

Support Packet Cover Page

In your packet you will see (53) Support Letters from those the Counseling Compact would directly impact: LPCC's of New Mexico and surrounding states who are licensed in NM, with additional support from counseling professional organizations to include the NMRLD - CTPB, and colleges and universities around the state. We also have letter from the public and many professionals: Educators, private practitioners and clinics that consist of LSA/LADAC's, LMFT's, LPCC's, Ph.D.'s, Psy.D.'s and M.D.'s., as well as military families.

Professional Organizations (5)

- NMRLD - CTPB Board
- NMCA
- NMCA – Government committee
- NM-CASJ
- NMMHCA

Colleges and Universities (4)

- Mesalands Community College
- Western New Mexico University
- New Mexico Highlands University
- Navajo Technical College

Professionals and Public (44)

- LPCC's
- LMFT's and LADAC/LSAA
- Ph.D's, PsyD's and M.D's
- Military families
- Educators

Subject: Letter of Support for New Mexico Counseling Compact

I am writing on behalf of the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board to express our wholehearted support for the New Mexico Counseling Association's (NMCA) efforts to join with 30 states as a part of the Counseling Compact.

The NM Counseling & Therapy Practice Board has consistently demonstrated a commitment to the highest standards of professional practice, ethical conduct, and the well-being of individuals seeking counseling services in our state and those who provide them. By becoming a participant in the Counseling Compact, New Mexico will further enhance its ability to collaborate with counseling organizations across state lines and promote the exchange of valuable knowledge and resources.

We believe that the Counseling Compact will not only facilitate the mobility of counselors to attend to the diverse needs of New Mexicans but will also foster a stronger network of professionals dedicated to improving mental health services nationwide. As a member of the compact, New Mexico will contribute to the establishment of uniform standards and reciprocity, ensuring that counselors can seamlessly serve clients in various states while upholding the profession's integrity. Additionally, embracing the compact is a step forward that will hopefully get the ball rolling for other mental health professionals in the state.

The New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board recognizes the importance of collaboration in advancing the field of counseling, and we are confident that New Mexico's involvement in the Counseling Compact will significantly contribute to the achievement of these shared goals.

Thank you for considering our letter of support, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact of the Counseling Compact in our state.

Sincerely,



Kourtney T. Vaillancourt, PhD, LMFT, LADAC
Chair
New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board

NMCA

The New Mexico Counseling Association

January 23, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capital
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

On behalf of the New Mexico Counseling Association, we write to request your consideration of the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. Our members are counselors who provide behavioral health services and serve clients throughout the state of New Mexico. There are many benefits for supporting the Counseling Compact, such as:

1. increasing client access to telehealth behavioral healthcare in NM,
2. allowing counselors, including military personnel and spouses, to maintain their ability to practice when they or their clients relocate or travel to other states,
3. strengthening the tracking of licensees and disciplinary information among member states in order to further protect the public, and
4. bringing additional providers or specializations to our rural and underserved population (currently there is 1 therapist to every 1,000 clients in NM).

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice.

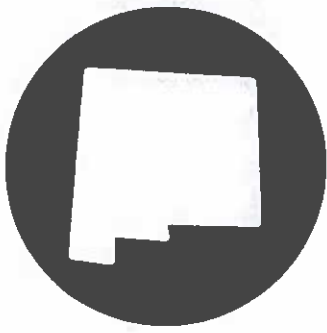
NMCA would like you to consider the benefits of the Counseling Compact. I would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you on behalf of NMCA to discuss additional considerations specific to New Mexico that would help prevent unintended consequences and protect our behavioral health system, practitioners, and clients. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Arianna Trott, Ph.D., LPCC, NCC
NMCA President

New Mexico Counseling Association
PO Box 25423; Albuquerque, NM 87125



NM CASJ

Counselors for Advocacy and Social Justice

February 2, 2024

Dear Governor Grisham,

On behalf of the New Mexico Counselors for Advocacy and Social Justice (NM CASJ), I am writing to express our support for the Counseling Compact. Our organization focuses on advocacy and social justice around mental health equity in NM. The compact has the potential to remove barriers to accessing mental health care. The rural areas of NM have limited access to well trained and qualified professionals, and the Counseling Compact serves to meet this need. It would provide greater access to services from providers that can better meet each client's specific needs. Additionally, the compact can allow both clients and counselors the ability to travel or relocate without interrupting therapeutic services. Also, this would allow counselors to move to NM and be able to see clients quickly if they come from another compact state.

Having stated these benefits, there are some areas that are specific to NM that must be considered when approaching the Counseling Compact. It is vital that NM residents remain protected from large tech companies who have put profits over client welfare. These large companies have the potential to bring counselors who are not from NM into treating NM residents. Counselors from other states must have cultural competency for working with the unique population in NM or risk hurting residents seeking treatment. The population and culture in NM are nuanced. When joining the compact, the legislature must ensure that the need for cultural competency in counselors outside of NM is addressed. Additionally, an exploration of the financial impact and accessibility for NM counselors must be explored. Joining the compact must support NM counselors, not further harm or alienate them. Finally, NM is still recovering from the consequences of the dismantling of the mental healthcare system which began in the summer of 2013. There is a critical need to proceed with caution to mitigate the unintended consequences of the Counseling Compact. The NM behavioral health system requires further strengthening and increased consistency now more than ever. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra M. Perez, PhD, LPCC-S, BCTP-III, SCPG
NM CASJ President

NMCA

The New Mexico Counseling Association

Jeannie Montoya, LPCC
Government Relations Chair
govrelationschair@nmca-nm.org
505-350-3165

October 24, 2023

Governor's Office
490 Old Santa Fe Trail #400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Luján Grisham,

Propose:

- We are seeking your support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. The Counseling Compact is an **interstate compact**, or a contract among states, allowing professional counselors licensed *and* residing in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states without need for multiple licenses, while bringing revenue to the state by providers paying the application fee. There are currently 30 states who have enacted the compact with 4 states pending. *Applications for Counseling Compact privileges to practice are expected to open in 2024.*

Proposed Solution:

- NMCA and many other entities are in support of the compact and are requesting your help to improve our behavioral health care with an Executive Order and where it is **specific** to enacting the Counseling Compact as written.

Some benefits:

- Improving mental health to New Mexicans who are unable to receive needed care due to limited availability of counselors and the overall well-being of the State
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states
- Provide for rural areas and offer more access to therapists for all age groups w/specific specialties (i.e. EMDR, EFT, Play & Family therapy, D.V., Anger Mgmt, Substance etc)
- Reduce wait times significantly for clients to gain immediate access to mental health care (*Today, 1 therapist per 1,000 New Mexico residents*)
- Allowing military personnel and spouses who are providers to maintain their certifications when re-locating with greater ease
- Upholding current standard of licensing and adapt to advanced ways of accessing mental health care services

For reference: <https://counselingcompact.org/>

We sincerely appreciate your support and consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully,

Jeannie Montoya, LPCC



**NEW MEXICO MENTAL
HEALTH COUNSELORS
ASSOCIATION**



October 25, 2023

New Mexico Legislature

As the current President and member of the executive Board for the New Mexico Mental Health Counselors Association (NMMHCA) I wish to fully endorse the passage of the Counseling Compact by our state's legislators. NMMHCA are adding our voices and those of our members who are licensed to assess, diagnose, and treat the members of our community with mental health disorders.

NMMHCA supports this endeavor as its providers for:

- Increase access to mental health services both for individuals and families.
- Provides consistently high quality and standards for counselors across state lines.
- Continuance of care for patients and families during travel and moves.
- Supports our valued military personal, families and operations support to maintain their services and treatment while they are providing such a great service to our community.
- Opens doors for other providers to meet our standards and help support the mental health crisis in the state of New Mexico especially in rural and underserved areas.
- Strengthens our providers here and will bring in necessary specialties to treat and train our population to help meet the ongoing mental health needs we are seeing here.
- Over 31 states have already approved this process and are currently participating in the compact process it would be a shame to let this opportunity pass us and not act now.
- Will provide additional revenue for the state from services provided.

