

## Concerning This Issue

There are 13 states with licensing laws for counselors at this writing — Maryland and Montana are the latest; West Virginia passed a bill but its governor vetoed it. The legal implications for counseling and psychotherapy are increasing rapidly. Counselor Education needs to include legal and ethical curricula in its professional counseling and psychotherapy pre-service and in-service programs. Dean L. Hummel spells out many of the issues with case examples as reported in his recent textbook, *Law and Ethics in Counseling*.

Lawrence M. Brammer extends his statement on counseling older adults. Here is a look at gerontological counseling in relation to quality of life. Counselors can contribute to the quality of living for older adults. Concerns about financial planning during the early and middle years are discussed. The theme for counseling in the Brammer article is "prevention." The idea is to engage the person in taking responsibility for improving one's quality of life throughout the lifespan.

Nina A. Westcott looks at how counselors may learn more about handling cases of grief and loss in families. The increased suicide rate among American youth brings the issues in counseling bereaved families sharply into focus as a contemporary need. The survivors may need help because the nuclear family is isolated in the society. The lack of suitable rituals for relieving distress over loss can complicate the process of resolving grief.

Daniel W. Fullmer and Janet S. Ishikawa bring a discussion of a prevention method with a backup of theory and a look at the contemporary condition. This is a lot to

cover in a brief article. The idea that counseling and psychotherapy have anything to share as society moves from a post-industrial system into the Information Age may be news to some. The idea of using personal myth as a basis for understanding behavior may seem to take us toward more "high touch" in this new age of high tech. Knowing and wisdom are best served by one who is well acquainted with oneself. Self concept, identity, and the skill to confirm and validate oneself constitute the baseline for much of counseling and psychotherapy.

The application of treatment through training in self-help groups using the peer counseling-consulting (PCCT) model completes the article. The PCCT is a structured model for creating experiential learning through interaction. The interaction accumulates. The accumulated interaction provides for changes in the imprint patterns of the participants. Behavior is modified.

There are a number of additional issues in counseling and psychotherapy that could have been included here, if space permitted. We are aware of some very pressing issues around substance abuse, child abuse, and suicide. Perhaps a future edition can reflect on such issues.

Daniel W. Fullmer  
Associate Editor

---