



# TLPCA Newsletter

Unite. Train. Advocate.

January 2021

## President's Welcome

The TLPCA remains dedicated to our three guiding principles (Unite. Train. Advocate.), and 2020 was no exception. Our 2020 virtual conference was an overwhelming success, and we are already diligently planning for an in-person 2021 conference! I would like



to express the Association's gratitude for our Executive Director, Dr. Robin Lee, for the unimaginable work load she embraces to make the conferences so great! I also hope you have noticed significant upgrades in your ability to access high quality online education through the TLPCA

website. Our plan for this platform includes the availability of all supervision and ethics requirements for Tennessee. Our legislative lobbyist, Jenny Ford, has also been working an overload as we navigate the new world of telehealth. Because of her efforts, the TLPCA is directly involved with the legislative process, giving us a voice for the advocacy of our profession. Lastly, I want to highlight all of our new student members; many of whom have participated in our "gatherings." We are excited to be a part of your journey and are committed to helping you achieve your professional goals!

As the TLPCA looks toward a new year, I have never been more convinced of the value of our profession. 2020 was fraught with human struggles and uncertainties, but one thing that remained consistent was your willingness to serve others in need. I am honored to be associated with this profession and surrounded by such a great number of amazing people. Our nation learned a deep truth this year, which came to no surprise to any counselor. **People need people!** I often talk to my students about the honor and privilege that comes from sitting in the room with a person who is struggling. Our primary objective as clinicians has been, and will continue to be, the installation of hope. I'm not sure I agree when I hear people say, "We need hope now more than ever," because hope has always been essential to life. It serves as a motivating force, which propels all of us. Feelings of hopelessness and helplessness seem to flatten in the therapy room, and this benefit isn't exclusive to the client. Let's continue to share the gift of hope throughout 2021 and beyond!

**Derrick L. Edwards, PhD**  
TLPCA President '20-'21

## Executive Director's Update

It has been one of the greatest honors of my professional career to be able to serve as the first TLPCA Executive



*Robin Lee*

Director. I have been involved with TLPCA since 2007 when several concerned LPCs met in a conference room at Mental Health Cooperative to design a group that focused on the needs of LPCs in Tennessee. The goal of this group was to develop an organization that would support LPCs and ensure the growth of our profession. I believe

TLPCA has met this goal! However, the work continues, and TLPCA will lead the effort.

After a review of the available licensing board minutes, in March 2014, there were 1,607 LPCs. As of December 2020, there are now 2,882 LPCs, an increase of 1,275, approximately 200 per year. Clearly, our profession is growing. TLPCA will work to support this growth and the LPCs that help provide for the behavioral health needs of Tennesseans.

In January 2020, I began my tenure as Executive Director with 3 goals: (1) improve communication with members, (2) identify additional member benefits, and (3) develop training webinars. I am pleased to provide an update at the end of 2020.

As I am sure you have said or heard many times, this is an unprecedented time. Who knew in January 2020 how much we would deal with during the year! Beginning with my goal to develop training webinars, our new online world offered a unique opportunity. To date, we have approximately 40 webinars available and continue to develop more. In addition, we had a very successful virtual conference. In the next few months, I hope to

have 12 hours of online training in supervision available to meet the training requirements to become a supervisor.

Another goal was to improve communication with members, which I believe was accomplished. Some might say too much! 😊 However, again, the pandemic produced some unique events – multiple executive orders that affected TLPCA members. My goal was to make sure that our members were informed as soon as information was available. My goal regarding communication in 2021 is to continue to share information related to the pandemic and provide summaries of the licensing board meetings.

Finally, my goal was to identify additional member benefits. I believe the increased communication and online webinars are related to this goal. In addition, I have worked to update our website, adding information that is helpful to our members and potential members. In 2021, my plan is to provide information to potential clients about our profession, as well as information for potential students. We will also be adding a supervisor database to help our members find supervisors in their area. We continue to identify leaders in our regions and to plan for in-person trainings that will reach all areas of our state.