Both as a state board and as a chapter of the American Mental Health Counselors Association we have rigorously reviewed the proposed Counseling Compact legislation and fully recommend the compact adoption. The standards for public safety and the ability to meet the ongoing needs while adhering to state ethical and legal mandates is served by this compact.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Lora Smalley, LMFT

President

New Mexico Mental Health Counselors Association



WESTERN
NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Counseling Program

October 31st, 2023

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

On behalf of the Counseling Program at Western New Mexico University, I write to express our strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. Students and graduates of the Counseling Program come from all areas of New Mexico, including, but not limited to Albuquerque, Gallup, Las Cruces, Roswell, and Silver City.

The Counseling Program is built on a mission that promotes expanding the counseling workforce to rural communities across New Mexico. In the midst of a national mental health crisis, we believe it is incumbent upon us that we work to remove barriers to mental health access. In rural New Mexico, this is even more critical as many communities lack or have too few counselors to provide services, resulting in limited access to counseling services.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, the Counseling Program at Western New Mexico University is excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

William B. Lane Jr., PhD, LPCC-S, NCC, BC-TMH

*College of Education
Counseling Program Lead
Assistant Professor of Counseling*
(575) 538-6419 | soe.wnmu.edu/Counseling
1000 W. College Ave., Silver City NM 88062



January 23, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capital
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

On behalf of the Department of Counseling at New Mexico Highlands University, we write to express our **strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico**. Our graduate students are located throughout the state and most seek counseling positions here in New Mexico after graduating. As of today, 32 states have enacted this legislation, 9 states have pending legislation. **We are 1 of only 9 states that have not yet introduced legislation.**

The Counseling Compact will benefit the state of New Mexico including clients and our alumni by:

- Increasing client access to mental and behavioral health care
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their ability to practice when they or their clients relocate or travel to other states
- Strengthening the tracking of licensees among member states in order to further protect the public
- Bringing additional providers or specializations to our rural and underserved population (currently there is 1 therapist to every 1,000 clients in NM)

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, each full-time faculty member in the Department of Counseling at New Mexico Highlands University supports the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

Geri Glover, PhD, LPCC, NCC, RPT-S
Professor and Chair
Anna Koch, PhD, NCC, CRC, LPCC
Associate Professor
Doug Main, PhD, LPCC, CRC
Professor
Lori Miller, PhD, LPCC
Assistant Professor

Sulema Perales, PhD, LMHC
Assistant Professor
Lori Rudolph, PhD, LPCC
Professor
Heather Smith, PhD, LPCC, NCC, RDN
Associate Professor
Chia Vang, MS, ABD
Term Faculty



911 South Tenth Street
Tucumcari, NM 88401

Phone: (575) 461-4413
Fax: (575) 461-1901

January 3, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th Floor of the NM State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

On behalf of the counseling program at Mesalands Community College, please accept this as an expression of our strong support for the **Counseling Compact** in New Mexico. In the midst of a national mental health crisis, we believe it is vital to remove barriers to mental health access. In rural New Mexico, this is even more critical as many communities lack or have too few counselors to provide services, resulting in limited access to counseling services.

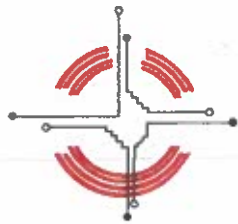
We recognize that the Counseling Compact will benefit consumers, our members and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements;
- Increasing access to care for clients;
- Ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states;
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their certifications when relocating;
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Importantly, the Counseling Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the profession. Counselors utilizing the Compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing, including adhering to that state's scope of practice. With these benefits in mind, we are excited to endorse the Counseling Compact. We look forward to supporting the Counseling Compact in New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Patricia Crook, LMHC, NCC
Academic Advisor & Adjunct Instructor



NITSAHAKES

NAHAT'A

'IINA

SIIN NASIN

NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

ESTABLISHED 1979

November 14, 2023

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

On behalf of the Counseling Program at Navajo Technical University, I write to express our strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. Students and graduates of the Counseling Program come from all areas of New Mexico, including, but not limited to Albuquerque, Gallup, and many small communities throughout the Navajo Nation.

The Counseling Program is built on a mission that promotes expanding the counseling workforce to rural communities across New Mexico, with an emphasis on reservation border towns and Navajo Nation rural communities. In the midst of a national mental health crisis, we believe it is incumbent upon us that we work to remove barriers to mental health access. In rural New Mexico, this is even more critical as many communities lack or have too few counselors to provide services, resulting in limited access to counseling services.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.

Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.

Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.

Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, the Counseling Program at Navajo Technical University is excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

Dianna Dekelaita-Mullet, Ph.D.

Dianna Dekelaita-Mullet, Ph.D.
Chair, School of Arts and Humanities
Navajo Technical University

Navajo Technical University • P.O. Box 849 • Lower Point Road HWY, 371 • Crownpoint, NM 87313

Ph# (505) 387-7401 • Fax# (505) 786-5644

www.navajotech.edu

NM Legislators & Governor's Office:

490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400

Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear NM Legislators and Governor's Office,

I am writing in support of the NM Counseling Compact.

As a teacher at a Title I middle school in Albuquerque, I know how important access to counselors and therapists is for my students.

I know that New Mexico has 32 of 33 counties that are Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and that folks of low socioeconomic status are disproportionately impacted.

I know New Mexico's alcohol deaths are often at the top in our nation and substance abuse increased dramatically.

Being able to recruit behavioral health professionals from neighboring states could be so helpful to us in meeting the gap that we have.

Jeannie Montoya, a counselor in our neighborhood has been tirelessly working on this issue to help decrease New Mexico's counseling shortage, which will also help keep the valuable counseling professionals we have.

Please vote in support of the New Mexico Counseling Compact.

Kind Regards,

Cheryl Haase

8201 R C Gorman Ave NE

Albuquerque, NM 87122

Democratic Precinct Chair

Teacher Grant Middle School

July 12, 2024

NM Legislators & Governor's Office.
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Honorable Madam Governor Lujan Grisham and Honorable NM Legislators:

My name is Dr. Leah Rudnick and I have been a practicing Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in the State of New Mexico for the past 29 years. I support passing the Counseling Compact Bill because it ensures the following critical actions:

Promotes and Assures State Licensure Regulations for Counselors and Therapists

Enhances Public Safety through Comprehensive, Authenticated, and Shared Interstate Licensure and Discipline Database

Greatly increases Life Saving Access to Professional Counseling and Therapy Services across New Mexico

Increases Access to Greatly Needed Specialized Therapy Services, including Trauma informed, Autism informed and Treatment for Substance Use Disorders, especially in underserved areas in Rural New Mexico

Supports Relocating Military Spouses in order to Keep Families Together

Supports and Improves Continuity of Care for Vulnerable Children and Families

Unfortunately, the counseling and therapeutic resources in New Mexico for our youth and families are severely limited. While we as mental health professionals remain dedicated and committed to helping and healing this population, the need is too great. Due to the lack of therapeutic resources, we all witness, on a daily basis, the grave and sadly, often tragic results.

Positively, the stigma of mental illness is slowly diminishing, resulting in more children, teens and parents feeling more comfortable to come forward and ask for help. We urgently need to meet this critical need of providing more counseling and therapy services in order to promote the emotional and physical health, safety and wellbeing of our youth and families. This Counseling Compact Bill is the next critical step in this shared goal.

Many thanks to each of you for considering this vital Counseling Compact Bill. I am deeply grateful to each of you for your tireless and dedicated service to the children and families of New Mexico.

