

**Talking Points for Dr. Sue Pressman  
AASCB Business Meeting  
October 30, 2020**

Good afternoon everyone. I'm Sue Pressman and I have the honor of serving as this year's ACA president. While this is certainly a year none of us had planned on, I'm pleased to note that ACA has continued to work on projects that will benefit the counseling profession. Our goal is transitioning our staff to a work from home status was to ensure that our member's needs would continue to be met. The fact that ACA membership has continued to increase each month over the past five lets me know we are hopefully meeting our goals.

Today, I will use most of my time to update on you the ACA Interstate Compact project which we see as one of our signature endeavors on behalf of the counseling profession.

I think most of you know that ACA wanted to help professional counselors address the challenges they had in transferring their licenses from one state/jurisdiction to another because of the independent nature of jurisdictional licensing rules and regulations.

We all know that the challenges emanated from the fact that there is a lack of consistency regarding the requirements for licensure, specifically around the number of graduate hours, the type of graduate program, supervision of clinical experience and mandated examinations. In addition, the various requirements and scopes of practice make it difficult to transfer one's license. Our hope, of course, is to increase the number of licensing boards who will accept a license from another state without additional prerequisites.

Interstate compacts address these issues because they provide a pathway for counselors to move seamlessly from one state to another through an agreement among states to recognize another state's license. The ACA Governing Council approved \$600,000 in funding to pursue an interstate compact for licensure portability in October 2018 and work began in January 2019. While ACA provided initial funding for this project, we understand that this endeavor now belongs to those who come from many walks of the profession.

To date, an advisory group and compact drafting team have been appointed. The draft compact has been completed and we are so pleased that AASCB chair, Ryan Pickut was part of that team. The Interstate Compact group has conducted stakeholder feedback and I know that they appreciated the thoughts and suggestions that have been contributed.

The next phase will begin in early 2021 when the group will reach out to state jurisdictions who may wish to explore and agree to an interstate compact.

I'm pleased that Dr. Lynn Linde, ACA's Chief Knowledge and Learning Officer is with me today, as is Rich Yep, our CEO. Lynn is ACA's staff coordinator on this project and if you have questions, I am sure she would be glad to respond.

I also wanted to let you know that when the pandemic began to ramp up, ACA was pleased to provide its 15 CE courses on telebehavioral health. We saw this as a public service to the profession, so these courses were offered to both ACA members and non-members at no cost. Our goal was to ensure that those who had to practice via telebehavioral health could do so without any interruption in the services they were providing to clients and students.

This offer was well-received and since April, more than 30,000 professional counselors have signed up for the courses we are offering.

Also, as a result of the pandemic and its extended duration, the ACA Governing Council made the decision to hold our 2021 annual conference in a virtual format next year. This has allowed our staff to be very creative in how we will provide information, create professional connections, and deliver a high quality learning experience. More information can be found at our website, [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org). What I can tell you is that the 2021 event will be held in conjunction with Counseling Awareness Month which is held every April and recorded sessions will be available through May.

Just as a reminder, ACA has transitioned to an on-line licensure guide and that resource is now available to everyone (not just our members). We continuously update the information but would

appreciate your assistance. It would be great if you could please check to see if the information for your state is correct. You can find the licensure guide at: [www.counseling.org/knowledge-center/licensure-requirements](http://www.counseling.org/knowledge-center/licensure-requirements) -- just so you have this address, we will post it in the chat box.

If there are changes you have, please contact Lynn Linde at [LLinde@counseling.org](mailto:LLinde@counseling.org) and she will be happy to see that your jurisdiction's licensure law is updated.

As most of you know, ACA was very proud to be an initial founding organization of AASCB and I am so impressed with what you have all achieved over the years. I want you to know that ACA stands with you and looks forward to a continued partnership as we approach issues of common concern.

Let me just wrap up by saying that ACA is appreciative of the good work of all of our partners. This year, as ACA president, I have seen firsthand how our work together, as a professional collective, can really benefit the counseling profession. I am personally very glad that ACA is an affiliate member of AASCB and I look forward to our work together.

Thank you.