TLPCA offers tremendous opportunities for LPCs in Tennessee. I hope you agree with me and will continue to see value in your membership. Your support is truly appreciated. I would ask one favor– please consider sharing information about TLPCA with your friends and colleagues so that we can continue to grow and represent LPCs in the future.

As always, if you have questions or need help, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at **[executivedirector@tlpca.net](mailto:executivedirector@tlpca.net)**.

I am truly looking forward to working on your behalf in 2021. Happy New Year!

Robin

## Regional Roundup

Questions? Concerns? Contact your regional representative listed below!

### East Tennessee



#### **Chattanooga Area:**

Yohunnah Woods-Moton  
ywoods-moton@crchealth.com

#### **Knoxville Area:**

Nancy Truett  
nancytruett@gmail.com

Anthony Fuller  
anthony.tlpc@gmail.com

#### **Upper East Tennessee Area:**

Hunter Cook  
huntercook.tlpc@gmail.com

### Middle Tennessee



#### **Clarksville Area:**

Kim Coggins  
kim.tlpc@gmail.com

#### **Columbia/Lewisburg/Lawrenceburg Area:**

Stephanie Grissom  
stephanie@fullcirclecounselingtn.org

#### **Cookeville Area:**

Tabitha Schlatter  
tbschlatter@gmail.com

Brittney Phillips  
blphillips.counseling@gmail.com

#### **Middle Tennessee/ Nashville Area:**

Lizette Kehrer  
lizette.tlpc@gmail.com

Angela Mueller  
agmcounseling@gmail.com

#### **Murfreesboro Area:**

ShaTonya Crayton  
shatonya.crayton@gmail.com

Anne Marie Hall  
annemariehall.tlpc@gmail.com

### West Tennessee



#### **Jackson Area:**

Emily Boatwright  
boatwrightcounseling@gmail.com

Roz Seay  
rojose02@aol.com

#### **Memphis Area:**

Laura White  
laurawhite@biztherapy.net

Aubrey Nobel  
aubrey.tlpc@gmail.com

## TLPCA Student Representative Program

For a number of years, TLPCA has been sponsoring a program designed to engage counselors-in-training throughout Tennessee with our professional organization. These students are the future of Professional Counseling in our state and nation, and engaging them early has proved to be successful, supportive, and enjoyable for those participating. Each year, we have more schools and students taking part. At this time, we have 15 schools and 18 student members. Membership is always open.

Student Representatives are recommended and selected by faculty for showing passion and dedication to the Mental Health field as a student, professional, and leader. Student representatives act as a liaison between TLPCA and their graduate programs.

The Student Representatives meet once a month online with our Membership Committee and, as often as possible, another member of our Board. Our goal is to introduce the students to TLPCA, support them, get them pertinent information about our profession (statewide and nationally) and also inform them about what's happening locally. We encourage them to pass this information on to their peers. The meetings also give students a place to ask questions that are important to their profession and growth as counselors-in-training.

An important component of the program is the opportunity for students from throughout the state to meet with and come to know each other and the other graduate programs. The meetings are also a place to field questions about licensure and other important topics.

If you are interested in becoming a TLPCA Student Representative and are currently enrolled in a Tennessee graduate counseling program, please contact our Membership co-chairs:

**Ann White**                      [annsparling@gmail.com](mailto:annsparling@gmail.com)  
**Katlyn Wyatt**                      [katlynwyatt02@gmail.com](mailto:katlynwyatt02@gmail.com)