Sincerely,



Leah A. Rudnick, M.D
Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist
Albuquerque, New Mexico
P.O. Box 92886
505-449-7250

NM Legislators & Governor's Office:
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a New Mexico resident and licensed physician. My area of specialization is occupational psychiatry. The Counseling Compact bill if passed will make mental health services available to New Mexicans who currently have inadequate resources to cover the demand. Please vote Yes on this bill to provide a type of health care that is currently unavailable to many.

Robert C. Larsen, M.D., M.P.H.
Ret, Clin. Prof., UCSF School of Medicine
12 B Camino Barranca
Santa Fe, NM

Tomas R. Granados, Psy.D.

Licensed Psychologist (#702)

P.O. Box 93874

Albuquerque, NM 87199

(505) 797-0810 (office)

(505) 797-0814 (fax)

July 12, 2024

NM Legislators & Governor's Office:
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Honorable Madam Governor Lujan Grisham and Honorable NM Legislators:

My name is Dr. Tomas Granados. I have practiced psychology in New Mexico over the past 28 years. I support passing the Counseling Compact Bill which ensures the following:

Promotes and Assures State Licensure Regulations for Counselors and Therapists

Enhances Public Safety through Comprehensive, authenticated, Interstate Licensure and Discipline Database

Greatly increases Life Saving Access to Professional Counseling and Therapy Services across New Mexico

Increases Access to Greatly Needed Specialized Therapy Services, including Trauma informed, Autism informed and Treatment for Substance Use Disorders, especially in underserved areas in Rural New Mexico

Supports Relocating Military Spouses in order to keep families together

Supports and Improves Continuity of Care for Vulnerable Children and Families

Unfortunately, the counseling and therapeutic resources in New Mexico for youth and families are severely limited, as evident in the annual Legislative Healthcare Workforce reports. While we as mental health professionals remain dedicated and committed to provide behavioral health services to this population, the need is great. Due to the lack of therapeutic resources, we frequently witness the grave and often tragic results, including one of the highest suicide rates in the country.

We urgently need to meet this critical need of providing more counseling and therapy services to promote the emotional and physical health, safety and wellbeing of youth, adults and families. This Counseling Compact Bill is the next critical step in this shared goal.

Many thanks to each of you for considering this vital Counseling Compact Bill. I am deeply grateful to each of you for your tireless and dedicated service to the children and families of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Tomas Granados, Psy.D.

Tomas R. Granados, Psy.D.

Licensed Psychologist, NM # 702



FELICIA LIBO
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR

June 23, 2024

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
M.LujanGrisham@state.nm.us
Re: Support for Senate Bill 98

Dear Governor Grisham,

My name is Felicia Libo and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Durango, Colorado. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 98 introduced by Senator Antonio Maestas relating to professional licensure and enacting the [Counseling Compact](#) in New Mexico.

As an LPC in private practice in Southwest Colorado for over 24 years (felicialibo.com), I specialize in providing telehealth services to individuals seeking mental health support for life transitions, neurodiversity, ADHD, autism, anxiety, relationships, health, addiction and other issues.

I plan to join the Counseling Compact as soon as possible to help meet the urgent and growing need for mental health support and make it more accessible across state lines while ensuring the safety and protection of individual state residents in the process.

Born and raised in New Mexico, I am one of many providers in Southwest Colorado who are frequently contacted by New Mexico residents or referred by organizations and providers who are urgently seeking specialized services but have limited access.

Since New Mexico does not have reciprocity for LPCs in Colorado, we are required to apply for licensure by examination and pay additional fees to serve New Mexico clients, which further delays access to services and adds significant costs to many providers who already maintain state licensure in good standing in other states.

It is my sincere hope that SB 98 relating to professional licensure and enacting the Counseling Compact in New Mexico is introduced and passed in New Mexico. Let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Felicia Libo, LPC
Colorado LPC #3538
(970) 759-2678
felicialibo.com
psychologytoday.com/profile/157141

June 27, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capital
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

I write to express my **strong support for New Mexico to join the Counseling Compact** (<https://counselingcompact.org/>). While I write as a New Mexican citizen, I have been a university counselor educator for 18 years. Our two largest and premier counseling organizations in the United States (the American Counseling Association and the National Board for Certified Counselors) are in full support of this legislation. In short, the Compact addresses several issues that the American public have been struggling with for many years.

Additionally, the **Department of Defense (DOD)** fully supports this legislation (<https://compactconnect.org/>). We need to make it easier for military personnel and spouses to maintain their ability to practice when they or their clients relocate or travel to other states.

There is a shortage of independent Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC) in New Mexico. Our citizens continue to go without vital mental health services and specializations due to lack of access.

There is a **lack of sharing licensure and disciplinary action information** across states because no central database currently exists. However, the vast majority of other states who have enacted legislation are already collaborating with The Council of State Governments to create this system.

The Counseling Compact is akin to a Driver's License. It would allow independently licensed clinical counselors to use their home state license to practice in another state, while each state holds the individual accountable to the law specific to the state in which they are practicing. Thus, the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board (NM Regulation and Licensing Department) would continue to be responsible for protecting the health, safety, and public trust in the profession, as well as conducting disciplinary proceedings and taking action against those who violate NM laws.

While there will be details to consider, such as Medicaid reimbursement and ensuring the cultural competency of those practicing with our population, I believe that the collective wisdom of our legislators can ensure the Counseling Compact is **passed** with the necessary details to protect the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Heather L. Smith
3125 Ilford Rd NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

**JORDAN
JONES**



JORDAN.DOUGLAS.JONES
@GMAIL.COM



(505) 417-1837

627 LOS ARBOLES AVE, NW
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87107

NM LEGISLATORS & GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
490 OLD SANTA FE TRAIL, ROOM 400
SANTA FE, NM 87501

Dear NM Legislators & Governor's Office,

I am writing in support of the Counseling Compact.

The people of New Mexico need access to specialty services in underserved, remote areas. We need quality-of-care transitions out-of-state. And we need reduced wait times, especially for emergency services.

Since many counseling functions can easily and professionally be performed remotely, New Mexico should join the 37 states in the Counseling Compact, for the best outcomes for New Mexicans and those traveling through or visiting New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Jordan Jones

NM Legislators & Governor's Office:
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

I am writing in support of the NM Counseling Compact.

As a retired registered nurse, I know that nurses have had the benefit of interstate licenses and this allows registered nurses in good standing to practice in surrounding or other states. It was always important during my career.

I know that New Mexico has 32 of 33 counties that are Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and that folks of low socioeconomic status are disproportionately impacted. The low number of counselors means we have a ratio of therapists to clients of 1: 1,000 per county. Behavioral health professionals are critical in substance use treatment. I know New Mexico's alcohol deaths are often at the top in our nation and substance abuse has increased dramatically.

Being able to recruit behavioral health professionals from neighboring states could be so helpful to us in meeting the gap that we have.

Jeannie Montoya, a counselor in our neighborhood has been tirelessly working on this issue to help decrease New Mexico's counseling shortage, which will also help keep the valuable counseling professionals we have.

The Counseling Compact will benefit New Mexico, mental health clients and the counseling profession by:

- Increasing access to care for clients by allowing for more providers and specialties;
- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements;
- Ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states;
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their certifications when relocating; and
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure while offering a unified system.

Please vote in support of the New Mexico Counseling Compact as we expect it to come up in the special session this week.

Kindly,
Kathleen Moseley RN MS
9420 Eagle Rock Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122
505-440-6205

NM Legislators & Governor's Office

490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400

Santa Fe, NM 87501

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter supporting the passing of the Counseling Compact bill in the state of New Mexico. This bill is important for the state as it will allow mental health providers to practice across state lines and bring more much needed provider availability to the state. With substance abuse and suicide rates on the rise, the need for ongoing mental health support is increasing. We must take action to make sure our people in New Mexico receive the mental health care they require and deserve in a timely manner.

