

The Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness is
a Division of the American Counseling Association

Summer 2025

***Association of
Counseling Sexology
&
Sexual Wellness
Newsletter***

The mission of ACSSW, an Organizational Affiliate of ACA, is to promote sexuality as a central aspect of being human that includes the intersection of intrapersonal and interpersonal influences on sexual expression and experiences.

Recommended Citation:

ACSSW Newsletter. (Summer, 2025). Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness Newsletter, 6(2)

<https://www.counselingsexology.com>



Table of Contents

Letter from 24-25 ACSSW President	3
Update on ACSSW Division Status	6
ACSSW 25-26 Election Results	8
Dr. Mark Pope Emerging Leader 25-26 Recipients	11
Articles:	13
~ <i>Rediscovering and Reclaiming Postpartum Sexual Self</i>	
~ <i>Accessing Student Support Services: The Early Stages</i>	
ACSSW 25-26 Annual Webinar Series	23
Teaching While Queer - New Non-Profit	25
<i>Information on Upcoming Conference & Submitting Proposals</i>	
ACSSW Committees: We Need You!	27
• BIPOC Committee • Education & Training Committee • Promotion & Membership Committee • Research & Literature Committee • Social Justice & Advocacy Committee	
Joining Editorial Newsletter Team!	31
Submissions for JCSSW	32
• ACES Counselor's Corner Highlights JCSSW & Exemplary Practices	
ACSSW Leadership	33
Sexuality Resources	35

LETTER FROM THE ACSSW PRESIDENT

by Laurie Bonjo, NCC, CSC, Ph.D

Dear ACSSW Members,

As I transition from the role of President to Past-President of ACSSW, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation and reflect on the incredible journey we've shared together.

Serving as President of this visionary and justice-centered organization has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life. Over the past year, I've witnessed ACSSW not only grow but deepen its roots—expanding our reach while holding fast to the values that define us: inclusion, equity, sex-positivity, and critical consciousness in counseling and counselor education. This growth—both outward and inward—has been made possible by the passionate and tireless energy of so many individuals, and I am deeply grateful.

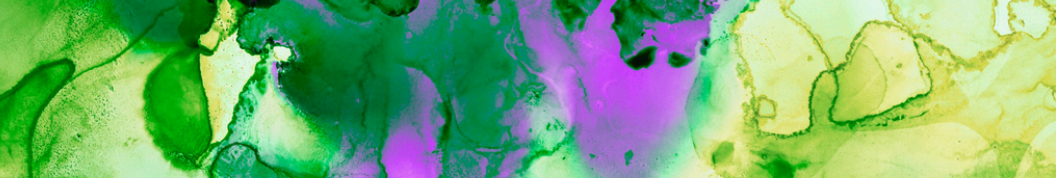
It is with great excitement that I pass the torch to **Dr. Amber Pope**, who will step into the role of President. Amber brings tremendous insight, integrity, and fierce dedication to our mission. I know ACSSW will thrive under her thoughtful and transformative leadership. I am equally delighted to welcome **Sheldon Aaron** as our new President-Elect. Sheldon's energy and commitment to liberation-oriented practice and scholarship will be a powerful force in the year ahead.

I extend my sincerest thanks to our Board of Trustees:

- **Dr. Marty Jencius**, for his institutional wisdom and unwavering support,
- **Dr. Patricia Arredondo**, for her lifelong advocacy for justice and inclusion, and
- **Dr. Jane Rheineck**, for her fierce commitment to equity and her role in shaping ACSSW's foundation.

A very special note of gratitude goes to **Dr. Frances McClain**, a founding member of ACSSW, whose tireless work behind the scenes has kept our members informed, connected, and inspired. Their incredible stewardship of the **newsletter** and **webinar programming** has elevated the voice and visibility of ACSSW in profound ways.

Thank you as well to **Dr. Angie Shubert**, also a founding member of ACSSW, whose visionary leadership of the **Education and Training Committee** has shaped the direction of our learning and professional development. Her passion for this work is evident in all that she does and reflects the spirit of ACSSW's mission.



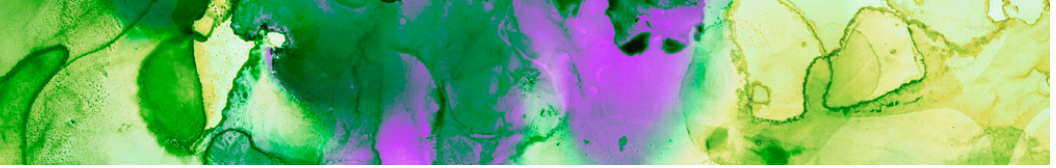
We also owe immense appreciation to **Kameela George**, who has taken on and built out the crucial role of **Treasurer** with diligence and innovation as we begin our journey as a formal division. And to **Tanisha James**, our **Membership Committee Chair**, whose dedication to growing and supporting our community has been instrumental to our ongoing success.

Of course, I must thank **Dr. Shannon Shoemaker**, our immediate Past-President, for her guidance, mentorship, and enduring support throughout my presidency. In addition to her leadership as Past-President, **Dr. Shoemaker** has also taken on the role of **Editor of the *Journal of Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness (JCSSW)***, where she is cultivating a vital scholarly space for sex-positive, justice-oriented, and clinically relevant work. I strongly encourage all of our members to consider submitting to JCSSW—whether you're conducting research, offering clinical insight, or exploring theory. Your voices belong in our field's academic literature, and this journal provides a welcoming platform for the important work we are doing.

Thanks to the dedication of this incredible team, we have officially become the newest division within our professional home. This achievement is a testament to what is possible when a community comes together with shared vision and deep commitment. I am so grateful for the energy, creativity, and labor that keeps ACSSW growing.