## 2021 Student Representatives

- Austin Peay State University:** Cheyanne Looper
- Capella University:** Jessica Hurst-Leggett
- Carson-Newman University:** Ruth Graham
- East Tennessee State University:** Laura Turner & Niko Armstrong
- Freed-Hardeman University:** Seth Farmer
- Lipscomb University:** Hollie Wilson & Peggy Miller
- Middle Tennessee State University:** Jillian Shrum & Dan Luce
- Ridgemont Graduate University:** Karen Chambless
- Johnson University:** Delaney York
- Southern Adventist University:** Cornelle DuPlessis
- Tennessee Tech University:** Nathan Payne
- Trevecca Nazarene University:** Hannah Richie
- University of TN at Knoxville:** Lyndsey Taylor White
- University of TN at Chattanooga:** Akeyla Madison
- University of TN at Martin:** Chris DeLine

## 2020 TLPCA Awards



**Anthony Fuller**

**Susan B. Hammonds-White Award**

The 2020 Susan B. Hammonds-White Award goes to Anthony Fuller. Anthony received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Tennessee in 1976. He was a Founder and Principal at Brewer Ingram Fuller Architects from 1986-2019; he is now almost retired from architecture. Fuller earned a M.S. in Mental Health Counseling in 2002 from the University of Tennessee after completing a counseling internship at the Alternative Counseling Center in Knoxville. He continues to maintain a part-time counseling practice, seeing adult individuals and couples. Fuller has been a supervisor since 2013. He has also served as the TLPCA Co-regional Representative for Knoxville since 2009. Anthony has been married to Pat for 44 years and has two adult sons, one grandchild, and another on the way. He has been an Elder at Laurel Church of Christ in Knoxville for the last 18 years. His interests include hiking, photography, reading, and British TV dramas.



**Susan Lahey**

**Community Service Award**

Susan Lahey, Ph.D., is the 2020 TLPCA Community Service Award winner. She is the Director of Graduate Counseling at Trevecca Nazarene University, where she has served as full-time faculty since 2007. In her various roles at Trevecca, Susan has provided leadership as the Doctoral Program Coordinator since 2009 as well as the CACREP liaison during the accreditation process. She is also the current faculty sponsor for Chi Sigma Iota. Susan previously served as Secretary and Middle TN representative within the TN Marriage and Family Therapy Association for 6 years. She is a licensed marital and family therapist with a private practice. Dr. Lahey is committed to the mentoring and development of counselors, supervisors, and educators. In her work as dissertation chair over the last 12 years, her desire to facilitate her students' pursuit of counselor identity has only deepened. Susan has also trained supervisors for many years through the TLPCA and AAMFT organizations.

## 2020 TLPCA Awards



**Rob Moore**

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

The 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Rob Moore. Rob earned a doctorate in Human Development Counseling from Vanderbilt University as well as a doctorate in Psychology from Northcentral University. He was originally a Certified Professional Counselor (beginning in 1986) and has upgraded his license as the TN scope of practice has grown. He is now an LPC-MHSP with Clinical Supervisor endorsement as well as a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC). Dr. Moore has 34 years of clinical practice, working with ages 6-60 with a sub-focus on child and adult ADHD and adolescent risk assessment. Rob was a Counselor Educator and Director of Clinical Training at Argosy University for 11 years. He is now an Associate Professor at Liberty University (with appointments in School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling); he is also an instructor for Grand Canyon University. In addition, Dr. Moore holds the distinction of Licensed School Services Personnel (School Psychology) with the TN Department of Education. He conducts evaluations of at-risk teachers (Metro Nashville Public Schools) and at-risk youth (in public schools). Rob is a previous TLPCA President and a former recipient of the Susan B. Hammonds-White Award. He has been married for 39 years and is the father of two and the grandfather of one.

## Calling All Counselors!

We need your help with the following for future editions of the TLPCA newsletter!

**Honors:** Would you like to honor the contributions of a fellow counselor?

**In Memoriam:** Have we recently lost an invaluable member of the profession?

**Partnerships:** Is there an important partnership that you would like to highlight?

**Causes:** What significant issues are in need of your colleagues' attention?

Please send potential contributions to **Robin Lee** ([executivedirector@tlpca.net](mailto:executivedirector@tlpca.net)) for consideration.

