



PRESIDENT ELECT

Dr. Keisha Pou-Buchanan, LPC, CPCS, CCTP

LPCA, is an organization whose been in the trenches for counselor. It is my desire to continue to work on the board of director as a member who assist in advancing the profession of counselors on a local and a state level.

Goals:

1. To helping to maintain the vision, goals, and policies for LPCA.
2. To advocate for equality and professional recognition of professional counselors.
3. To continue to enhance the practices of diversity and inclusion amongst our members.

Dr. Keisha Buchanan is a Georgia psychotherapist, speaker, trainer, and educator. She owns Next Step Counseling, LLC, a group private practice, and founded Relif, Inc, a nonprofit organization providing mental health services to first responders. She has over 15 years of experience in counseling. Dr. Buchanan's clinical experience includes outpatient and inpatient settings working with adults and children. She has facilitated numerous trainings and speaking events for local counties, domestic violence shelters, schools, insurance companies, churches, community centers, and government agencies on various mental health and clinical issues.

She obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Morris Brown College, a master's degree in professional counseling, and a doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Argosy University.

She is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Georgia & South Carolina and an Adjunct Professor at Liberty University. Dr. Buchanan is a member of American Counseling Association and American Mental Health Counselors Association and the communication director for the License Professional Counselor Association of GA.

Dr. Buchanan is a wife and a mother of three active boys. She enjoys traveling, attending sporting events, primarily when her children compete, and spending quality time with herself, her family, and her friends.

SUPERVISION CHAIR



Louis Boynton, PhD, LPC, CPCS

I have worked with LPCA as a volunteer and as a board member, devoting hundreds of hours promoting the organization and the profession. I have a passion for the future of the profession and those that are training the future professional counselor. I would be honored to be elected as the LPCA Supervisors Chair.

Goals

1. Create advanced supervision trainings that promote growth in clinical judgement.
2. Develop the best regional/national supervision program by reviewing what is successful in other states and programs.
3. Introduce supervision models that informed by neuroscience.
4. Create a standard for evaluating the quality of supervision and supervisee experience.

Bio: Louis F. Boynton, III, PhD, LPC, CPCS , has spent the last ten years gaining the experience needed to provide the type of psychological and health services offered at this location. This practice focuses on health and human growth for all types of individuals, groups, and communities.

Dr. Boynton has worked as a clinical practitioner for 7 years with all types of people. His main focus has always been on helping people to make their lives better by focusing on the overall health of an individual or community.

While working as a mentor, as a life coach, college advisor, college professor Dr. Boynton discovered psychological methods that help anyone who is in need. In the clinical mental health field he spent years working as a relationship counselor, individual counselor and group counselor.

His work as a researcher has been presented nationally and internationally on: psychotherapy, disaster mental health, and conflict resolution. He is trained in non-violent conflict resolution, mindfulness techniques, meditation and stress reduction techniques, crisis management, counseling psychology, health psychology, positive psychology and pain management.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR:

RYAN DAY, Ph.D. LPC, CCTP-II



Goals

Dr. Day is committed to serving the counseling profession and to make sure that the licensed professional counselor identity is protected.

Mental Health Awareness shouldn't be celebrated just in the month of May but throughout the year. Communication is the Key.

Dr. Ryan Day received his Master of Arts in Community Counseling degree from Argosy University Atlanta, a Post-Masters Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from Columbus State University and earned his Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from Auburn University. He is a proud Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Certified School Counselor, and a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional Level-II (CCTP-II). Dr. Day has over fifteen years of clinical counseling experience working in a variety of settings. His clinical work specializes in trauma treatment, couples and families, and career counseling services. Dr. Day not only serves as a mental health therapist in the Atlanta metropolitan area, but he is also a proud counselor educator who has taught graduate school for the past ten years. He has served as a full-time faculty, program coordinator, and field experience coordinator at his previous institutions. Prior to teaching graduate school, Dr. Day served as a middle school special education teacher for nearly two years teaching 7th and 8th grade. He is a passionate counselor educator who loves working with students and making his classroom a fun and exciting learning experience. In 2016, Dr. Day was selected as the 2016 Counselor Educator of the Year by the Licensed Professional Counselor Association of Georgia (LPCA of GA) and in 2017, Dr. Day was selected as the 2016-2017 College of Education and Helping Professions Distinguish Teacher of the Year at Columbus State University.