As we navigate an increasingly hostile sociopolitical climate—one marked by attacks on bodily autonomy, LGBTQIA+ rights, sex education, and racial justice—it is more important than ever that we stand in **solidarity and unity**. Our work is not just professional—it is deeply personal, deeply political, and deeply needed. ACSSW offers a space where we can come together to resist erasure, affirm lived experiences, and envision liberatory paths forward.

In this context, I want to uplift and affirm the vital work of **school counselors**, who are often on the front lines of advocacy for youth. The courage it takes to provide inclusive, developmentally appropriate, and affirming **safer sex education in public schools** cannot be overstated. This work is essential to the holistic and healthy development of today's students—and it is under attack. As an organization, we must continue to support, resource, and amplify school counselors who are committed to justice and equity in this critical space.



As we continue this collective work, I invite and encourage each of you to deepen your engagement by joining one of our vibrant committees. Whether your interests lie in the **BIPOC Committee, Education & Training, Social Justice & Advocacy, Membership & Promotion, or Research & Scholarship**, there is a space for your voice, your vision, and your leadership. ACSSW thrives because of the diverse contributions of its members—and that includes you.

We are in a moment of beautiful momentum—expanding and deepening simultaneously—and I believe it’s vital to honor both of these trajectories. As I step into the role of Past-President, I look forward to continuing to support this powerful work, and to witnessing all the ways ACSSW will evolve in the capable hands of its next leaders.

With deep gratitude and unwavering solidarity,

Laurie Bonjo, Ph.D.
Past-President, ACSSW



**THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNSELING SEXOLOGY & SEXUAL WELLNESS
BECOMES THE 20TH DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION**

Dear ACSSW Membership,

We are pleased to announce that The Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness (ACSSW) was approved as a new division of the American Counseling Association (ACA) in September 2024 and begins its official operations on July 1, 2025. During the past several months, we have been assembling our leadership and working diligently with division leadership and ACA senior staff to fine tune the governance and operational tasks to ensure a successful launch.

The ACSSW Board has approved a new division dues schedule which is effective July 1, 2025. Please see the table below:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ~ Professional: \$50 | ~ Regular: \$50 |
| ~ New Professional 1 (1st year): \$45 | ~ New Professional 2 (2nd year): \$45 |
| ~ Student: \$40 | ~ Retired: \$40* |

** There is a misprint in ACA Member Service's Center (MSC)'s number. The number below is correct for anyone eager to join ACSSW! **

1. *Current ACA Members: Call the ACA Member Services Center (MSC) at 1-800-298-2276, Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm ET to add ACSSW as a division membership to your existing ACA member profile.*
2. *Non-members of ACA can join ACSSW, and also need to contact the MSC team for assistance. You may join ACSSW on or after July 1, 2025.*

We continue to see ACSSW as a leading voice and advocate to ensure sexuality is a part of the discussion with clients and encourage you to stay connected to ACSSW by joining the division. If you are a current ACA member, you can call the ACA Member Services Center (MSC) at 1-800-298-2276, Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm ET to add ACSSW as a division membership to your existing ACA member profile. Non-members of ACA must contact the MSC team for assistance. You may join ACSSW on or after July 1, 2025.

Now that we are a fully approved division of ACA, our promise and commitment to members does not change. In fact, it strengthens our resolve to continue providing qualitative benefits and connections to build your skills and share knowledge as you serve and guide your clients in the area of sexuality and wellness.



Why join ACSSW as a paid member? Here are a few reasons to stay connected and engaged with our unique and powerful organization.

- Reduced cost for ACSSW events, including monthly webinars and upcoming conference and certification track (est. release date for these professional development opportunities is 2026)
- Access to video archive of monthly webinars
- Access to archived newsletters and the Resource Library
- Free consultation with ACSSW therapists who have expertise in sexuality counseling
- ACSSW membership logo
- Enrollment to ACSSW email listserv and ACA Connect community
- Opportunities for networking with ACSSW members

Incoming 2025-26 President Amber Pope says “I joined ACSSW primarily to expand my networking with other practitioners that view sexuality as a core component of the human experience that needs to be included in all counseling and mental health practice. The most valuable resources are the monthly webinars to expand my own knowledge base; the newsletter which provides brief research-based overviews of topics and resources to further my professional development and practice; and the people I have met within the organization.”

So, do not delay. Join ACSSW today and continue your commitment to this important work and in support of your dedicated leadership. If you have any questions, please contact acssw@counselingsexology.com. Sincerely,

Amber Pope, ACSSW President
Laurie Bonjo, ACSSW Past President
The ACSSW Board of Directors



ELECTION RESULTS

We are excited to announce the results of the
2025 - 2026 ACSSW elections!

Join us in congratulating the newest incoming members of the
ACSSW Board of Directors...

ACSSW PRESIDENT-ELECT 25-26

Aaron has served the last 2 years as ACSSW secretary. He also graciously stepped up to assist in the publication of the Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness when there was an unexpected change in editorial leadership. He has done all of this while completing his dissertation! We are grateful for his service and know he will continue to make wonderful contributions to ACSSW.



Sheldon Aaron, LCPC, NCC
(He/Him/His)

Sheldon Aaron is an Assistant Professor at William James College in Newton, MA. In his professorship, Sheldon teaches human sexuality, couples and family counseling, counseling theories, multicultural counseling, and clinical practice seminar course. Sheldon is also a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in Illinois, a National Certified Counselor, and holds Level-1 Training in Gottman Method Couples Therapy. Sheldon completed his master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Eastern Illinois University and is currently a Doctoral Candidate in the Counselor Education and Supervision program at the University of Central Florida. In his clinical role, Sheldon specializes in working with LGBTQEQIAP+ adolescents and adults, and individuals presenting with depression, anxiety, suicide ideation, relational difficulties, and general adjustment related symptoms. Sheldon's research interest includes counseling instructor and student development, advancement of cultural humility and sensitivity when working with students and clients of color and those who identify as LGBTQEQIAP+. Sheldon is also interested in research advancing professional standards of care with these populations. Sheldon is an active member of ACA, ACSSW, ACES, AMCD, and SAIGE.