## 2020 TLPCA Counseling and Therapy Summit

The 2020 Summit was held virtually on Thursday, August 13th, and Friday, August 14, via Zoom. The conference commenced on the 13th with 3-hour sessions



*Casey Barrio  
Minton*

on ethics, supervision, trauma, and suicide intervention/ assessment to help participants meet licensure or certification requirements. Dr. Shawn Spurgeon, Associate Professor of Counselor Education at UTK, spoke on “Hidden Ethics: Advocacy, End-of Life, & Competence.” Dr. Casey Barrio Minton, Professor of Counselor Education and Counselor Education Unit Coordinator at UTK, presented “Two Best Practices for Suicide Assessment & Intervention.” Dr. Michelle Stevens, Professor (Counselor Education/ Diversity and Cultural Competency Education) at MTSU, addressed “Cultural, Diversity, & Social Justice in Supervision.” Shannon Black, an Instructor at MTSU, also shared on “Trauma, Attachment, & Interpersonal Neurobiology: Finding Safety & Security through Co-Regulation.”

### Keynote

The keynote, “Brainspotting and Uncertainty: Engaging Creativity During Uncertain Times,” was given on Friday morning by Christine Ranck, PhD, LCSW. Christine is a



*Christine Ranck*

Senior Brainspotting Trainer and Supervisor with over 30 years of experience in private practice. She specializes in working with survivors of profound trauma as well as in creativity and peak performance enhancement for artists and others. She is also trained in psychoanalysis and EMDR. Dr. Ranck learned Brainspotting in 2003 from Dr. David

Grand, its discoverer and developer, and has been in a private consultation group with him since 2000. Christine is a veteran teacher, who has presented numerous talks and workshops both nationally and internationally. She is also a working professional singer/ actress, and her pop vocal trio, The James Trio, performs all over the country. In addition, Dr. Ranck is co-author of the bestselling book, *Ignite the Genius Within: Discover Your Full Potential*, a book/ soundtrack combo that gives readers experiential access to heightened creativity and self-awareness. Her website can be found at [www.ChristineRanck.com](http://www.ChristineRanck.com).

### Sessions

Thirty 1-hour sessions, divided into five time slots, followed the keynote on the 14th. Below is a sampling of the numerous, well-received offerings:

- “Ethics, Law, & Risk Management: Stay in Your Lane”
- “Understanding the Supervision Process: Ethical & Legal Issues and Risk Management”
- “Licensure Q & A”
- “Effective Assessment & Treatment Strategies for Suicidality”
- “Unsocial Media: A Look at the Relational Problems of Teens & Young Adults in the Internet Age & Strategies to Effect Positive Change”
- “You or Someone You Know has a Temperament of High Sensitivity”
- “A Neuro Sequential Model for Developmental Trauma”
- “Redesigning a Multicultural Counseling Graduate Course: Strategies to Increase Multicultural Competence”

- “Counselors’ Role in Relapse Prevention & Recovery in Treating Individuals with Substance Use Disorder”
- “Culture is Habit: Harnessing Teamwork & Institutional Resilience to Promote Safe Outcomes”
- “A Counselor’s Guide to Counseling Mixed Orientation in Couples”

**If you did not attend the Summit, or if there are additional sessions for which you would like to register, you can purchase any of the 3-hour or 1-hour sessions listed above on the TLPCA website. Sessions from the Summit do have a fee for both members and guest members.**



## Webinar Offerings

TLPCA offers a number of pre-recorded webinars that can be accessed online on an ongoing basis once registration has been completed. More information is available under “Train” on our website (<https://tlpca.net/training/>).