Dr. Day was featured on various media streams, such a guest appearance conducting a live counseling show on VH1 reality tv show "K. Michelle: My Life"; guest appearance on a live radio show Jazz WCLK Atlanta speaking on PTSD and Childhood Trauma; also featured in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Newspaper interviewed on the topic of "Racial Trauma"; and featured on WRBL Channel 3 Columbus News speaking on the use of Art Therapy in helping others overcome mental illness and stress. Dr. Day was featured in the March 2019 Counseling Today special edition topic on Touched by Trauma which featured his personal story as a trauma survivor and professional work serving as a trauma therapist.



BRITTANY BRISCOE, LPCA

Three goals for the coming year if I am elected as the LPCA Communications Chair:

- 1.) Foster community, networking, and fellowship space for all LPCA-GA Members
- 2.) Provide updates/clarifications for continuous legislation and procedures impacting LPC members through our various communication platforms
- 3.) Support executive leadership to help main vision, goals, and policies for LPCA-GA

Brittany Briscoe holds a professional background in nonprofit and social justice before pursuing her Master's degree at Mercer University, where she received a degree in Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling.

Brittany has spent the past 3 years working with a diverse clientele at a community private practice in the heart of Atlanta, GA.

Brittany was born in Washington DC but has spent most of her life growing up in Atlanta, GA (she likes to say she knows the best of both worlds). Brittany enjoys trying new foods and spending time with her family, friends, and small pup Max.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CHAIR:



Janesta Nairn, LPC, CPCS

Currently serving as the Continuing Education Chair, I have experienced the good, bad, and ugly processing of CE applications, event reviews, and in-person workshops. To help with the CE process I create a short video on how to fill out the application and expectations.

Three goals of commitment are:

1. To continue engaging in meaningful conversations that lead to progressive change.
2. To support the development of the LPC week.
3. To work closely with district leaders to mobilize, motivate, and market opportunities for new counselors and other allied professionals.

Janesta received her Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Walden University and is completing her doctoral degree at the University of Holy Cross.

As a Court Support Program Manager at Cobb County Juvenile Court, working primarily with juveniles and their families to define their dreams and build skills to help drive productivity and divert them from formal court proceedings.

She has been in the Justice system, impacting the lives of justice-involved children for over 20 years between Cobb and Fulton County Juvenile Courts.

Janesta is dedicated to social change by advocating for voiceless juveniles and families, encouraging policy changes, and empowering stakeholders within her purview.



Vicki Blount, LPC, CPCS, MAC

I would like to continue working on the CE Committee as Co-Chair or Chair:

I am a licensed professional counselor who works at Traime Behavioral Health in Marietta, Georgia as the Team Lead for the Cobb Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Recovery Program. The mission of Traime is to provide rehabilitative training and community support for adults and children with serious mental health and life issues where by they can use their skills to live, learn, work and socialize in the community.

In the past 7 years, I have helped to reduce the number of hospitalizations and incarcerations by providing individual, group and family therapy to individuals who are difficult to engage in treatment. I have a passion for helping those who are emotionally scarred by meeting them where they are in their unique circumstances to offer individualized care to help them overcome challenges that interfere with them achieving their personal and recovery goals.

On the other side, I also enjoy being out in nature, traveling the world seeing new places, trying new things and meeting new people.

If I am elected as the Continuing Education Chair, my three Goals for the coming year 2023-2024 as an LPCA member of the Board of Directors

1. Build a stronger platform to better equip counselors to serve clients by ensuring they are obtaining high quality learning through approved trainings and workshops at conferences or online to inspire confidence in their practice.
2. Engage more with current research to keep the board up to date on development goals that would benefit new and seasoned counselors because the counseling field is always evolving and we want to assist others with adapting to today's landscape.
3. Work with a committee to create an annual **LPC day** on both a state and national level to recognize and celebrate counselors.