ACSSW SECRETARY 25-27



Julia L. Lancaster, PhD, LPC, ACS, BC-TMH

She/Her/Hers

Dr. Julia Lancaster is a remote assistant professor and clinical coordinator for South University's clinical mental health counseling program in West Palm Beach, FL. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and board approved supervisor for LPC and LMFT licensure in Virginia. She is the owner of a private practice, Mind, Movement, and More LLC, with additional training as a board certified-telemental health provider through CCE.

She has been a reviewer for ACSSW's journal the Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness: Research, Practice, and Education since 2022 and a contributing author to ACSSW's peer review newsletter. Research and advocacy include cross-national collaborations with faculty from Swansea University, UK to reduce academic disciplinary actions and harassment against students in the sex industry. Further efforts are planned to develop training for student service providers with recent publications addressing the gap between student service providers readiness to support students in the sex industry and students' beliefs about that readiness and awareness. In addition, at the end of each day, she is a proud mom of two daughters who have always been encouraged to speak their truth.



Kim Hughes, M.A., Ed.S., Resident in Counseling
Doctoral Student in Counselor Education & Supervision
(She / Her / Hers)

Kim Hughes is a current doctoral student in the Counselor Education & Supervision Ph.D. program at William & Mary and a resident in counseling in the state of Virginia. Kim's research and clinical interests center on gender and sexuality development, anti-fat bias and body dissatisfaction, and the social experience of grief. Entering her second year of doctoral study, Kim's current research focuses on the intersection of anti-fat bias and sexual expression, particularly in the context of sexual pleasure.

In her clinical work, Kim integrates aspects of humanistic counseling, critical theory, and liberation psychology. Kim has presented at the state, national, and international levels on anti-fat bias, sexual desire and temperament, body presentation and disordered eating, and race-based trauma. Prior to attending William & Mary, Kim received her M.A. and Ed.S. from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA.

DR. MARK POPE EMERGING LEADER RECIPIENTS 25-26

ACSSW is excited to announce the Dr. Mark Pope Emerging Leaders recipients for 2025-2026. Our Emerging Leaders are provided mentorship, leadership through the ACSSW Executive Council, and various professional opportunities. After their year as Emerging Leaders, our hope is they will continue to embody the mission of ACSSW within the organization, the American Counseling Association, the counseling and mental health field, at various institutions, and within their communities.



Doctoral Level Recipient: Jerry L. Mize (He/Him)

Jerry is a doctoral student in Counselor Education and Supervision at the University of the Cumberland and a Resident in Counseling based in Richmond, VA. As an emerging scholar and clinician, his work centers on the intersection of sex, sexuality, and mental health, with current research projects exploring counselor competency and comfort in addressing sexual issues. Jerry has authored peer-reviewed publications, presented nationally, and is actively engaged in promoting inclusive approaches to sexuality in counseling.

Clinically, he maintains an active caseload working with individuals and those in relationships impacted by sexuality, identity, and trauma. He also serves as an Instructor and Online Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Psychology at George Mason University. More information about Jerry can be found at <https://linktr.ee/jerrymize>.



DR. MARK POPE-EMERGING LEADER RECIPIENTS 25-26



Master Level Recipient: Iris Wilson-Farley (she/her)

After a 33-year career in corporate Human Resources that included 25 years in learning and career coaching and three years working at the executive level, Iris Wilson-Farley is a second-career counselor-in-training, focused on learning about trauma-informed practices, sexual diversity, and how she can best serve the LGBTQIA+ community. She is in her second year in the Master's in CMHC program at The Chicago School and is a proud member of the American Counseling Association's Association for Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness (ACSSW), and the Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex and Gender Expansive Identities (SAIGE). In January 2025, Iris was featured on The Modern Therapist Survival Guide podcast, as part of their series on graduate students' motivations, expectations, and experiences.

As a transgender lesbian, Iris hopes to bring a unique perspective to her work with the ACSSW Board and committees and is eager to learn and contribute. Iris lives in Chicago with her wife, their dog (Scooby), and their cat (Mac). Outside of her studies, Iris enjoys running, watching old movies, and being part of the pinup community. At the end of June, after competing twice and placing among the top five contestants in prior years, Iris was invited to be a judge for the MOTOBLOT Pinup Contest, one of the Midwest's largest and most prestigious pinup events!





ARTICLES

Rediscovering and Reclaiming Postpartum Sexual Self

By Juquatta Brewer, Ph.D, LPC, ACS

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION | SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

The transition to parenthood is a profound shift, marked by emotional, physical, and relational transformations. Birthing individuals often enter the postpartum period having experienced significant control over their bodies, only to find that autonomy is diminished in the face of newborn care. While focus typically centers on the baby's needs, the sexual health and identity of the birthing parent are often ignored, despite being critical to overall wellness and relationship satisfaction (Hicıylmaz & Coşkun, 2020). Postpartum sexual challenges are common, with studies reporting 41%–83% of birthing parents experiencing concerns such as low desire, pain, or difficulty with arousal within months after delivery (Barrett et al., 2005; Gutzeit et al., 2020). Physical trauma, hormonal shifts, emotional exhaustion, and psychological adjustments all contribute to changes in sexual functioning. Counselors are uniquely positioned to validate and support clients in navigating and reclaiming their sexual selves during this time.

Physiological and Psychological Changes Postpartum

The postpartum period is considered to last 6-8 weeks; however, the accompanying shifts extend long beyond this according to birthing parents. Estrogen and androgen levels decrease rapidly while prolactin rises, especially during breastfeeding, which can result in vaginal dryness, reduced libido and other changes in the individual's sexual response (Connolly et al., 2005). Physical trauma from childbirth, such as perineal tears, episiotomies, or cesarean recovery, often contributes to dyspareunia or discomfort during sexual intercourse for long periods. Adding sleep deprivation, hormonal changes, and risk for postpartum depression or anxiety to the mix, a birthing parent can experience further disruption to their sexual functioning and self-esteem.