**“Understanding the Supervision Process: Ethical & Legal Issues and Risk Management”** (3 CE Hours Approved by NBCC)

Shawn Spurgeon, PhD, LPC-MHSP, NCC, ACS

Registration (Members) - \$20 / Registration (Guest Members)- \$35

This workshop is designed to help supervisors better understand the salient aspects of the ethical and legal issues that surround the supervision process. Attendees will engage in discussions and review case studies designed to highlight some of the challenges supervisors face when working with supervisees. The workshop will include relevant risk management strategies for supervisees to consider in their work.

Workshop Objectives:

- Attendees will understand the salient aspects of the ethical concerns related to supervision
- Attendees will learn the relevant legal aspects of the supervision process
- Attendees will learn about basic risk management strategies supervisors can engage in when working with supervisees
- Attendees will review relevant case studies designed to address critical issues related to the ethical and legal aspects of supervision

This session is offered in partnership with the University of Tennessee Knoxville Chi Sigma Iota International Honor Society.



**“Telehealth in Counseling”** (1.5 CE Hours Approved by NBCC)

Aimee Vaughn, PhD, LPCC-S, LPC-MHSP/  
Owner and Practitioner at Guidestar Counseling  
Taylor Amick, M.S. Counseling, Professional School  
Counseling Licensure, School Counselor in  
Hamilton County Schools  
Janet Ninness, M.S. Ed. in Mental Health Counseling,  
LPC-MHSP-S, NCC Board Certified, Owner and  
Practitioner at Cumberland Counseling Services,  
LLC

Registration (Members)- Free / Registration (Guest Members)- \$15

This session is offered in partnership with Austin Peay State University Department of Psychological Science and Counseling.



**“The Volcano Model Manual: How to Keep from Blowing Your Top When Everything Around You is Driving You Crazy”** (1.5 CE Hours Approved by NBCC)

Ann White, MS, NCC (Retired)

Registration (Members) – Free / Registration (Guest Members) - \$22.50

Registration (Members + Manual) - \$5 / Registration (Guest Members + Manual) - \$27.50

Our world is a complicated, evolving, frustrating place. Sometimes we lose people we need. Too often we don't get what we want, or even what we need...for our health, happiness, and well-being. Sometimes we don't get the opportunities we want or that we were led to expect. Life is hard, and because it is, it's a good idea to have a strategy to get through the hard times. The Volcano Model is such a strategy.

Workshop Objectives:

- Learn how to use the Volcano Model to assess the losses, changes and coping strategies of their clients in the first session.
- By using this respectful client-centered model, the participants will learn how to choose therapeutic expressions that work best with individual clients and avoid those that lead to resistance.
- Learn how to use this model to help a family work together toward healthy communication and positive behavior

**“Utilization Review: Basics for Counselors”** (1 CE Hour Approved by NBCC)

Dan Hutcheson, M.Ed., LPC-MHSP  
Utilization Review Specialist

Registration (Members)- Free / Registration (Guest Members)- \$15

Utilization Review (UR) is a function of managed care in the healthcare industry. As the field of counseling continues to integrate into managed care settings, counselors with knowledge of utilization review are uniquely equipped to advocate for the care of their clients through documentation. This webinar will use a case vignette to understand conceptually how utilization review impacts client care and how documentation influences the potential course of treatment.

Workshop Objectives:

- Identify the purpose of Utilization Review in behavioral healthcare settings
- Identify legal, ethical, and cultural implications of Utilization Review (or, how to document to advocate for your clients)
- Case Conceptualization – An inside look at how Utilization Review supports a client seeking managed care behavioral health treatment



**“Playing Together: Creativity in Supervision”** (1.5 CE Hours Approved by NBCC)

Kim Coggins, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor

Registration (Members)- Free / Registration (Guest Members)- \$22.50

Supervision is an integral component of counselor development that focuses on the development of supervisee skills and safeguards clients and the profession. By incorporating expressive arts and creativity into the supervision process, supervisors can facilitate the development of supervisee self-awareness and support professional growth. In this training, we will discuss the rationale for including expressive arts and creativity in supervision along with the advantages of using these types of interventions with supervisees. Additionally, participants will explore ways to effectively facilitate expressive arts in individual, triadic, or group supervision settings and will learn specific activities that can be utilized with supervisees.