ETHICS CHAIR



Dr. William "Will" Carroll, PhD, LPC, CPCS

Goals:

1. To provide quality service to members of LPCA Georgia and the clients they service through the appropriate use of the ACA and AMHCA codes of ethics.
2. To support the members of LPCA Georgia through the ethical decision-making process with both encouragement and advice founded in our codes of ethics.
3. To encourage the growth and utilization of our association LPCA Georgia by all professional counselors and associates.

Dr. William Carroll is a licensed professional counselor in the state of Georgia. He has a Ph.D. from Liberty University in Counselor Education. He has been in private practice in Marietta, GA since 2012.

He enjoys outdoor activities including running, hiking, and biking. Dr. Carroll's area of expertise is in the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder using varied techniques including innovative approaches such as Lego Therapy.

His Ph.D. dissertation was on the unique qualities associated with women who have ASD, as seen from the perspective of their adult sisters.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIR



Tonja Simmons Lee, EdD, LPC, CPCS

Dr. Simmons Lee, a licensed professional with more than 20 years of counseling, coaching and leadership experience, is trained to help with reflection, support, and solutions.

Dr. Lee developed a counseling program for students and faculty. She directs the day-to-day operations of a critical office, the counseling center, within the College. Designed to support student, faculty, and staff well-being,

Counseling Services and its Counseling Resource Center provides counseling, as well as assistance and guidance in resolving personal, social or psychological problems and difficulties.

The Georgia College Counseling Association recently named Tonja Simmons Lee, CGTC's Counseling Services executive director, its 2020 College Counseling Director of the Year.

Goals: Currently serving as the Professional Development Co-Chair I have been able to promote the counseling profession at several legislative events, and look forward to the progress of the PC Compact. There will be challenge for the profession in the rules that are being promulgate.

There is a need for additional support for the students and new profession.

If elected I look forward to providing:

More opportunities for volunteers to participate.

More Town Hall meetings in all the LPCA Districts

Presentations for advances clinicians



Erlese Morea Caruth LPC, NCC, CPCS, CCH

Erlese is the founder and Atlanta-based psychotherapist at A Place For Me Counseling. She has experience working with a diverse population of clients and in settings such as hospitals, community agencies, schools, and private practice. She works with clients seeking to resolve challenges around trauma, anxiety, depression, life adjustments, and relationship problems. Erlese specializes in Exposure Response Prevention (ERP), the gold standard for treating anxiety. In addition, she utilizes techniques in the practice of sex therapy, hypnotherapy, EMDR, polyvagal techniques, cognitive behavior therapy, narrative, and solution-focused therapies.

Erlese expanded her practice to include personal development coaching. She is passionate about helping professional women who feel stuck and overwhelmed in their personal and professional lives overcome their limiting beliefs, and shift their mindsets so they can live the life they want for themselves.

Why do I want to serve on the LPCA Board of Directors?

Early in my career, discovered a passion for training and developing clinicians, so I began working with interns and new counselors through the process of collaborative education, self-discovery, and clinical training. I believe that providing access to information, education, and training rather than giving the perception of being the only source of it prepares individuals with the opportunity to gain mastery over common growth challenges. I believe that my vision aligns with that of the board and as such, I would like the opportunity to support the CEO and Executive Leadership team in maintaining the vision, goals, and policies of the board.

ATLANTA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



Lei Phyu Tun, MS, LPC

I am deeply honored and grateful for the nomination to serve as the ATL district Representative of the Licensed Professional Counselor Association of Georgia (LPCA of GA).

As a previous intern and staff member of LPCA of GA, I have personally experienced the positive impact and the warm welcome of the organization. I have gained a deep appreciation for the organization's work in promoting the development of the counseling profession in Georgia, advocating for the interests of licensed professional counselors and the clients they serve, and providing networking opportunities and continuing education resources for its members.

Through my service as ATL district representative, I hope to continue contributing to this meaningful and impactful work.

My goals for this role are as follows:

To ensure fidelity towards LPCA of GA's mission of promoting the development of the counseling profession in Georgia.