Thank you,

Lisa Ulibarri, LPC, LPCC, NCC, CEAP



WILDERWOOD

7 Wildwood Lane, Peralta, NM 87042

Tel: (505) 549-9813

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham M.LujanGrisham@state.nm.us
Copy: Chief of Staff Daniel Schlegel Daniel.Schlegel@state.nm.us
Copy: Senator Antonio Maestas Antonio.Maestas@nmlegis.gov

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

RE: Support for Senate Bill 98

I am writing in support of the above Senate Bill previously introduced by Senator Maestas and respectfully ask for your urgent consideration of placing this Bill on the upcoming call for the July 18th Special Session.

New Mexico is one of only a few States in the Union that are not part of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Consortium. There is a critical shortage of qualified behavioral health counselors in New Mexico and joining the Consortium would provide immediate relief from this critical mental health concern. As the Executive Director of Wilderwood, a 501(c)(3) autistic-led nonprofit that specializes in research and programs for autistic people with a focus on autism in women and girls, my team is among a handful of researchers worldwide who are leading research and therapy support for autistic females, including Wilderwood's development of a new assessment instrument and protocol for autistic women.

Because research into female adult autism is in its infancy, there is a lack of knowledgeable counselors who can recognize autism in women and provide appropriate clinical mental health support. There are only two such practitioners currently in New Mexico of whom we are aware, with a third due to be credentialed in 2025. If New Mexico joined the Counseling Consortium, this would open up access to counselors in all the other consortium states. Access to counseling across State lines has the potential to change the lives of New Mexico's autistic and neurodivergent women – as well as those with other behavioral health counseling needs – to gain support they so very greatly need.

Thank you, Governor Lujan Grisham, for your consideration.

Dr. Rebecca
M.A., Ph.D.

Board of Directors

Rebecca Evanko, Amanda Garcia, Jayme Ogden, Linda Stover,
Judith Valade, Mark Evanko, Jamie Goldberg, Heather Castillo

Web: wilderwoodequinetherapy.org
Email: office@wilderwoodequinetherapy.org

Evanko, B.A.,

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

January 4th, 2023

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

I am writing to ask for your support for the approval of the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. As a mental health therapist who provides counseling, and as someone who receives support via counseling, it is imperative that we move into a place where clients can be supported across state lines.

My father died last month, and the month prior I had to fly out of state for several weeks to care for him and my family in Washington State. During this stressful time, I could not meet with my therapist due to her not being also licensed in Washington State. It was extremely distressing to not have the support I needed at the time of this monumental loss, and heart-wrenching grief. This is just one of many examples of why it is vital for New Mexico to support the Counseling Compact.

Our clients deserve continuity of care when they return home to be with family, are in the midst of major life transitions, or called out of state for work.

Please consider the impact of the Counseling Compact on the mental health of New Mexicans and support us in joining the many other states who have already joined.

Thank you with all of my heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ASL' followed by a flourish.

Adrienne Sloan, LPCC

FROM THE DESK OF

Amber Bodhani, LPCC

December 17, 2023

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4 th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

I am writing in support of adding New Mexico to the Interstate Counseling Compact.

The counseling compact would aid society, the counseling industry and its clients in the following ways:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.
- Expanding choice of care for clients across the country.
- Making it easier for counselors to come to New Mexico for short term positions to fill healthcare gaps.

Please pass the bill!

Thank you,

Amber Bodhani, LPCC

January 8, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM, 87501

Dear Governor Grisham:

I am writing today to express my fervent support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. In my work as a Licensed Mental Health Clinician and Provisionally-Registered Art Therapist for the people of New Mexico, I continuously see opportunities where the Counseling Compact can positively impact patient outcomes and the overall wellbeing for our neighboring citizens.

Much like the existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists and EMS professionals, the Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for practitioners while allowing member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information. Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states and the underserved and underrepresented patients who need the care.

Further benefits of the Counseling Compact include:

- Better patient outcomes due to increased continuity of care.
- Continued government subsidy for successful programs and services.
- Increased access to care and increased patient choice in service availability.
- Enhanced mobility for counselors who meet uniform license requirements.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Importantly, the Counseling Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the profession. Counselors utilizing the Compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing, including adhering to that state's scope of practice.

With these benefits in mind, I am excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

I look forward to supporting the Counseling Compact in New Mexico.

Sincerely,
Arielle Rothenberg, LMHC ATR-P





Blue Corn Counseling Center
2183 Calle del Oeste
Mesilla, New Mexico, 88046
575-313-4043
brian.reeves@hotmail.com

January 9, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

On behalf of our program at Blue Corn Counseling Center, I write to express our strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- ✦ Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- ✦ Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- ✦ Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- ✦ Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, the Blue Corn Counseling Center is excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

Brian Reeves, MA, LPCC

Brian Reeves, MA, LPCC
NM Lic. #4369
Director, Blue Corn Counseling Center

January 4, 2023

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

On behalf of the Counseling Program at Western New Mexico University, I write to express our strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. Students and graduates of the Counseling Program come from all areas of New Mexico, including, but not limited to Albuquerque, Gallup, Las Cruces, Roswell, and Silver City.

The Counseling Program is built on a mission that promotes expanding the counseling workforce to rural communities across New Mexico. In the midst of a national mental health crisis, we believe it is incumbent upon us that we work to remove barriers to mental health access. In rural New Mexico, this is even more critical as many communities lack or have too few counselors to provide services, resulting in limited access to counseling services.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, the Counseling Program at Western New Mexico University is excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

Carlton Lewis, M.A. LPCC LADAC

CAROLINE KNAPP, LPCC, LMFT

Psychotherapy

3600 Cerrillos Rd, Ste 729C, Santa Fe, NM 87507 • 505-336-1273
NM LPCC #0212451, CA LMFT #105656

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

As a licensed therapist in Santa Fe, I'm writing to express my strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico.

When I relocated to New Mexico in early 2020 as a therapist fully licensed in California, it took me nearly a year and a half of concerted bureaucratic wrangling in order to obtain a license in New Mexico. Today I'm proud to be able to serve clients in New Mexico via Medicaid as a licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC), as well as clients in California as a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT).

Having the Counseling Compact in place would make it easier for licensed mental health professionals like myself to serve the significant mental health needs of New Mexicans. Based on my own experience, I also believe that it would help make New Mexico more attractive as a destination for licensed professionals who would like to move here but are dissuaded by the significant "start-up cost" of transferring a license or obtaining a new one. It would also enable us to offer better continuity of care to our patients as they travel for work, school, military service, and family, maintaining a therapeutic "home base" that can make all the difference for mental health outcomes.

I'm heartened that New Mexico is considering joining this network of mental health licensing practices. I believe it is an important element of state efforts to increase the number of qualified mental health providers, so that we can meet the behavioral health needs of all New Mexicans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Caroline Knapp, LPCC, LMFT



Charest Counseling & Consulting, LLC

8205 Spain Rd NE ste 209C Albuquerque, NM 87109

charestcounseling@gmail.com

505-675-4422

1/11/2024

RE: Letter Supporting the Counseling Compact

Dear Legislature,

On behalf of Charest Counseling and Consulting, LLC, I am writing to express the strong support for the Counseling Compact. Much like the existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists and EMS personnel, the Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for counselors while allowing member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information. Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states.

The Counseling Compact will benefit consumers, including New Mexico residents and the counseling profession by:

1. Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
2. Increasing access to care for clients.
3. Ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
4. Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their certifications when relocating.
5. Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Importantly, the Counseling Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the profession. Counselors utilizing the Compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing, including adhering to that state's scope of practice. I look forward to seeing the Counseling Compact implemented in New Mexico.