Setting the physical changes aside, postpartum parents often struggle with a loss of sexual identity. The shift to caregiving roles, societal pressures to get back in shape post-baby, and other struggles with body image add to the risk of disconnecting from their sexual self. While their experiences are common, someone may grapple with getting help because they don't know how common this experience is because it is rarely discussed openly. Counselors can create space for these experiences to be heard, validated, and treated.

Cultural and Social Influences

Cultural norms significantly shape postpartum sexual beliefs and behaviors. In some cultures, extended abstinence is expected to promote healing or protect the infant (Wang et al., 2019). In others, implicit or explicit pressure to resume sex early to satisfy a partner is common, regardless of the birthing parent's readiness (Gadisa et al., 2021). Many societal scripts prioritize the birthing parent's caregiving identity while downplaying or stigmatizing their sexuality. Shame, cultural taboos, and lack of inclusive language around postpartum sex can leave individuals feeling broken or abnormal (Ollivier et al., 2020). Counselors should approach these dynamics with cultural humility and curiosity by gently exploring how religion, family traditions, and societal expectations shape a client's understanding of sexuality. By identifying and challenging harmful myths, counselors can empower clients to reconnect with their sexual agency in ways that are authentic to them.

Counselor Awareness and Sensitivity

Counselors provide some of the few safe spaces for clients to explore postpartum intimacy without fear or shame. The most important thing a counselor can do is routinely inquire about sexual wellness and sexual concerns when working with postpartum clients. Asking open questions and not waiting for clients to bring up sex normalizes these discussions and reduces stigma (Hiçyılmaz & Coşkun, 2020). Providing empathy and validation goes a long way in affirming the client's struggles. A counselor should acknowledge there are changes to the birthing parent's body and that their needs may shift. Issues with desire or arousal are common, and clients should know that it is okay to prioritize pleasure and agency. Providing validation to their feelings, especially around loss of desire, guilt, or frustration, is critical for a client in rebuilding their confidence and sexual power.

Counselors should engage in holistic screening to assess co-occurring issues that could affect sexuality, like postpartum depression or anxiety, or relationship conflicts. It may be necessary to collaborate with other providers, like a gynecologist, for issues like hormonal imbalances or pain management as necessary. It will be important to use inclusive language about sexual orientation and identity (e.g., transgender parents, non-binary identities) as well as diverse family and relational structures. Additionally, it is vital to recognize that a client's sexual history or history of trauma may impact postpartum sexuality.

Another way counselors can help is by providing psychoeducation and expectation management about postpartum healing times. This may require counselors to know and understand how hormonal, emotional, and physical changes impact clients to work with them on reducing self-blame for these shifts. For example, understanding hormonal effects, such as breastfeeding suppressing libido, is physiological and can help clients know that their low libido is not a personal failure (Smetanina et al., 2023).

Respecting each client's cultural or religious values regarding postpartum sexuality will guide treatment. Counselors should explore beliefs gently (e.g., asking "What did you hear about postpartum sex from family or tradition?") and correct myths compassionately. Also, embrace an empowering spirit while stressing the birthing parent's right to sexual agency and pleasure. Self-advocacy through means such as communicating needs to their partner and self-care should be encouraged. This will be a good start for clients to reclaim their sense of self beyond being a caregiver and allowing them to reintegrate their identity as a sexual being on their terms. Being a parent and a sexual being can coexist.

Counseling Interventions

In addition to being aware and sensitive in this area, counselors can pull from a variety of approaches to support postpartum clients in reclaiming their sexual selves. The PLISSIT/Ex-PLISSIT Model can help guide counseling with postpartum clients. Beginning with Permission (P), counselors can invite clients to share concerns about sex without judgment. Then moving into offering targeted, Limited Information (LI) about common physiological changes and how they, psychology, and fatigue can impact desire, and sexual response can help relieve anxiety. Then, a counselor can provide Specific Suggestions (SS) such as using lubricants, exploring non-penetrative intimacy, or delaying intercourse until comfort returns. Research supports the PLISSIT model as an effective tool for improving postpartum sexual satisfaction (Abdelhakm et al., 2018).

Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) can help clients target and reframe distorted beliefs while addressing negative body image. Incorporating behavioral activation, relaxation techniques, and cognitive restructuring are helpful strategies. Clinical trials have found that CBT-based counseling improved postpartum women's sexual function and self-efficacy (Erfanifar et al., 2022). CBT, narrative therapy, or self-compassion exercises can help reframe the postpartum body, which becomes beneficial as improved body image correlates with higher sexual satisfaction (Dawson et al., 2023; Papini et al., 2022). Mindfulness-based sex therapy and sensate focus exercises can be great tools in encouraging presence and nonjudgmental awareness of bodily sensations to rebuild comfortable touch and intimacy. Research shows that mindfulness-based therapy and sensate focus activities can help improve participants' sexual desire and sexual satisfaction and reduce pain (Brotto & Basson, 2014; Brotto et al., 2016).

Counselors can teach assertive communication using models like BETTER (Bring up the topic, Explain, Tell, Timing, Educate, Record) to help clients improve sexual self-advocacy and intimacy. BETTER-model counseling increases sexual self-disclosure in new parents, which is linked to greater intimacy and satisfaction (Karimi et al., 2021). Sometimes, brief sessions with the couple using Emotionally Focused Therapy or sensate focus homework can restore connection and mutual support (Zamani et al., 2019).