To support LPCA of GA's goal of working closely with other mental health organizations, state agencies, and legislative bodies to ensure that the needs of the counseling profession and the people it serves are being met.

To provide networking opportunities for members and advocate for the interests of licensed professional counselors and the client they serve.

Lei Phyu Tun is a Licensed Associate Professional Counselor in Atlanta, Georgia. Lei holds her Master Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Canisius College in New York State. Lei is a Myanmar (Burma) South East Asia native, who immigrated to the United States in 2012 after living abroad in Singapore for several years. Growing up and being educated in Myanmar (Burma), Singapore, and the United States, the heart of her work centers around the unique struggles, adaptations, and cultural conflicts of Asian immigrants. Having faced her own unique struggles, Lei knows first-hand about the transformative power of therapy, and how therapy can help increase self-awareness, heal emotional wounds, foster personal growth and enhance relationships with loved ones. Lei's background in psychotherapy comes from years of experience in conducting individual, couple and family psychotherapy to diverse populations and cultural backgrounds. Lei has worked in various treatment settings, including private practices, outpatient services, community settings and crisis services.

CENTRAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE - OPEN

COASTAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



Tracey Pace, Th.D., MSA, M.Ed., NCC, LPC, CFMHE, CFI

I have been in practice since 1999 and living in rural Georgia gives me the perspective of the needs here in Southern Georgia. I am a veteran and a mother of five children and the grandmother of fourteen, two of my children are adopted. As a former school counselor, I understand the difficulties that can arise with school age children and their education.

Additionally, as a former Air National Guard Officer, I understand the unique needs of today's armed forces and work with veterans, active-duty service members and their families.

Graduated from Armstrong Atlantic, Georgia Southern, Central Michigan, Andersonville Theological, I hold a doctorate of Biblical Theology, a Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor, and as a Certified Forensic Mental Health Evaluator, I am uniquely prepared to assist families involved in the court system.

I have been married to Ed Pace since 1990 and resides in Clio, Georgia.

1. Increase participation in LPCA by the Coastal Region (lunch and learn, meet and greets, business after hours type events).
2. Encourage members of the Coastal Region to take the time to identify their State and Federal legislators and respond when they receive a call to action from LPCAGA. I have been surprised by the number of people who don't know who their elected officials are.
3. Expand our presence to Coastal members with weekly information posts via email and Facebook relevant to LPCs and mental health in general.
4. Bring Town Hall meetings to South Georgia

Come join me on my committee and lets make Coastal District ROCK!

EASTERN A DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



Jihene Ayadi, PhD, LPC, CPCS, NCC, ACS

I am honored to be nominated to be the Eastern District representative. This truly means a lot to me, and I'll continue to meet the Board of Directors and my peers' expectations. I look forward to representing my fellow counselors and future counselors to better serve our community.

Dr. Ayadi is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling and she is the Clinical Coordinator at Troy University, the Augusta Campus. She earned her MS in Marriage and Family Therapy from Valdosta State University, and her Doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision from University of Arkansas.

Dr. Ayadi is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a Certified Supervisor in the State of Georgia (CPCS). She is also a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and an Approved Clinical Supervisor (NCS) with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). She is also a Certified QPR Gatekeeper Trainer for Suicide Prevention and a Certified EMDR provider.

Dr. Ayadi has nearly 13 years of experience in providing mental health services in outpatient settings to adults, military staffs, veterans and their family members. She has presented regionally, nationally, and internationally. She is actively working and collaborating with peers on conducting research for peer reviewed publications.



Sharon Renshaw, MA, LPC, CPCS

Candidate for Eastern District Chair for LPCA

I would greatly enjoy serving in this role as I have a desire to get involved with an organization that has given much to me in the past and present, strengthening me in my profession and given me invaluable resources. I would be honored to serve as the Eastern District Chair!

Three goals:

1. Increased membership applications by promoting LPCGA to professionals in my area in the Eastern District through direct communication, emails and sharing upcoming events.
2. Organize and support at least two LPCA sponsored event in the district.
3. Organize and support events such as coffees and community forums with topics of interest to LPCA members in the district with opportunities for socializing and networking.