Best regards,

Kathleen Charest <electronically signed>

Kathleen Charest, MBA, MS/MHC, LPCC, LSAA, TX LPC, NCC, CCMHC

New Mexico Counseling Association Treasurer 2015-2024

New Mexico Counseling Association Immediate Past Executive Director 2022-2023

New Mexico Mental Health Counselors Association Treasurer 2022-2024

New Mexico Mental Health Counselors Association Past President 2014-2015

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing to express my strong support for legislation that includes the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. The Counseling Compact is an interstate compact, or a contract among states, allowing professional counselors licensed and residing in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states without need for multiple licenses. This will help New Mexico increase access to mental health care in rural areas, especially those areas that border state lines without access to major metropolitan areas. Specialized services will also be available to underserved areas and populations such as autism informed care, domestic violence prevention, couples counseling, family and child therapy, alternative therapies, and trauma therapies.

The industrial landscape of New Mexico is a prime example of how the Counseling Compact will help increase access to services as the industries in the state have many professionals traveling and on short-term assignment. Those with compact privileges will not have to pause treatment or stop altogether, they can continue to see their therapist through transitions ethically and with clinical appropriateness.

New Mexico has a rich history of preservation of tradition and rite. The Counseling Compact ensures that the state maintains agency over the stringent licensing requirements and ethical standards that are already in place; it may strengthen the process in some areas that are already being sought to be strengthened.

New Mexico will be open to new and innovative ways to serve its population. Growth for the profession with collaborative perspectives will maintain positive upward trends in capacity building and innovation for the state. New Mexico can maintain its status as a leader in innovation and competition regarding service provision and meeting the many needs of its diverse residents. New Mexico will join 39 states that have legislation enacted and 9 others (and DC) if we enact legislation this session. The Counseling Compact is good for New Mexico and it is good for New Mexicans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Adam Hackney, LPCC-S, LAMFT, NCC". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Horace Adam Hackney, LPCC-S, LAMFT, NCC
Licensed Professional Clinical Mental Health Counselor Supervisor
Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist
National Certified Counselor

New Pathways Counseling

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

January 8, 2024

I'm writing to express my strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. I was fortunate to get my masters degree from New Mexico State University and to be able to start practicing as a Marriage and Family Therapist in my same community.

In the midst of a national mental health crisis, I believe it is imperative that we work to remove barriers to mental health access. In rural New Mexico, this is even more critical as many communities lack or have too few counselors to provide services, resulting in limited access to counseling services.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

An interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state and maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all of its professional counselors, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. By ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to serve community needs while still protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, I am excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,



Janine Smith, LMFT
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
License # CMF0190281

January 4, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th Floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

As a licensed counselor in private practice these last 23 years, I am writing to express my strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. I am currently licensed as an LPCC in New Mexico; an LMHC in Washington State, and an LPC in Colorado. These are all comparable licensures, and each of them has a different renewal period, different CEU requirements, and an application process that ranges from simple to maddening (although North Carolina, where I resided briefly, is in a category all of its own in terms of making newly-arrived counselors jump through hoops to become licensed at a comparable level).

Most of my clients are from New Mexico, the state in which I received my first licensure and established my first private practice. My New Mexico clients travel extensively, and relocate for periods of time (or permanently) in other states – Texas, Colorado, Washington, Missouri, Utah, California, Washington D.C., Arizona, Illinois – and will forgo getting counseling if they have to switch to a new counselor. Obviously, this situation affects continuity of care and can be devastating to clients with whom I have established a strong and effective therapeutic relationship.

In a world where people are forced to relocate for education, employment, and jobs, how can a motivated, respected, and skilled counselor keep up with temporary licensure requirements, or worse, be forced to hold separate licensures in each client's location? Several years ago, when a client moved to California, there simply was no way for me to continue to be his therapist. Perhaps that has changed – I have not updated the spreadsheet I created to keep track.

All this is to say, I eagerly endorse the Counseling Compact. Although I will not be able to attend the legislative session, I hope that my comments and concerns will be considered. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judith Newman
LPCC, LMHC, LPC
1060 Majestic Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

January 8, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

As the owner of a private clinical counseling practice in Santa Fe, I write to express my strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. In the midst of a national mental health crisis, I believe it is incumbent upon us to remove barriers to mental health access. In rural New Mexico, this is even more critical as many communities lack or have too few counselors to provide services, resulting in limited access to life saving counseling services.

Much like the existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists and EMS personnel, the Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for practitioners while allowing member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information. Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states.

The Counseling Compact will benefit New Mexicans and the counseling profession by:

- Increasing access to care for clients
- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, I am excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

Lauralyn Pryor, MA, LPCC
1421 Luisa St Suite L
Santa Fe, NM 87505
505-695-8223

Pathfinder Visions, Inc.
Lydia S. Lennihan, LPCC
107 Bryn Mawr Dr. SE • Albuquerque, NM 87106
Phone: (505) 681-0708
lennihan@comcast.net

January 4, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

I am writing to express our strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. I have clients in Arizona and Colorado, and it is an onus on my business to have to get licensed in these states in addition to the time and expense it takes to be licensed in New Mexico. The Counseling Compact would enable me to see clients in participating states without this financial and paperwork burden, thus alleviating the shortage of mental health providers in other states.

As you are well aware, there is a national mental health crisis in our country, and I believe it is incumbent upon us that we work to remove barriers to mental health access for all. In rural New Mexico, this is even more critical as many communities lack or have too few counselors to provide services, resulting in limited access to counseling services.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, I am excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

Lydia S. Lennihan, LPCC

8 January 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

4th floor of the New Mexico State Capital

490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400

Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. I am a licensed in New Mexico as both a Professional Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LPCC) and as an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (LADAC).

I am married to a retired Air Force Officer, and while stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base completed my counselor training and applied for licensure. We moved eleven times while my husband was active duty, and now I work as a federal government civilian residing in Japan.

We left New Mexico in 2015, due to a move to Ft Bragg, North Carolina. I was fortunate to secure a federal job on base allowing me to possess any current state counseling license, without needing to get licensed in North Carolina, which would have been costly and time consuming.

I will reside in Japan for a few more years. Upon leaving I will return to North Carolina, as this is now our home. If I continue in federal employment, I can practice with my New Mexico license. However, if I choose to work elsewhere or even go into private practice, then I will have to apply for a North Carolina license.

My education, training, and years of providing counseling meet the conditions to be licensed in North Carolina, however I would have to go through a long and expensive process. I would be honored for you to consider supporting the Counseling Compact. There are many active duty and retired military spouses in this exact situation. Having the Counseling Compact would be a tremendous relief and benefit to us all.

Very Respectfully,

PRICE.MINK.GENE⁴⁰ Digitally signed by
PRICE.MINK.GENEREUX.10221941
REUX.1022194140
Date: 2024.01.12 09:00:27 +09'00'

Mink G. Price, MA, LPCC, NCC, LADAC, MAC

PSC 562 Box 6562

FPO, AP 96311

Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan



January 4th, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

I write to express my strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. I have been serving families in the mental/behavioral health field for over twenty years in various capacities. In that time, my ability to full support families has been greatly hampered by the limits of my state licensure. In the past three years, those barriers have made less sense and cause many families to see the mental health field as an antiquated system. We must be allowed to progress and move beyond the physical barriers of our state borders.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, I am excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Priscilla Bruch LMFT". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "LMFT" written in a slightly different style at the end.

Priscilla Bruch, PhD, LMFT



**Synergy
Behavioral Health
Center, P.C.**

211 W. Mesa, Suite #4
P.O. Box 3579
Gallup, NM 87305
Phone/Fax: (505) 862-9992
E-mail: synergycenter@fastmail.com
Web: www.synergycentergallup.com

January 5th, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

I write to express support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico.

It is incumbent upon us that we work to remove barriers to mental health access. In rural New Mexico, this is even more critical as many communities lack or have too few counselors to provide services, resulting in limited access to counseling services.

An interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice.

Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

As a psycho-therapist (LPCC, LADAC) practicing in rural North-west New Mexico since 1989, living and working in this high-need under-resourced region, I recognize the value of, and fully endorse the Counseling Compact.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

William C. Pearson

William Clay Pearson, MS LPCC LADAC MAC SAP

To Whom It May Concern,

My Name is Denette Varley I am a practicing behavioral health therapist in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As a clinician we want to promote accessibility of mental health services safely across the country. The Counseling Compact is the most viable way of achieving this goal.