**Workshop Objectives:**

- Participants will be able to describe a rationale for including expressive arts and creativity in supervision.
- Participants will be able to utilize a rationale for selecting creative activities to use in supervision.
- Participants will be able to identify 3 creative activities and how they may be used in a supervision session



**“Treatment Considerations and Ethical Concerns in Working with Transgender Persons”** (2 CE Hours Approved by NBCC)

Robert Ridley, LPC, MHSP and Robin Ridley, MBA

Registration (Members)- Free / Registration (Guest Members)- \$30

It happens. What do we do about it? Why do Mental Health Professionals need to know? Something has to change. Trans people have 25 times the suicide rate of the general population. 41% of trans people have attempted suicide. That rate increases for trans people who experience additional traumas to as high as 64% for victims of sexual assault.

This presentation addresses topics related to the Transgender experience including:

- Defining terms and acronyms
- Why trans identities emerge
- Role of fetal hormones
- The transition journey
- Non-binary gender identities
- Gender pronouns
- Social, moral, ethical, religious, cultural considerations
- Effective gender counselor and transgender counseling ethics

**Workshop Objectives:**

- Understand the processes related to transgender development
- Overcome personal and professional barriers to competently work with transgender persons in counseling
- Articulate applicable ethical issues and distinguish between professional and religious ethical codes



**MIRROR LAKE**  
RECOVERY CENTER

**“Neuroscience of Addiction:  
A BioPsychoSocial Model”**  
(1.5 CE Hours Approved by  
NBCC)

Jamshid Khoshnoodi, PhD,  
LMSW Family and Trauma  
Therapist

Registration (Members)- Free / Registration (Guest  
Members)- \$22.50

The nature of addiction is highly complex. Throughout the centuries, addiction has been defined as a sinful habit caused by moral failure and lack of will power, an obsessive and compulsive behavior based on mental illness, a disorder of choice and motivation, or more recently as a chronic and relapsing brain disease. The disease model of addiction – which is based on many years of brain research – has made possible the diagnosis of addiction as a medical and behavioral disorder described by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders (DSM). Although it may appear trivial to many, the diagnosis of addiction as a medical condition has been a significant achievement without which professional treatment and insurance reimbursement would not have been possible. Although the word “addiction” refers to a larger umbrella that encompasses all addictive behaviors – including compulsive gambling, Internet addiction, or sex addiction – the main goal of this webinar is to focus on substance use disorders (SUD), such as alcohol and illicit drugs.

The primary objective is to view SUD from a BioPsychoSocial perspective that defines addiction as a complex and chronic brain disorder with underlying biological, psychological, and social factors. The course will provide a general understanding about the underlying causes of SUD, including attachment disorder, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), trauma, and mental health disorders. Participants will also be introduced to some basic human brain structure and function and how neurons communicate with each other to create and influence mood through biochemical messengers called neurotransmitters. Finally, recovery from SUD will be discussed as a result of neuroplasticity, the brain’s remarkable capacity to heal itself, if and when the right conditions are present.

Workshop Objectives:

- Understanding addiction from a BioPsychoSocial view and as a complex interplay between nature and nurture.
- Understanding how addictive substances can exert their powerful influence on the brain by “hijacking” the brain’s natural reward system called the hierarchy of survival.
- Recognizing the three components of the addiction cycle: 1) craving, 2) loss of control, and 3) continued substance use despite negative consequences.
- Learning about different treatment modalities and the role of neuroplasticity in the brain’s recovery from substance abuse.