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) since 2010 and Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor (CPCS) since 2018, both licensed in the State of Georgia. I received my Master's Degree in Counseling at Liberty University (VA) in 1991 and a Bachelor's Degree in English Education in 1989. My clinical experiences in the last 23 years include in counseling/social work

services for both adults and child/adolescent populations. I served in the role of Social Worker III at Augusta University Medical Center for 13 ½ years in both behavioral health inpatient units of 9N (child and adolescent) and 3S (adult). I have also provided outpatient services for 9 years overall at Serenity Behavior Health Systems, most recently in the role of Behavior Health Counselor for Adult Outpatient Services for the last 5 years. My primary clinical focus has been serving individuals experiencing symptoms of depression, anxiety, mood disorders, trauma, ADHD, anger management and substance use. I enjoy distance running, reading and spending time with family and friends

NORTHERN DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



Skye McIntyre, MS, NCC, LPC, CPCS, EMDR

I am a trauma therapist and supervisor in private practice in Dahlonega, Georgia. I want to serve on the LPCA Board of Directors in order to help nurture community among LPCs and to have my fingers on the pulse of what is happening with LPCs and CPCSs across the state.

My goals for the Northern District are to:

Host regional dinners where APCs, LPCs, and other mental health clinicians can get to know each other

Help our district folks access information and resources they need

And to offer several CE classes in areas of interest to our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



Sven Legg-Grady, LPC

As a teen, I was overwhelmed by trauma and cynicism. It was at times impossible to imagine a better future. But many things worked together to help me survive those years of depression. Kind helpers went out of their way to guide and care for me. Every day I aim to follow their example in my work as a mental health therapist. I graduated from University of Florida, M.Ed./Ed.S. Mental Health Counseling. I am Skilled in Nonprofit Organizations, Event Management, Therapy, and Public Speaking.

I just recently joined the LPCA Board of Directors as the Northern Co-chair and look forward to the growth and support of all of us in North Georgia.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



Dr. A J Ramirez, LPC, CPCS

Goals

Improve the quality of communication and networking opportunities across mental health disciplines in the area

Encourage continuing education opportunities within the district

Create opportunities with local higher education mental health programs for our members and future members in our district

Dr. Ramirez is the owner of L.E.A.F. Therapy Services in Valdosta, Georgia. L.E.A.F. Therapy Services is geared toward providing affordable high-quality counseling services to the South Georgia area. In addition to running a private practice Dr. Ramirez is the Coordinator of the Women's and Gender Studies program at Valdosta State University and as an adjunct professor in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality program at Florida State University. Her academic interests include sexism, gender discrimination, LGBTQ issues, and education reform by incorporating systemic approaches. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from the University of North Georgia, her Master of Science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and Doctor of Education degree with a concentration in Sociology from Valdosta State University.



Angela Landers, LPC, CPCS

My reasons for wanting to be a part of LPCA Southern District is to expand the resources and community amongst counselors in more remote areas of our state.

Angela Landers is the Assistant Director for Outreach and Community Engagement at the Georgia Southern University Counseling Center in Statesboro, GA. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Psychology at Georgia Southern University and became a LPC in 2009 and a CPCS since 2019. She completed her 200-hour yoga teacher certification at Savannah Yoga Center. Angela is passionate about preventative therapeutic measures and enjoys offering programming that focuses on mental wellness such as Mindful Yoga, a yoga class infused with meditation practice, and Restorative Retreats. Ms. Landers' is also passionate about clinical work, supervision, and creating/maintaining community amongst counselors to nurture professional growth and uphold the standards of the practice.

WESTERN DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



Eleanor Wassenberg, MA, LPC

Eleanor is the owner of First Things First Counseling, LLC, a private practice in Newnan, GA. Before opening First Things First, Eleanor worked for a community mental health agency in the school system. Eleanor currently works with adolescents and adults dealing with trauma and addiction.

I would like to serve as Western District Representative to help promote membership in LPCA, to keep counselors connected and informed in my district, and to advocate for our profession.