Much like the existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists and EMS personnel, the Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for practitioners while allowing member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information.

Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure

While providing these benefits to our members and the counseling community, the Counseling Compact also preserves the authority of each state to protect public health and safety through existing state regulatory structure. The Compact does not determine scope of practice or alter the state practice act in any way. Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better protect the public.

Denette Varley, LMFT. LSAA
Counseling Associates of Albuquerque, LLC

NM Legislators & Governor's Office:
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

My name is Norman Atha, I am a citizen of Tijeras, New Mexico, and I want to express my support for the Counseling Compact bill before you. It addresses a vital issue of importance to me personally - while my counseling needs are comprehensively covered by the VA in Albuquerque, counseling shortages anywhere affect all of us New Mexicans everywhere... as everyone's aware, there is only so much qualified, able counseling 'talent' to go around. This bill is a tangible measure to address that pressing need in our communities, I ask you to advance and follow through on this legislation. Thank you.

Norman T. Atha, J.D.

10580 NM337 Tijeras NM 87059

mail: PO Box 1681 499 NM333 Tijeras NM



Healthy Minds Counseling
Services, LLC
PO Box 92232
Albuquerque, NM 87199

505-350-3165
mindfultherapy123@gmail.com

Jeannie Montoya, MA, LPCC

NM Legislators and Governor's Office
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Counseling Compact

I write to you in strong support for the Counseling Compact. As a small business owner of a private practice, who has provided mental health therapy for the past 14 years, is **1 of 6,000 providers in this state, 1 of 2, 660 LPCC's** (*who qualify for the Counseling Compact*) and after learning these stats from the last NMRLD Counseling Therapy Practice Board and understanding us **therapists are 1: 1,000 clients per county**—we can verify there is a high demand for our services and recognize the waitlists are lengthy or at times clinicians are no longer accepting clients because they are at capacity and have a full caseload.

Much like the other licensure compacts which are being pursued: psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, Licensed Marriage Family Therapists (LMFT's), the Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for practitioners while allowing member state regulatory boards to better protect clients through enhanced sharing of licensure information. Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states.

We recognize that the Counseling Compact will benefit New Mexico, mental health clients and the counseling profession by:

- Increasing access to care for clients by allowing for more providers and specialties;
- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements;
- Ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states;
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their certifications when relocating; and
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure while offering a unified system.

Importantly, the Counseling Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the profession. Counselors utilizing the Compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing, including adhering to that state's scope of practice and code of ethics.

With these benefits in mind, Healthy Minds Counseling is pleased to endorse the Counseling Compact.

Respectfully,

Jeannie L. Montoya, M.A., LPCC
Owner, Psychotherapist



Emily Miles, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist #120009 CTB-2022-0374

1/29/24

Dear Legislatures,

New Mexico has one of the highest rates of suicides in the U.S., including the leading cause of death for teens (NM DOH, 2020). Access to mental health services has never been more important.

As a therapist licensed in New Mexico and California I often hear from clients that the issue with mental health isn't their interest in therapy but lack of access. I support the counseling compact because it will improve access to mental health services and because:

- This will allow continuity of care where clients can retain a therapist they have built trust in when either they or the therapist moves states
- This will allow continuity of care when clients travel, especially for those who travel frequently for work and are unable to set consistent appointment dates in one state.
- This will allow military personnel and their families to access consistent care
- This will improve access to specialized care not otherwise available, especially in rural communities.

Please support New Mexico in joining the majority of the rest of the country in enacting Counseling Compact.

Thank you kindly,

Emily Miles LMFT
License Numbers: NM CTB-2022-0374 | CA 120009

Emily Miles

www.EmilyMilesLMFT.com

Phone: 505-585-1080

Email: EmilyMilesLMFT@gmail.com

To: NM Legislators & Governor's Office:
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: 3504 Campbell Farm Lane NW
Albuquerque, NM
July 14, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

As a psychiatric RN who has worked with the underserved in New Mexico for several decades, I wholeheartedly support the Counseling Compact that will allow qualified, licensed mental health clinicians to offer services in New Mexico, a state with a dangerous lack of behavioral health services.

Sincerely,
Sandy Mishkin, RN, MSN, MEd



RELATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
transforming conflict into connection

R

Rachel Yarrington, LPCC
4801 Lang Ave NE #110
Albuquerque NM 87109
relationalintelligencecenter@gmail.com

Nov 8, 2024

New Mexico Legislators & Governor's Office
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Sante Fe, NM 87501

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong support for New Mexico joining the Counseling Compact. This initiative stands to benefit both clients and the counseling profession significantly. 37 states have already enacted the Counseling Compact.

The Counseling Compact enhances mobility for licensed counselors by setting uniform licensure requirements, which eases transitions for professionals moving across state lines. This is particularly valuable for military personnel and their spouses, who face frequent relocations. With the Compact, they can continue serving their communities without disruption to their professional credentials.

Additionally, the Compact will increase access to care for clients, providing them with continuity in counseling services, even when they or their counselors need to relocate or travel to other states. This flexibility will be invaluable in ensuring clients can maintain established therapeutic relationships, contributing to more consistent and effective care.

Moreover, joining the Compact would preserve and strengthen the current state licensure system, offering the benefits of increased mobility and access without compromising local oversight and standards.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I encourage your support of the Counseling Compact to enhance access to quality mental health services across New Mexico and beyond.

Sincerely,
Rachel Yarrington, LPCC
Relational Intelligence Center, LLC

Pamela S Britton, MA Retired LMFT

RE: Counseling Compact Bill

To whom it may concern,

Thank you, Jeanie Montoya for reaching out to me. As I mentioned, my responds are based on over 40 years of experience while working in several states. In the 90s Washington all one needed to practice as a Counselor or Clinical Supervisor was a high school diploma. There are four pillars which has supported my practice: 1. DO NO HARM, 2. a solid education with required continued education, both systematic and clinical, 3. a monitoring system of state policies and licensing, 4.

- I support creating competitive pathways for mobility employment.
- My biggest concern is how individuals will be investigated upon complaints
- Are there funds to expand investigations, other states requirements, etc...
- Telehealth services is a major concern for me and I would suggest NOT to implement until there are clearer procedures.
- I would like the Bill to include Clinical training as well as those listed in the Bill. Many counselors have never served individuals with serve mental health and criminal behaviors.

Given the fact the Bill is well written and covers the majority of my concerns. I support setting up a Counseling Compact Commission. The Bill is well written and thorough. I would like to develop a national standard that would apply to any counseling practice rather than a list of different titles and requires.

Again, Jeanie thanks for reaching out, sorry about the length of our phone call.

Sincerely,

Pamela Britton, MA Retired LMFT



Rasmussen Counseling LLC
2901 Juan Tabo NE Suite 204
Albuquerque, NM 87112
Office 505-433-5860
Fax 505-433-5864

07-12-24

NM Legislators & Governor's Office

490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400

Santa Fe, NM. 87501

Greetings,

I am an LPCC and provide therapy at a private practice. I have been practicing therapy for the past 18 years. We have a high need for more providers in our state and I am confident the Counseling Compact could be of aid in different ways to our state and the profession. We also need to be mindful of counselors who are planning to retire. I am sure this compact can also bring revenue to the state as providers from other states will not only be providing a much-needed service and helping meet the demand but may move here or do more business in our state.

Our government needs to do more in supporting mental health and this can be one way of doing that. We need to support the Counseling Compact.