Lastly, counselors should be prepared to provide interdisciplinary referrals when necessary and follow up with the client regarding their postpartum sexual wellness regularly for support. Suppose medical issues such as pelvic pain or hormonal imbalances persist. In that case, referring to OB/GYNs, pelvic floor physical therapists, or certified sex therapists can go a long way for the client, securing targeted treatment. Normalize with clients that recovery may take time. Have periodic check-ins to revisit sexual health goals and provide appropriate resources whenever possible. Clients working to reclaim their sexual selves need encouragement to maintain patience and self-compassion through the process.

Implications for Practice

Supporting postpartum sexual wellness is not an optional conversation. It is an essential part of providing trauma-informed, identity-affirming care. Counselors have the opportunity to reframe postpartum sexuality as valid, meaningful, and worthy of attention. When counselors integrate sexual wellness and sexual health into postpartum counseling, they offer clients permission to reconnect with their desires, reclaim their agency, and reimagine intimacy on their terms. Sexuality after childbirth may not look the same, but it can still be a fulfilling and powerful experience. Sexual identity does not disappear with the arrival of a child: it transforms. Our role as counselors is to hold space for this transformation, guide clients through their rediscovery, and remind them that being a parent and a sexual being are not mutually exclusive.

References

- Abdelhakim, E. M., Said, A. R., & Sobhy Elsayed, D. M. (2018). Effect of PLISSIT Model sexual counseling program on sexual quality of life for postpartum women. *American Journal of Nursing Science*, 7(2), 63-72. <http://doi.org/10.11648/j.ajns.20180702.14>
- Barrett, G., Pendry, E., Peacock, J., Victor, C., Thakar, R., & Manyonda, I. (2005). Women's sexual health after childbirth. *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 107, 186-195. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-0528.2000.tb11689.x>
- Brotto, L. A., & Basson, R. (2014). Group mindfulness-based therapy significantly improves sexual desire in women. *Behaviour research and therapy*, 57, 43-54. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brat.2014.04.001>
- Brotto, L. A., Chivers, M. L., Millman, R. D., & Albert, A. (2016). Mindfulness-based sex therapy improves genital-subjective arousal concordance in women with sexual desire/arousal difficulties. *Archives of sexual behavior*, 45(8), 1907-1921. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-015-0689-8>
- Connolly, A., Thorp, J., & Pahl, L. (2005). Effects of pregnancy and childbirth on postpartum sexual function: a longitudinal prospective study. *International Urogynecology Journal and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction*, 16(4), 263-267. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00192-005-1293-6>
- Dawson, S. J., Fitzpatrick, E. T., Farm, G. H. J., & Rosen, N. O. (2023). Self-compassion and compassionate love are positively associated with sexual and relational well-being among expectant and new parent couples. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 52(8), 3393-3404. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-023-02658-8>
- Erfanifar, E., behrooz, N., Latifi, S. M., & Abbaspoor, Z. (2022). The effectiveness of cognitive-behavioural consultation on sexual function and sexual self-efficacy of women after childbirth. *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology*, 15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eurox.2022.100157>

References Continued

- Gadisa, T. B., G/Michael, M. W., Reda, M. M., & Aboma, B. D. (2021). Early resumption of postpartum sexual intercourse and its associated risk factors among married postpartum women who visited public hospitals of Jimma zone, Southwest Ethiopia: A cross-sectional study. *PLoS one*, 16(3). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0247769>
- Gutzeit, O., Levy, G., & Lowenstein, L. (2020). Postpartum Female Sexual Function: Risk Factors for Postpartum Sexual Dysfunction. *Sexual Medicine*, 8(1), 8–13. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esxm.2019.10.005>
- Hiçyılmaz, B. D. & Coşkun, N. (2020). The importance of postpartum period sexual counseling and sexual counseling models in nursing. *Journal of Education and Research in Nursing*, 19(1), 117–122. <http://doi.org/10.5152/jern.2022.55265>
- Karimi, F., Babazadeh, R., Roudsari, R. L., Asgharipour, N., & Esmaily, H. (2021). Comparing the effectiveness of sexual counseling based on PLISSIT and BETTER models on sexual self-disclosure in women with sexual problems after childbirth: A randomized trial. *Iranian Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Research*, 26(1), 68–74. https://doi.org/10.4103/ijnmr.IJNMR_265_19
- Ollivier, R. A., Aston, M. L., & Price, S. L. (2020). Exploring postpartum sexual health: A feminist poststructural analysis. *Health care for women international*, 41(10), 1081–1100. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07399332.2019.1638923>
- Papini, N. M., Mason, T. B., Herrmann, S. D., & Lopez N.V. (2022). Self-compassion and body image in pregnancy and postpartum: A randomized pilot trial of a brief self-compassion meditation intervention. *Body Image*, 43, 264–274. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bodyim.2022.09.010>
- Smetanina, D., Awar, S. A., Khair, H., Alkaabi, M., Das, K. M., Ljubisavljevic, M., Statsenko, Y., & Zareba, K. T. (2023). Risk of sexual dysfunctions in breastfeeding females: Protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ Open*, 13(8), e074630. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2023-074630>
- Wang, Q., Fongkaew, W., Petrini, M., Kantaruksa, K., Chaloumsuk, N., & Wang, S. (2019). An ethnographic study of traditional postpartum beliefs and practices among Chinese women. *Pacific Rim International Journal of Nursing Research*, 23(2), 142–155.
- Zamani, M., Latifnejad Roudsari, R., Moradi, M., & Esmaily, H. (2019). The effect of sexual health counseling on women's sexual satisfaction in postpartum period: A randomized clinical trial. *International Journal of Reproductive Biomedicine*, 17(1), 41–50. <https://doi.org/10.18502/ijrm.v17i1.3819>

Correspondence regarding this article should be addressed to:
Juquatta Brewer, Ph.D., LPC (GA), CPCS, ACS | she, her, hers
Assistant Clinical Professor
CACREP Liaison
[Online Clinical Mental Health Counseling](#)
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION | SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
jbrewer1@seattleu.edu

Accessing Student Support Services: The Early Stages

By Julia Lancaster, Ph.D., LPC (VA), ACS, BC-TMH

South University - WPB

and

Tracey Sagar, PhD

School of Social Sciences, Swansea University, UK

Background

Amid earlier feminist movements sex work oscillated between ideologies of empowerment and exploitation, or agency and victimhood. Similar discourses persist today with much of the United States of America (USA) criminalizing selling and purchasing sex, and conflation of consensual sex work with fears of human trafficking and coercion (Weitzer, 2020). While in the United Kingdom (UK) selling sex is legal, with restrictions, both countries have had an uneasy interplay between efforts to punish sex workers and rescue them. In the UK for example we have seen this in government policies from early feminist rescue work, i.e. we can save you if you will be saved, if not you are an offender (Carline & Scoular, 2015).

