September 10, 2015

LICENSURE PORTABILITY
CRCC RESPONDS TO AASCB PROPOSAL

For many years, portability of a state-issued counselor license has been a concern for practitioners who wish to relocate to another state, and who find they do not meet the licensing requirements of that state. Note this issue is exclusive to a state-issued counseling license; it does not relate to CRC certification, which is a national certification that is portable from state-to-state.

Organizations such as the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB), which is composed of a number of state licensure boards across the country, have been considering the issue of license portability for quite some time, due to the inconsistency in statutes and rules for counselor licensure. AASCB recently proposed the following portability plan to counselor licensure boards:

A fully-licensed counselor, who is licensed at the highest level of licensure available in his or her state, and who is in good standing with his or her licensure board, with no disciplinary record, and who has been in active practice for a minimum of five years post-receipt of licensure, and who has taken and passed the NCE or the NCMHCE, shall be eligible for licensure in a state to which he or she is establishing residence. The state to which the licensed counselor is moving may require a jurisprudence examination based on the rules and statutes of said state. An applicant who meets these criteria will be accepted for licensure without further review of education, supervision and experiential hours (AASCB, letter, Aug. 17, 2015).

CRCC believes this proposal honors the fact that many CRCs acquired their education and experience during a time when conditions were different than they are for today's practitioners seeking counselor licensure. An area of concern in their proposal, however, is with regard to the requirement for examination. AASCB's portability plan fails to recognize the CRC Examination (CRCE). The CRCE is currently
recognized in 14 states or approximately 27% of the states and territories. Many CRCs who are also licensed as counselors in their state would be disadvantaged and disenfranchised as qualified licensed counselors due to lack of recognition of the CRCE in AASCB's proposed portability plan. CRCC has issued a communication to AASCB requesting their amendment of the proposed portability plan to include recognition of the CRCE. Click here to view the communication.

Consistent with CRCC's Position Statement on Legislative Advocacy, we are sharing this information with our CRCs so you have the opportunity to actively engage in advocacy on your own behalf and on behalf of the profession of rehabilitation counseling. You're encouraged to be active in your advocacy and with your state licensure board, be aware of any changes they are considering, and share your voice as their constituent.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Chapman, CAE
Executive Director

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