sessions typically focus on how to keep the money that you make. In this conference, an accountant spoke on minimizing business taxes. Jinger Snapp-Laplace, a business consultant familiar with private clinical practice, provided advice on software systems for billing and collections, as well as other information about tracking accounts receivable. Finally, we enjoyed a lively two-hour ethics session by Dr. Jacqueline Gatewood of Regent University.

Approximately 40 individuals participated in the conference, giving high marks in value, format, and presentation. VACC looks forward to presenting other such conferences this year, in different areas of the state, with a revised lineup of clinical specialties and financial information. We invite those of you who have specialties in clinical areas, or particular financial expertise, to contact Michael Jeffrey or Ed Navis (Conference Committee co-chairs) if you are interested in speaking at future conferences. We would also be happy to entertain requests from groups of LPCs across the state who might be willing to assist us with presenting a conference in their area.

## Advocacy Opportunities

**SAP ISSUE:** As may know, The American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) and the American Counseling Association (ACA) have been working to get licensed professional counselors included as "substance abuse professionals (SAPs)" for Department of Transportation (DOT) programs. Currently, the House and Senate are in negotiations regarding transportation legislation. Now that they've agreed on funding for the measure, other issues are being decided. Our provision allowing LPCs to apply to be SAPs is included in the House-passed version, but not in the Senate bill.

AMHCA and VACC would like you to contact Sen. Warner who is on the conference committee that will decide whether to include the provision in the final bill. See our website for a sample letter that you can alter and FAX (202-224-6295) to Senator Warner's office. Senator Warner's staff member assigned to this issue is Tack (yes, TACK) Richardson.

The message for speaking on the phone to Sen. Warner's staff (202-224-2023 in D.C. or 757-441-3079 in Norfolk) is: "In the House-passed version of the "Transportation Equity Act" the House included language to correct a discriminatory policy that excludes licensed mental health counselors from applying for status as substance abuse professionals. The language can be found in Section 4129 of the House-passed version of H.R. 3. I urge the Senator to join the House in adopting its language, in order to eliminate inconsistent federal policies which affect individuals' access to treatment."

**TRICARE ISSUE:** We need you to contact the office of Senator John Warner (202-224-3121) who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee—in support of granting independent practice authority to LPCs participating in TRICARE. A provision was passed by the House as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 1815) which would change this inequity. The provision is equivalent to the TRICARE Mental Health Services Enhancement Act (H.R. 1358), sponsored by Rep. Robin Hayes (R-NC). The Senate has not yet agreed to this provision in their version of the bill.

## A M E N D M E N T F I L E D I N T H E S E N A T E R E G A R D I N G T R I C A R E



As you may know, the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) and the American Counseling Association (ACA) are working together to pass legislation allowing licensed mental health counselors to practice independently in Department of Defense programs, including TRICARE. The House of Representatives included



LPC independent practice authority language in their version of the National Defense Authorization Act, but unfortunately, the Senate Armed Services Committee marked up their version of the bill with no such provision.

*“Senator Elizabeth*

*Dole (R-NC) filed*

*an amendment to the*

*National Defense*

*Authorization Act*

*for Fiscal Year*

*2006 that will grant*

*independent practice*

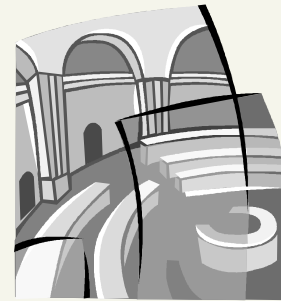
*authority to LPCs*

*participating in*

*TRICARE.”*

However, on Monday, July 25th, Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC) filed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 that will grant independent practice authority to LPCs participating in TRICARE. The amendment is co-sponsored by eight additional senators. The co-sponsors are: Sen. Lautenberg (D-NJ), Sen. Kennedy (D-MA), Sen. DeWine (R-OH), Sen. Landrieu (D-LA), Sen. Chaffee (R-RI), Sen. Mikulski (D-MD), Sen. Chambliss (R-GA), and Sen. Durbin (D-IL). The amendment that Sen. Dole is offering is almost identical to the language included in the House-passed bill.

We anticipate that the Senate will finish debating its version of the Defense bill in September. When we know the timing regarding when the Dole Amendment will come up for a vote on the Senate floor, we will send out an Action Alert to let you know it is time to contact your senators.



AMHCA and ACA are extremely grateful for the leadership of Sen. Dole and Rep. Robin Hayes (R-NC) who are spearheading the effort to ensure that licensed professional counselors are granted independent practice authority under TRICARE and other Department of Defense programs. We also are thankful for the support of the co-sponsors of Sen. Dole's amendment. Finally, we are grateful to all of our members who have already contacted their Senators and Congressmen about the issue.

If you need additional information, please contact Beth Powell at AMHCA at 703-548-6002, ext. 105 or by e-mail at [bpowell@amhca.org](mailto:bpowell@amhca.org). Brian Altman with ACA can be reached at 703-823-9800, ext. 242, or by e-mail at [baltman@counseling.org](mailto:baltman@counseling.org). Thank you for your commitment to the profession.

### S t a y i n t o u c h w i t h v a c c . o r g

Our website, [www.vacc.org](http://www.vacc.org), is a handy way of

staying in touch. You can make address changes, e-mail Board members, download membership applications, and stay abreast of developments that affect you. We have a

handy list of links that includes the Board of



Counseling, Board of Health Professions, American Mental Health Counselors Association, and the National Board of Certified Counselors. We also have links to all of the graduate counseling programs in the state, as well as links to most of the managed care companies. You can find

supervision, various tools, jobs, and more.

You can also read some of the history of VACC, view our calendar of events, and link with regional groups. Contact our webmaster, Michael Griffin, through the site with any questions or recommendations.

# V A C C B A L L O T 2 0 0 5 - 2 0 0 6

Please vote for the candidate of your choice:

President

\_\_\_\_\_ Kimberly Finn  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Lynessa Spivey  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_ Roger Snapp-Laplace  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

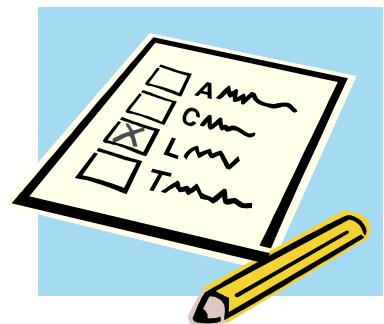
President-Elect

\_\_\_\_\_ Ed Navis  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

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**Please return ballots to:**

VACC Election  
C/o Michael E. Nahl  
P.O. Box 7066  
Virginia Beach, VA 23457  
FAX (757) 436-0023



WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.VACC.ORG

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association  
of Clinical Counselors

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Virginia Beach, VA 23457

E-mail: michaelnahl@vacc.org



## DUES ARE DUE

July 1, 2005 begins another year for VACC, our third independent year and our twenty-fifth in existence. Please remember to send in your dues. We are working hard on advocacy and legislative issues, and really appreciate your financial and other contributions.

Register to become a member:

⇒ Online Application

<http://www.vacc.org/register/>

⇒ Postal Mail Application

<http://www.vacc.org/cm/content/view/22/34/>