Thank You,

Gary S Hodges, MA, LPCC

NM Legislators & Governor's Office
490 Old Santa Fe Trail. Room 400
Santa Fe, NM. 87501

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a retired school counselor and have heard about the Counseling Compact not being addressed in our state. I gather most of the country has already enacted legislation, **yet New Mexico and 8 other states have not.**

I am inquiring about this as I firmly believe this could be a great addition to assist our mental health crisis. If enacted, this could potentially bring in additional providers to include specialty areas: autism, emotionally focused therapy, brain spotting, Eye Movement Desensitization Re-processing (EMDR), Dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT), Emotion Code therapy, those who specialize in treating chronic pain or other illnesses to include support for end of life. This could also bring mental health providers to serve our rural communities.

I am asking you as a concerned citizen and an advocate to investigate this matter and support the Counseling Compact in efforts to address our state's mental health needs.

Thank you for your time,

Geralyn Montoya

Retired School Counselor

07/12/2024

Letter of Support for Counseling Compact

I am writing to the New Mexico Legislature to urge the leaders to support and approve the Counseling Compact during the upcoming Special Session.

Our state is in dire need of Mental Health resources, more Providers (therapists) who can provide those services, while at the same time finding ways to retain existing Providers in the state. Between the high need for mental health services and low level of providers available (we have less than 1 provider per 1000 residents), those providers are experiencing high levels of burnout, driving them to change fields, retire earlier than planned and/or leave the state all together. All these factors negatively impact the overall mental health crisis in the state, while also resulting in less revenue being generated. Couple all those challenges with the fact that private providers and small business owners also face the cost of paying GRTs on these services (which is uncommon across majority of the others states in the US) on top of high self-employment tax rates, they experience even greater strain and challenges in their ability to survive as a small business or private provider.

While I am personally just a resident in this state (not a Provider), I myself have experienced long wait times for mental health services and very limited options, as far as specific specialties being offered by those Providers. In my profession and through my work, I have also experienced many employees who are in need of mental health services but are unable to get those or have to wait for months to be seen, which negatively impacts them both personally but also professionally as effective workforce in their jobs.

We know that a community or a society is only as healthy and successful as those who struggle the most in that same community. We need more Providers and keep active the ones we currently have so that we can provide the services needed for all residents of state of New Mexico and elevate the quality of their lives, improve the standard and wellbeing of our entire state.

Counseling Compact will deliver on that premise by enabling access to more Providers, while also allowing existing Providers to increase their opportunity to grow and expand their business, stabilize viability of their own private practices or small businesses, all the while improving the quality of mental health services for our Residents. Therefore, I urge the Legislature to approve the Counseling Compact during this Special session.

With Regards,



Igor Stanceric

HR Business Partner, CPG company



Government Liaison Committee Chair <govrelationschair@nmca-nm.org>

Fwd: Counseling Compact

1 message

Anya Canache <therapy@anyacanachelpc.com>
To: Government Liaison Committee Chair <govrelationschair@nmca-nm.org>

Sat, Jul 13, 2024 at 1:05 PM

Here is what I sent:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Anya Canache** <therapy@anyacanachelpc.com>
Date: Sat, Jul 13, 2024 at 8:53 AM
Subject: Counseling Compact
To: <antonio.maestas@nmlegis.gov>

Hi Senator Maestas,

I am writing in support of the counseling compact. 37 states have signed on so far and this is an integral step in ensuring access and continuity of care for New Mexico residents as well as keeping New Mexico counselors from falling behind national peers in terms of our ability to serve our client's needs. I myself am a therapist and person of color, my clients are mostly people of color, and these issues affect us disproportionately. I sincerely hope you will consider supporting us in moving this forward.

Thank you for your time,

Anya Canache, LPC

NM Legislators and Governor's Office
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Hon. Gov. Lujan Grisham,

I am in support of the Counseling Compact bill. Our mental health infrastructure was devastated by Gov. Martinez, and we have not recovered from those disastrous 8 years. Covid put another whammy on the mental health care problem. We have a dire shortage of providers, a ratio of 1 to 1000. The short term solution would be to sign a bill joining the pact of 37 states who have already joined to expand their mental health resources.

Please include this in your special session, it is truly needed.

Respectfully,

*Scotti Romberg, Ward Ch. 27C
Bernalillo County*



December 11, 2023

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham,

On behalf of Amistad Family Services, Inc. & Cornerstone Christian Counseling, I write to express our strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. We are outpatient counseling agencies who collectively employ approximately 35 therapists and interns providing services to individuals in Las Cruces, our neighboring communities, and around the state. However, we have struggled to provide continuity of care to people who reside nearby in El Paso, Texas; clients who move to other states; attend college out of state, work in jobs that require them to travel, etc.

Amid a national mental health crisis, we believe it is incumbent upon us that we work to remove barriers to mental health access. In rural New Mexico, this is even more critical as many communities lack or have too few counselors to provide services, resulting in limited access to counseling services.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

With these benefits in mind, Amistad Family Services, Inc. & Cornerstone Christian Counseling would like to enthusiastically endorse the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Breckon Patch", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Breckon Patch, LCSW, IMH-E (III)
Clinical Director & Family Therapist
575-523-2288
bpatch@amistadnm.com

New Mexico Governor and Legislature
490 Old Santa Fe Trail #400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

July 12, 2024

My name is Constance Williams and I am a licensed Master Social Worker on the eastern side of New Mexico. I am happy to see the move toward Compacts across the social service and science fields. Professions such as social work, psychology, and psychiatry are taking similar steps. I fully support the New Mexico Counseling Compact and believe that it will benefit the citizens across the state by getting access to qualified counseling professionals in a more timely manner. This is one step that can be taken to ensure quality providers with various specialties, are available in New Mexico. The Counseling Compact can be beneficial in many ways: rapid verification of license status, preserves and strengthens state licensure systems, improves continuity of care enabling therapists to have flexibility to provide services while on travel or via telehealth, provide the state revenue for application fees, and most importantly increase providers for mental health.

I support the Compact and strongly urge our state legislators to pursue this.

Thank you,

Constance Williams, LMSW



Rasmussen Counseling LLC
2901 Juan Tabo NE Suite 204
Albuquerque, NM 87112
Office 505-433-5860
Fax 505-433-5864

NM Legislators & Governor's Office

490 Old Santa Fe Trail. Room 400

Santa Fe, NM. 87501

Good morning,

On behalf of Rasmussen Counseling, we are in strong support for the Counseling Compact. Rasmussen Counseling is a private practice agency providing Mental Health counseling. We now offer services from 2 locations in New Mexico with a total of 7 providers.

We are in support of the counseling compact as we see there is a shortage in our state and a high need for mental health support. Our offices often have a waiting list and on average is a 6-8 month waiting period. We strive to help as many people as we can while maintaining quality care. With this compact, we believe it can benefit our state in a significant way and alleviate the pressure of trying to meet the need of the people that seek our services.

Other benefits include:

Enhances public safety through a shared interstate database of licensure and disciplinary information, allowing for rapid verification of license status

Enhances mobility and continuity of care for professional counselors who travel or provide trainings in other states to continue providing services in New Mexico

Supports relocating military spouses

Bring more revenue to our state

Ensures cooperation among compact member states in regulating the practice of professional counseling

With these great benefits and after viewing the CounselingCompact.org website and current standings with legislation, we need to act. This could very well be a solution to our mental health crisis. Currently, there are 37 states who have enacted legislation, 4 states who have filed and 9 remaining states to include New Mexico who have not taken legislative action.

Please consider this request to support the Counseling Compact.

Thank you,

Martin Rasmussen, LPCC



January 12, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
Attn: Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th Floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

I am a Clinical Mental Health Counselor currently working in Private Practice. I moved to New Mexico in 2015 to create a life here as a Mental Health Therapist after working for twenty years as a teacher in Wisconsin. I worked in two non-profit agencies before deciding to create my own practice to allow for more flexibility for both my clients and myself. I believe that independent private practice owners are the backbone of our community. So, first of all, I want to thank you for all that you have done for my clients and myself (as a provider) by supporting us through COVID, allowing for phone and video sessions during COVID and raising Medicaid rates. However, we need your support once again before you leave office.