**“Combining Yoga and Mindfulness for Stress  
Reduction and Overall Wellness”** (2 CE Hours  
Approved by NBCC)

Tabitha Schlatter, EDS, LPC, MHSP at Stay Well  
Counseling & Consulting w/ Nicole Pugh,  
certified yoga instructor

Registration (Members)- Free / Registration (Guest  
Members)- \$30

This training will be informative as well as experiential and will include both personal and professional applications for the Clinician.

Workshop Objectives:

- Participants will be introduced to the practice of mindfulness, its history, and how it can be applied as a tool for improved overall health and wellness.
- Participants will explore and experience a variety of physical movements and mindfulness exercises that can be utilized in a variety of circumstances and for various age groups.
- Participants will learn how and when these mindfulness exercises can be utilized both personally and professionally to help facilitate greater mind-body balance and awareness.

## Social Justice

From the desk of the Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs, Shannon Black and Dr. Michelle Stevens...

**“Suffering is a form of knowledge. It tells us what is wrong with our world.” – David Smail**

During this time of year, many of us are seeing clients who are struggling with various woes: the state of the union, the pandemic, addiction, abuse, economic hardship, racial disparities, family members who are sick, missing, or lost, and other inter(and intra)personal suffering. How do we use their suffering to inform us about what is wrong with our world?

A great writer once said, “Pain is the touchstone of all spiritual growth” (Bill Wilson). Do we see the growth potential inherent in our client’s pain? Once we reach out to their hearts with our hearts, can we act as safe containers for that pain and direct it into forward movement? Our clients’ sufferings let us know that inequity exists. They give us direct information about discrepancies in our democracy. They show us the chinks in our armor. Their hurts are the wounds of a people, a country, a world that is creaking under the weight of a million forms of fear and sorrow.

After a year filled with such a large amount of loss and despair, it is natural that we begin a new year with hope. As naive as that may sound, the great thing is that we, as a profession and as a professional association, have the power to make that naive optimism a reality. We have the opportunity to reach out to our clients’ and the greater Tennessee community’s heart and take action against inequality, injustices, and overall chinks in our armor. Now is our opportunity to continue advocating, fighting for, and serving those whose voices are not often heard and whose problems go unnoticed. We are one body. We are one heart. We are separated by thin layers of skin that come in different sizes and colors, different textures and shapes, but our separateness is literally only “skin-deep.” We have a higher calling to speak up loudly with each

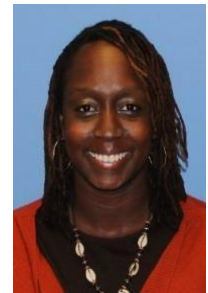
and every client whose voice, alone, is not loud enough to hear. Our clients are waiting to feel safe enough to ask us to advocate with, and for, them.

As we enter into a new year, we charge ourselves to recommit to celebrating the vast amount of diversity within our clientele and our communities. With that celebration comes the hard work of fighting to change the systems that continue to cause pain throughout our world. There is no better time than in the midst of worldwide suffering to love our clients and our communities with the kind of love that vows that we will fight for, and with, them. That time is now.

Blessings to you and yours,



*Shannon*



*Michelle*

&

## 2020 Media Review

Victoria Edwards, Media/ Public Relations Chair

In the midst of the global Coronavirus pandemic, many things were done differently this year. In addition to the annual conference taking place virtually, TLPCA started up monthly online “Gatherings” of various topics. Members took part each month and decided on subjects as they went as part of a collaborative approach to staying connected and informed. Topics that were covered during these gatherings included family/ work balance, providing telehealth services amid a global pandemic, and balancing expectations during telehealth services and social distancing.

This year, TLPCA focused on having a larger social media presence to better engage with its 472 members (15 retired professionals, 280 working professionals, and 177 graduate students.) TLPCA board members were able to regain control of the Facebook page, which has been in commission for ten years. “Likes” on TLPCA’s Facebook posts are up by 44%, “post” engagements are up 249%, and the number of people reached per day is up 34% (for the months of November and December 2020.) As the longest standing platform, TLPCA’s Facebook page has over 1,500 followers (students, retired professionals, and current working professionals alike) and 1400+ “likes.”

