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Special Issue 2022 Table of Contents

Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness: Research Education, and Practice JCSSW

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Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness: Research, Practice, and Education
Special Issue 2022, Vol. 4 No. 2, 54-90

Letter From the Special Issue Editor Megan Speciale

54-55. In the midst of the final drafting of the 2024 CACREP standards, this special issue is designed to call attention to the important role of sexuality across the CACREP specialty areas. Voices from across the counseling community have come together to create this special issue. Their contributions and perspective are shared here.

A Path Towards Intersectionality-Informed Counseling Sexology: A Special Commentary Bianca R. Augustine

56-59. It is the goal of professionals within the field of counseling sexology and sexual wellness to provide clients with clinical mental health counseling through a sex-positive and affirming framework. To do so, clinicians must pay special attention to best practices in the field, especially as it relates to historically oppressed and minoritized clients. To do so, appropriate training is required to inform care. Furthermore, clinical practice is also informed by research, making it imperative that research is conducted related to various aspects of sexual wellness and treatment. This commentary will identify and discuss sexual health and wellness priorities within the field of clinical mental health counseling to outline future directions for the field.

Human Sexuality Education for Counseling Students, An Ethical Imperative: A Special Commentary Meagan S. McBride

60-62. Human sexuality is a profound and multifaceted component of the human condition that is universally experienced. As such, it is an inevitability that issues related to human sexuality will come up in counseling settings; however, there is a lack of medically accurate sex education in K-12 schools. Additionally, there is no requirement, except for in three states, for students in mental health counseling programs to complete a course on human sexuality. While human sexuality is not a specific competency outlined by CACREP or ACA, it is universally experienced by all clients and counselors. This special commentary highlights the ethical need for counselors and counselor educators to be prepared to best serve their clients, and most importantly do no harm.

Counseling Sexology in Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling: A Special Commentary Judith A. Nelson

63-65. Healthy couple and family sexuality adds satisfaction and intimacy to the most important human relationships. Systemic work around sexual issues can be complex yet very satisfying. This commentary includes basic information on clinical priorities in working with couples and families including how a counselor's comfort level might determine outcomes in sexuality counseling. Research and training priorities and their impact are also discussed.

LGBTQ+ Substance Use and Sexual Health and Wellbeing: A Special Commentary Michael P. Chaney & Nicole Urhahn-Schmitt

66-69. Although there has been some increased visibility in professional counseling literature pertaining to LGBTQ+ issues, gaps still exist. One such omission is how LGBTQ+ sexual wellbeing is negatively influenced by substance use. This commentary briefly reviews ways LGBTQ+ sexual wellbeing is negatively impacted by substance use. We provide commentary on how counselors may bolster sexual wellbeing when working with LGBTQ+ substance users and highlight gaps in counseling research. Lastly, recommendations for integrating this content into counselor training are provided.

Integrating Sexuality Issues in Career Counseling: A Special Commentary Megan Speciale & Dominique Oster

70-72. The integration of sexual health and wellness competencies within the career counseling specialization is a crucial aspect of providing comprehensive support to clients. This integration holds significance in three key areas: clinical practice, research, and training. In clinical practice, addressing sexual health concerns that may impact career decisions can enhance the comprehensive support provided to clients. In research, exploring the relationship between sexual health and career development and satisfaction is crucial. Furthermore, incorporating sexual health and wellness competencies into training programs for career counselors is necessary to ensure practitioners have the knowledge and skills required to effectively support clients in this area. Ultimately,

the prioritization of sexual health and wellness within the career counseling specialization has the potential to lead to improved overall well-being and career satisfaction for clients.

