



November, 2021

From: The Master's Committee of the Michigan Psychological Association

To: All LLPs in Michigan

What The Master's Committee (MC) has accomplished in the last two years

1. MAPP (Michigan Association of Professional Psychologists) heard that APA was beginning a project to nationalize the Master's curriculum in Health Service Psychology (which includes clinical programs). Because Michigan has more licensed Master's-degree psychology practitioners than any other state, APA sought out MPA to gain input.
2. The way that Master's-degree psychology practitioners could be "at the table" with this APA project was to become part of MPA. If we stayed an independent organization, we would not be able to have input.
3. MPA commissioned the Master's Committee (MC), and revised their bylaws to make Michigan LLPs full voting members.
4. The MC gathered 7 people to serve on the MC, and is an active, diverse, working committee.
5. The MC was contacted by APA and MPA to review a draft of a national Master's curriculum. The MC spent several months in 2020 reviewing the curriculum proposal and offering suggestions, about 70% of which have been incorporated in the final plan.
6. The nationalization of our curriculum, and eventually our scope of practice and title, continues, and Michigan LLPs are involved at each step. LPCs and MSWs have national curricula, titles, and organizations that strongly promote their interests. Michigan LLPs need this also, and coordinating with MPA and APA is the route to make this happen.
7. There has been a "culture change" within APA and MPA to recognize and support Michigan LLPs, and to advocate for their role in the psychology profession in the future.
8. The MC has submitted their extensive research to MPA resulting in MPA votes to support:
 - 1) independent practice for psychotherapy;
 - 2) to remove current licensing laws that create inequities in commerce and practice;
 - 3) nomenclature that includes the term "psychology" in the title;
 - 4) implement legislation to achieve independent practice.

Current Projects

- ✓ With the support and advocacy of MPA/APA, to remove the career-long supervision requirement for Michigan LLPs that is currently in the Michigan Mental Health Code. During 2022, we will work with APA toward a model licensure bill that, hopefully, will be ready to submit to the next session of the Michigan Legislature in early 2023.
- ✓ MC has provided both the MPA Board and APA's working group on Scope and Title for Master's-degree psychology practitioners with data, research, evidence, and PowerPoint information to provide the evidence to advocate for independent practice both in Michigan and nationally.
- ✓ The MC will continue to interact with MPA/APA, to serve on national committees that will impact Michigan LLPs.
- ✓ To communicate and serve the professional interests of Michigan LLPs in Michigan.

The MC hopes that this information will be helpful to you, and that you see the work that the MC/MPA/APA has been doing and will continue to do on behalf of Michigan LLPs. If you choose to join MPA, you will have full voting privileges (including to vote for Independent Practice for Michigan LLPs as a priority), and will be able to provide input to the MC and other committees in MPA. Please contact Jeff Toepler (jtoepler7@gmail.com), Chair of the MC, with your feedback and suggestions.

--Master's Committee, Michigan Psychological Association, November, 2021