I am writing this letter to express strong support for creating and passing legislation for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. This legislation will greatly improve access to mental health services for residents of New Mexico. COVID changed the world as we know it. I started my Private Practice in July, 2019 and there was very little to no interest in telehealth before COVID. Since then, people realized that they can access those services anywhere they are and now the majority of my clients want telehealth and more importantly don't want to lose their weekly therapy appointment that they look forward to and need, because they have to leave town for work, vacation, a death in the family, to caretake for an ill family member, because their military spouse is being relocated or because they are in an abusive relationship and their closest supportive ally is in a different state. The Counseling Compact would allow for this crucial continuity of care.

Mental health therapy is unlike any other services and should be taken with special consideration because of this. I often say to clients that the therapeutic relationship is unlike many others in their life, because we have no personal bias and no positive/negative consequences as a result of the personal changes and choices in their life. Because of this, a therapist can become a confidante, an advisor or a guide as they encounter the trials, tribulations and hurdles throughout their life. One of the most difficult parts of my job is when a client feels forced to relocate outside of New Mexico because of choices they would otherwise not choose. The statement I hear most often is something similar to "I need to go. I really wish I could take you with me. I really don't want to start over with someone who doesn't know me like you do."

Because mental health counseling is state regulated, any client that has to move whether it is their choice, not their choice or required for mere survival, like in abuse, chronic poverty or possible job loss is expected to start over and lose sometimes the one supportive person that they have in their life. This Counseling Compact legislation would allow providers to work with neighboring states to enter into an agreement which allows them to virtually go with their clients. Currently, many people who are forced to change therapists, usually don't end up resuming mental health services at all, specifically because they don't want to "tell [their] story to someone all over again". Moving is stressful, as someone who has changed cities and changed states, I know. Being able to retain the same therapist would be wonderful! It would be one less obstacle that we are expecting struggling families to overcome.

Please consider creating and supporting the Counseling Compact legislation in New Mexico during this legislative session. This has been passed in 30+ states in our country. It would provide assistance and continuity of care for clients with an established therapeutic relationship, military families who get relocated for their job, while preserving state licensing requirements and regulations like laws that have already been passed for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists and EMS personnel.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 505-289-0198.

Sincerely,

Marcia Filipiak LPCC, LADAC, NCC
Counseling Connections, LLC
Clinical Mental Health Counselor & Owner
Marcia@counselingconnectionsnm.com
2101 Golf Course Rd SE Ste D
Rio Rancho, NM 87124



Juliana K. Tyler, MA, LMHC

Post Office Box 1604, Mukilteo, Washington 98275 • 206.604.0996 • juliana@chrysalis-counseling.com

January 8, 2024

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Counseling Compact for Professional Counselors

Dear Governor Grisham,

I am writing this letter as an expression of my strong support for the Counseling Compact in New Mexico. As you may be aware, more than 30 states have already enacted legislation to join the Compact, and a number of others have legislation pending. The current system of unique licensing requirements among states represents a barrier for both mental health care providers and clients by limiting the ability of providers to practice across state lines. The Compact will improve mental health care by removing barriers and thus providing access to critical life-saving services. We are in a time of urgent need and these services have never been more important.

The recent pandemic exposed unacceptable health care disparities throughout our country, highlighting the crisis of care we are facing. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that 169 million Americans are living in an area with a mental health provider shortage. Even urban areas are struggling to find enough providers to meet the demand for our services. The question we now face is how to promote accessibility of mental health services safely across the country. *The Counseling Compact is the most viable way of achieving this goal.*

The purpose of the Counseling Compact is to provide a system of certifying that counselors have met acceptable standards of practice between member states, and to promote cooperation among Compact states in the areas of licensure and regulation. Much like existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists, and EMS personnel, the Counseling Compact will provide a mechanism for a member state to recognize licensing for practitioners in a different member state, and for professional counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements to quickly obtain a privilege to practice, without need for multiple licenses. It will also allow member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information. Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements;
- Increasing access to care for clients, ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states;
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications more easily when relocating; and
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, an interstate compact allows a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as maintain the state's unique scope of practice for all professional counselors practicing in that state, whether it be through a state-issued license or through a privilege to practice. Counselors utilizing the Compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing, including adhering to that state's scope of practice. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the Counseling Compact will allow member state regulatory boards to better serve community needs while protecting the public.

Personal Experience. My own experience highlights some of the very issues the Counseling Compact is currently trying to address. *I am a Licensed Mental Health Counselor residing in the state of Washington. I am also a property owner in New Mexico, where I will be permanently relocating in the next few years.* My family has wished to relocate for several years, but in large part due to the inability for me to easily continue my counseling practice in another state, that move has been repeatedly delayed. After years of education, effort, and expense to build a thriving practice, it is very hard to consider potentially giving that up, or starting all over again, due to lack of licensure portability. I have no doubt many other mental health providers across the country have found themselves in similar situations. I have personally known several providers who have closed their practices permanently when moving to a new state, due to the complexities that often exist when trying to secure licensing across state lines, and the aforementioned practical and financial stressors involved in attempting to regrow an established practice.

As a whole, today's world is highly mobile. And it is estimated that our military families are relocated on the average of every three years. This lack of portability presents issues for professional counselors on a number of levels, the most obvious being the strain these difficult situations and decisions can put on families. It is also important to note the time and dedication it takes to become a mental health clinician, and the burden of debt from an advanced education that often results. The inability to be guaranteed that your education can translate and be similarly used across state lines can be a prohibitive factor to remaining in, or even entering into, the profession. It includes an element of potential future risk that some individuals may not be willing to take on. In a climate where our nation is facing such disparities in care, prioritizing support and minimizing obstacles for our providers is of paramount importance.

The converse is also true; clients are part of our mobile society as well. It takes time and energy to not only locate a provider, but to build the rapport necessary for effective treatment to occur. As things currently stand, if a client moves to another state, they have to find a new provider. This is inconvenient at best, and potentially life-endangering at worst, as in cases of individuals who need continuity of care to maintain stability. And given that therapy is based on the foundation of relationship, having to start over with a new provider is rarely ideal for anyone, under any circumstances. In most cases, existing regulations dictate that a client can't even be seen by their current provider if they are temporarily located in another state for work or travel. Many of my clients travel for work, and I can speak directly to the fact that these limitations have at times caused them great difficulty due to the disruptions this has imposed on their treatment.

I was fortunate enough that I was able to ultimately secure a license to practice in New Mexico. However, it came at additional time and expense, and I must now incur the financial and other impacts of meeting differing requirements for continuing education for each state, and paying fees for multiple licenses, adding to both my overall workload and the costs of running a practice. I am in a position where this is something that I can manage, but not all providers are able to meet such challenges. But even this solution did not solve the larger problems discussed—the mobility of our society, impacting both practitioners and clients, and the great need we have in this county to provide consistent care for our clients, while also taking care of our providers, many of whom are experiencing stress and burnout (45% of clinicians, according to 2022 American Psychological Association reports), from heavy caseloads and other challenges being faced in the profession.

The Counseling Compact could begin to address some of the inequities, and redundancies, that exist in our behavioral health care system. It is with all of these benefits in mind that I look forward to supporting the Counseling Compact in the state of New Mexico. Thank you for your time and consideration of these relevant and important issues facing our profession, as we work to address the mental health care shortage that our nation is currently facing.

Sincerely,

Juliana Tyler, MA, LMHC, LPCC, NCC

Juliana K. Tyler, MA, LMHC, LPCC, NCC

Chrysalis Counseling Services PLLC; Psychotherapist
Former Vice-Chair and Advisory Committee Member,
Postpartum Support International of WA (now Perinatal Support WA)
Former WA State Coordinator, Postpartum Support International
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