**Incorporating Sexual Health Content into the
Rehabilitation Counseling Graduate Program
Curriculum: A Special Commentary**
Kenneth C. Hergenrather, Nichole Tichy, & Maureen
McGuire-Kuletz

73-76. Sexual health is considered a state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being (World Health Organization, 2006). Persons with disabilities are likely to be presumed as sexually inactive, asexual (Rico Alonso et al., 2021; Sant Angelo, 2000), or sexually deviant (Earle, 2001), often leading to their lack of sexual education, an increased risk of sexual exploitation, unwanted pregnancy, or sexually transmitted infections (STIs; Doughty et al., 2017). This commentary addresses three priorities for rehabilitation counseling graduate program curriculum. Clinical priorities should focus on providing persons with disabilities information and education regarding sexual health and wellness. Training priorities should focus on implementation of multicultural competence to holistically support persons with disabilities and understanding their sexual identities to better facilitate successful gainful employment and independent living. Research should prioritize sexual health for persons with disabilities and the association with employment outcomes to create a more inclusive rehabilitation counseling curriculum.

**Abstinence-Only Sex Education in Public Schools: A
Special Commentary**
Julianna Williams

77-79. Abstinence Only Until Marriage (AOUM) programs, also known as Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) programs, are non-comprehensive, religion and values-based programs that are still widely used, and supported by government funding, in schools around the United States of America. Content of these programs include messages of misogyny, heteronormativity, and racism, among others. Existing research has indicated that sex education programs lack efficacy in prevention or reduction in teen pregnancy and STI infection. However, little research has investigated the potentially harmful impact of biased messaging to long term sexual and mental health and well-being. In this commentary, I highlight some of the messaging included in AOUM and SRA programs and suggest future research into the impact on sexual development, intimate relationships, and mental health and wellness.

**Supporting Mental, Emotional, and Sexual Wellness for
LGBTQ+ College Students: A Special Commentary**
Devyn Savitsky, Madeleine Stevens, & Mahmoud Yacoub

80-84. This brief commentary addresses the importance of campus-wide sexual health initiatives for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and other sexual and affectional identities (LGBTQ+) college students. LGBTQ+ college students in the emerging adulthood life stage are particularly susceptible to stigmatized, inequitable physical and mental healthcare, making the need for intentional and affirming support from college counselors, on-campus healthcare providers, and student affairs professionals essential. This article addresses LGBTQ+ friendly communication strategies, specific counseling modalities for work surrounding LGBTQ+ college student sexual health, implications for counselor education and supervision, as well as ongoing research priorities for college counselors. Because sexual health is relevant throughout the lifespan, we emphasize the importance of instilling strong foundational principles of consent, safety, responsibility, and joyful exploration during this phase.

Transgender College Athletes: A Special Commentary
Sonja Lund & Tiffany M. Bordonada

85-87. Recently, multiple bills from various states have attempted to ban transgender athletes from participating in sports. Guided by misinformation, these bills and policies set a dangerous precedent that is overall harmful to the well-being of trans athletes. This article discusses clinical, research, training, and advocacy priorities that should be addressed to protect the rights of trans athletes.

**Sex-Positive Clinical Supervision: A Special
Commentary**
Beda A. Bjorn

88-90. This commentary focuses on clinical competencies, research frameworks, training implications that elevate the meta-competence awareness for the clinical supervisor. There is an identified need to expand sex-positive clinical supervision guidelines. The supervisory setting is created for the safety and personal-professional growth of the supervisee, where it is an opportunity to conceptualize the thematic development of our clinical evolution. In this space, we set a foundation for clinical frameworks to guide the applicability of specific intervention methods and strategies that allow for the critical formulation of a healthy therapeutic outcome. Without established and robust sex-positive frameworks in supervision, the clinical supervisor is exposed to incompetent practices that miss an adequate assessment, detection, and treatment, all critical elements of the conceptualization process. To make matters worse, the lack of training and preparation in sexual wellness and other sexual topics

is transferred onto the supervisee, creating a circuit of uninformed clinicians and left to fend on their own when encountering a future client seeking treatment. Not only are we causing a disservice to our supervisees, but we are perpetually injuring the clinical community as a whole. This commentary will examine the clinical, research and training priorities in clinical mental health counseling.

Submissions

If you are interested in submitting your work to *JCSSW* for consideration for publication, you can locate our submission requirements at <https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/jcssw/styleguide.html>. The *JCSSW* editorial team is committed to ensuring an efficient review process and aims to communicate all initial decisions within 90 days of submission. Please also feel free to contact [Robert J. Zeglin](#) (Editor) or [Megan Speciale](#) (Associate Editor) with any questions.