When it comes to deciding the rights and opinions of student sex workers it is also complex for universities but data on students engaged in the sex industry suggests that force, coercion, and exploitation are far less associated with students (Roberts, 2022). This is in part why students engaged in sex work upset assumptions, their backgrounds, their agency – middle class occupations (Bernstein, 2007). They operate within a labour framework (Trueman et al., 2022); albeit that agency is often exercised in the face of economic pressure and other system forces. Leading experts in recent years to believe that the global economic crisis on the back of a global pandemic has led to more students engaging in sex work on a global scale.

Recent Efforts

With continued awareness raising efforts, The National Union of Students (NUS) in the UK is backing the rights of students engaged in sex work and the decriminalisation of sex work. The NUS used research from an earlier large-scale study, The Student Sex Worker Project (TSSWP). The Student Sex Worker Project also created a training that has been delivered to over 1,000 individuals in higher education (HE) and front-line workers such as police officers and health care providers.

The National Union of Students carried out its own research and today it recognises the stigma student sex workers face (NUS, 2016; Sagar et al., 2015). The NUS has amended its own policies, as well as supporting the

the removal of all laws against sex workers. In the USA, students are less unionised, and training as far as we are aware, yet to be developed. Still new data indicates that student support staff can understand very well the negative impact of prejudice and consequential oppression for student sex workers (Lancaster & Sagar, 2025). However, while support for students engaged in sex work has progressed, there has been negligible progress to assist student service providers to provide appropriate and effective support for student sex workers.

Introduction

For the purposes of this paper, the researchers refer to students engaged in the sex industry as sex workers given that most students voluntarily enter the industry without coercion or force. While acknowledging various socioeconomic pressures that place a burden on students such as rising tuition fees.

Given the increasing similarities in the UK and USA such as HE fees and sex work stigmatisation, this article draws on the researchers' data from a small study carried out in the UK and USA with two academics who wanted to understand barriers and enablers for student sex workers accessing HE student support services in the UK and USA (Lancaster & Sagar, 2025). The findings shine light on the budding readiness amongst student support service providers to support students in HE in the UK and the USA. The purpose of the study isn't concerned with whether training should take place instead it is concerned with how training can develop further especially in the USA. This is particularly important given the continuing commonly held opinions in current professional literature.

Student sex work research has focused mostly on students with participants reporting they do not believe they will receive proper support from staff with some stating they believe staff to be largely untrustworthy. The data, however, shows, and supports the previous TSSWP findings, that some service providers are understanding and empathic to the possible challenges these students face, and want to do a good job. They want their student services to be inclusive and first and foremost not to cause harm.

Within universities the silence around sex work is a huge barrier to creating the right infrastructure for safe spaces to exist (Lancaster & Sagar, 2024). Also, as with other policies, universities shouldn't be quick to assume that policy and training are easily transferrable such as that in the UK translating to the USA. Also, to date, the two known UK trainings – both TSSWP and that by Trueman, didn't assess levels of knowledge amongst service providers to know which gaps to close in trainings.

Findings

The interviews were semi structured with questions centering on two key areas:

1. Participant perceptions about students engaged in sex work.
2. Participant experiences of supporting students engaged in sex work.

Wanting to understand the gaps in knowledge for future training purposes, the researchers formalized a semi-structured protocol consisting of eight main questions and five sub questions. The researchers asked participants what they thought might be the main concerns of students engaged in sex work; their opinions on the level of awareness of student sex work within the student support service provision; why they thought students engaged in sex work might opt not to disclose their involvement to support services; as well as being asked to offer their opinions on how students engaged in sex work might be viewed within HE environments and by wider society. Within the interviews the researchers detected empathy and there was also evidence of misunderstanding at times and stereotyping. One of the participants believed sex work might easily progress to sex trafficking.

I think that sex workers often get pulled into sex trafficking. ... pulled into where it might start out as them being in charge of themselves and making some money, but it leads to them being under control of someone else (USA).

Participant fears also centered around confidentiality. Should they tell a supervisor; would it matter if the student disclosed sex work that was legal or illegal, and what safeguards are in place for staff and faculty should someone discover they knew the student's activities were illegal. Those more fearful of university repercussions wanted prescriptive guidance. While those with more experience wanted general awareness on protocol and signposting.

The few participants who had previous training reported higher confidence levels than the participant without training but experience supporting a student whose social media post revealed sex work (Lancaster & Sagar, 2025). Other topics included social media, with many of the participants sharing concerns about the future of those students engaged in the sex industry as it related to exposure on social media and resume/ curriculum vitae gaps.

I think once that word gets out that could easily snowball into something massive and I think a student or person would always take that risk with getting involved in sex work but when that actually happens, I think the implications and the impact that has on the individual could be 10 times worse than what they originally were expecting (UK).

Captured within this article are just a few potential training themes with others planned to be published at a later date. While the study was self-selecting with 16 participants (nine from the UK and seven from the USA) this study pairs with the only other UK study measuring student support providers readiness (Sagar, et al., 2015).