In addition to Facebook, TLPCA has also started Instagram and Twitter accounts to increase its members’ ability to stay up to date on current happenings in more convenient and efficient ways.

Members may want to consider following all three social media platforms as different information is shared on each platform.

For more information on social media accounts, or to share questions, comments, or concerns, please contact [info@tlpca.net](mailto:info@tlpca.net) or follow one of the social media platforms and send a direct message.

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### “Follow” TLPCA on Social Media!

<b>Facebook</b>	<b>@TNLPCA</b>
<b>Instagram</b>	<b>@TLPCA</b>
<b>Twitter</b>	<b>@TLPCA3</b>

## Meet TLPCA’s Lobbyist



**Jenny Ford**

Veteran lobbyist Jenny Ford has worked more than two decades at our state’s Capitol. TLPCA engaged her to lead our lobbying efforts in 2017.

Ms. Ford is the founder of award-winning boutique public policy firm JFGovernment Strategies, which focuses on mental and medical healthcare interests.

Her most recent work on behalf of TLPCA has been with the Governor’s staff and legislative leadership in coordinating mental healthcare to meet the demands brought on by the Covid 19 pandemic. This included help in the process of registration and supervision of unlicensed practitioners providing mental health telehealth services. In preparation for the coming legislative session, she is working with a broad coalition of mental health providers, colleges, and universities to update telehealth laws allowing inclusion of telehealth courses in higher education.

Fun facts, Jenny is a medal-winning racewalker competing in US Track and Field events. She is a Senior Olympics ambassador, serves on the Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus Board, is a recent appointee to Thistle Farms Board of Directors, and was honored as a 2020 nominee for the Nashville ATHENA Award in recognition for her accomplishments in business and philanthropic endeavors.

## 2020 Legislators of the Year



**Minority Caucus Leader Rep. Mike Stewart**  
**(D-Nashville)**

Rep. Stewart holds a B.A. in History from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law. He has served on a number of committees including the Calendar & Rules Committee, the Agricultural & Natural Resources Committee, the Government Operations Committee, and the Transportation Committee. He is the Past President of the Lockeland Springs Neighborhood Association, a past member of the Davidson County Emergency Communications District Board, and a member of the American, Tennessee, and Nashville Bar Associations. Rep. Stewart is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm and received the U.S. Eighth Army Distinguished Leader Award. He was selected for the Tennessee Young Democrats Shining Star Award as well as the Tennessee Conservation Voters Award, the Legislative Friends Award, and the Good Green Deeds Award. He was also chosen by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation to attend the Emerging Leaders Program at the Darden School at the University of Virginia; in addition, he was honored as a NewDEAL Leader by the NewDEAL Network. Rep. Stewart was the Student Materials Editor for the *Tennessee Law Review* and a member of the University of Tennessee National Moot Court Team. He is married and has three children.



**Minority Leader Sen. Jeff Yarbro**  
**(D-Nashville)**

Sen. Yarbro earned a B.A. from Harvard and a J.D. from the University of Virginia. He is the 2nd Vice Chair of the Senate Calendar Committee and a member of the Senate State and Local Government Committee; the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee; the Senate Health and Welfare Committee; and the Senate Rules Committee. He is a member of Christ Church Cathedral. Sen. Yarbro has been the Capital Campaign Co-chair for Casa Azafran and on the Board of Directors of East End Preparatory School. He is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Nashville Bar Association. In addition, he serves on the Advisory Committee for the Tennessee College of Applied Technology. Sen. Yarbro and his wife, Tyler Chance Yarbro, have a son, Jack, and a daughter, Kate.



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**Natalie Trice** is the TLPCA Newsletter Chair. Natalie earned a PhD in English and taught as an English professor for 10 years. She is currently a student in the Ed. S. Professional Counseling program at MTSU.