Discussion

This study offers a different but important viewpoint from the often student-centered research. The viewpoint is important in terms of bringing training to the USA. With a clear indication of the desire for training in both countries. A clear indication that the desire to provide better support crosses both countries. The researchers can't generalize, but the findings offer a tantalizing glimpse which will hopefully open a door in the USA.

Clearly the study's participants want to do a good job, they accept their biases and recognize bias in others, the institution, and in society. The complexity of sex work deserves more appraisal than divisive ideology. Trainings on student sex work will likely surpass agent or victim arguments into sophisticated discourse addressing ambiguities of wanting to support students and wondering if that also means condoning the sex industry, and empathizing with tangled decisions of personal choice and real-world cost-benefit analysis but the bottom line is continuing to offer students support for academic success.

References

Bernstein, E. (2007) Sex work for the middle classes, *Sexualities*, 10(4): 473-488. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1363460707080984>

Carline, A., & Scoular, J. (2015). Saving fallen women now? Critical perspectives on engagement and support orders and their policy of forced welfarism. *Social Policy and Society*, 14(1), 103-112. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746414000347>

Lancaster, J. & Sagar, T. (2024). Student service employees discuss the silence surrounding student sex workers. *Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness Newsletter*, 5(1).

Lancaster, J. L., & Sagar, T. (2025). Student sex work: Governmentality in higher education and silence as a technology of power. *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1360080X.2025.2461810>

NUS (2016) Student Sex Worker Research. Student Sex Workers | Students Union UCL <https://studentsunionucl.org/advice-and-support/support/student-sex-workers#:~:text=The%20Student%20Sex%20Work%20Survey,and%2014%25%20were%20international%20students>

Roberts, R. (2022) Student sex work: Economics, education, and ethics in Eds D. Jones and T. Sanders *Student Sex Work: International Perspectives and Implications for Policy and Practice*, Palgrave.

Sagar, T., Jones, D., Symonds J., Bowring J (2015) The Student Sex Work Project: Research Summary. <https://cronfa.swansea.ac.uk/Record/cronfa26021/Description>

Trueman, G., Sanders, T. and Hyer Griffin, J. (2022) Educating universities: Understanding and responding to student sex workers in Eds D. Jones and T. Sanders *Student Sex Work: International Perspectives and Implications for Policy and Practice*, Palgrave.

Weitzer, R. (2020). The campaign against sex work in the United States: A successful moral crusade. *Sex Res Soc Policy* 17, 399–414. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-019-00404-1>

Correspondence regarding this article should be addressed to:

Julia Lancaster, Ph.D., LPC (VA), ACS, BC-TMH
Associate Professor & Clinical Coordinator
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program
South University - WPB
Licensed Professional Counselor & Supervisor
Virginia Board Approved
<https://www.mindmovementandmore.com>
julia.lisaacs@gmail.com



Sex Work Research Hub Student Sex Work Toolkit - A toolkit for students who are involved in the sex industry with information regarding their work and the availability of help and support if needed.

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://basisyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/studenttoolkitfinaloct2020.pdf>

ACSSW WEBINAR SERIES

SUMMER/FALL/SPRING 25-26

It is customary in ACSSW for the incoming President to select the theme for the ACSSW webinars during their tenure as ACSSW President. Dr. Amber Pope has decided to focus on the 12 exemplary areas that were identified in the ACSSW Exemplary Practices (see below). Each month beginning July 2025 the presenters will focus on the Exemplary area for that month.

We are excited to provide this opportunity to introduce the Exemplary Practices for Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness in an in depth and applied way that will demonstrate how mental health professionals may effectively apply and utilize these Exemplary Practices in their career development and clinical work.

The 12 exemplary areas in counseling sexology and sexual wellness are as follows:

1. Comfort, Awareness, & Personal Reflection
2. Ethical & Professional Behavior
3. History & Systems
4. Anatomy & Physiology
5. Sexual Identity
6. Sexual Development
7. Attractions
8. Intimacy & Interpersonal Relationships
9. Pleasure & Sexual Subcultures
10. Sexual Functioning
11. Mental Health & Medical Factors
12. Sexual Exploitation

Citation:

Pope, A. L., Parker, B. M., Augustine, B. R., Ausloos, C. D., & Lytle, J. J. (2024). Association for Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness Exemplary Practices for Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness. *Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness: Research, Practice, and Education*, 5 (2), 2-29. <https://doi.org/10.34296/05012006>

As in the past, ACSSW members will continue to benefit from a considerable reduced rate for all ACSSW webinars with CEs. Contact ACSSW via email for coupon code needed for registration.

ACSSW WEBINAR SERIES 25-26

JULY 18TH, 2025

EXEMPLARY PRACTICE AREA: COMFORT, AWARENESS, & PERSONAL REFLECTION

Presented by

**Frances McClain, PhD, LCPC &
Lisa Salvadore, MSW, LCSW, LCPC, CADC**



https://tcspofficeofce.com/july_18_2025-2/

Friday, July 18, 2025

8am-10am PT / 10am-12pm CT / 11am-1pm ET



This webinar will introduce the ACSSW Annual Webinar Series on Exemplary Practices by focusing on the first practice area of “Comfort, Awareness, & Personal Reflection.” The Exemplary Practices (Pope et al, 2024) were developed to provide guidelines for mental health professionals when addressing sexual issues in clinical settings. The first practice area focuses on the importance and necessity of mental health clinicians to engage in self-reflection on their own values/beliefs around sexuality in order to be able to effectively address sexuality issues with clients. This is not only to increase their comfort and awareness related to sexuality but also to become attuned to their own biases.

This webinar will review the different practices in each of the domains in the first practice area. These include the importance of historical and cultural influences on sexuality as well as the role of intersectionality in sex and sexuality within clinical populations (Pope et al, 2024). The Sexual Script Questionnaire will be shared as a tool for self-reflection (McClain & Salvadore, 2023). A sex positive/sex-affirming framework will be reviewed and ways clinicians can apply that framework in clinical practice. This approach is consistent with values within both counseling and psychology practices that include: (a) emphasis on strengths, (b) healthy development across the lifespan, (c) recognition of diversity and intersectionality, (d) biopsychosocial approach, and (e) social justice. Research/literature will be reviewed which supports the importance of sexual satisfaction to overall well-being and how adopting a sex positive approach in clinical treatment is essential to providing efficacious treatment. Resources including books, articles, and websites will be made available with current literature on sex and sexuality for participants to engage in ongoing training/education. Case vignettes will be shared to elicit discussion around challenging biases and the importance of obtaining knowledge on sexuality and sexual wellness.

This program, when attended in its entirety, offers 2.0 CEUs for Psychologists, 2.0 IL CEUs for Counselors and Social Workers, 2.0 BBS California CEUs for LPCCs, LPSWs, and LMFTs, 2.0 AASECT CEUs for Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists, or 2.0 NBCC Clock Hours.



***Dr. Mac & her wife, Lisa
Salvadore, who co-teach
human sexuality will be
interviewed on the
Teaching While Queer
Podcast July 8th!***

This past spring **Dr. Frances McClain (Dr. Mac), co-founder of ACSSW**, was invited to join the Board of Teaching While Queer (TWQ) which is a new non-profit that developed from a podcast. The mission of TWQ is “to create safe schools and communities where every educator can teach, every family can belong, and every child can learn regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. This community is about action which includes education and advocacy for educators, students, and families. The ACSSW Board is also excited to support a new and developing sister organization that share the commitment to social justice during a time when human rights, especially those in the LGBTQ community, are under attack. TWQ works with educators, students, and families K- Higher Education. They have a presence on TikTok, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Facebook. Bryan Stanton, the Founder of TWQ and Chair of the Board is also the Host of the TWQ podcast. He has spent endless hours interviewing and educating people around issues related to making the education environment spaces safer and more inclusive for both educators and students.

This fall TWQ is hosting their first virtual full day conference. **The Keynote Speakers are Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr. and Maya Gonzalez.***The fall conference will be on Saturday, October 11th. TQW will be accepting proposals through August 15th for sessions. TQW has partnered with The Chicago School to offer Continuing Education credits for some of the conference sessions throughout the day. The Chicago School of Professional Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) and California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) to provide continuing education programming for counselors, marriage & family therapist, and social workers, school psychologists, ISBE CPDUs for Illinois educators, and AASECT CEs.

Members of ACSSW may consider submitting a proposal or attending the conference in the fall. Check out the website (<https://teachingwhilequeer.org/>) for more information about submitting a proposal. TWQ is also trying to raise funding to support the conference (See QR code below).



Call for Proposals Proposal Form Deadline: September 1, 2025

Conference Goals ✓ Empower 2SLGBTQIA+ educators ✓ Advance inclusive & culturally responsive curriculum ✓ Build community & collaboration ✓ Champion equity & representation ✓ Support queer educator retention & safety	Presenter Benefits ✓ Free full-day conference admission ✓ Access to all session recordings for 6 months ✓ Presenter certificate ✓ Global exposure & networking opportunities
Conference Strands Choose one when submitting: • Administrators • Allyship • Curriculum & Assessment • Culturally Responsive Teaching • School Counselors • Experiential Learning	Presentation Formats 20-minute or 50-minute sessions (including Q&A) All sessions must include: 1. A main theme 2. Actionable advice to help others apply your ideas • Virtual via RingCentral Events
Who Can Apply? Educators, students, counselors, and nonprofits. For-profit companies must sponsor to present. First-time presenters highly encouraged!	
Bryan Stanton bryan@teachingwhilequeer.org www.teachingwhilequeer.org	



***Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr.** is an advocate, Kentucky Teacher of the Year, the author *Gay Poems for Red States* (University Press of Kentucky), which was named a Book Riot Best Book of 2023, a Top Ten Best Book of Appalachia by Read Appalachia, a top ten 2023 Southern Book in Garden and Gun, an IndieBound and American Booksellers Association's must-have book of 2023, a 2023 Top Ten Over-The-Rainbow book by the American Library Association, a 2024 Community of Literary Magazines and Presses Pride Month poem selection, a 2024 Whippoorwill Book Award Honor Book, a 2024 Judy Gaines Young Honor Book nomination, and awarded a 2024 Stonewall Book Award – Barbara Gittings Literature Honor Book. Willie has an MFA in creative writing at the University of Kentucky. His story has been featured across US media, including ABC, CBS, The Washington Post, and Good Morning America. His advocacy has led him to engage President Biden and to testify before the United States Congressional Committee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

Maya Gonzalez is an award-winning children's book artist, author, activist and progressive educator. Maya's work addresses systemic inequity in relation to race/ethnicity, sexism and cissexism using children's books as radical agents of change and healing, both personally and culturally. Creator of the Gender Wheel, Maya has been teaching a nature-based, decolonized and holistic approach to body, gender, and relationship diversity for over 15 years across educational and community spaces. The approach synthesizes multiple modalities into trauma-informed practices that foster embodied self-awareness. Maya co-founded Reflection Press, a POC, queer and trans owned independent publisher grounded in holistic, nature-based, and anti-oppression frameworks. www.mayagonzalez.com | www.genderwheel.com | www.reflectionpress.com

ACSSW COMMITTEES

ACSSW COMMITTEES

GET INVOLVED!



The ACSSW Committees are the engine which drives the growth and development of the organization.

Now that ACSSW is a division of ACA and our membership has grown exponentially we need to focus on energizing our committees.



The purpose of committees in organizations is to provide a structured forum for a group of individuals to collaborate, research, discuss, and make informed decisions on specific issues or projects, often by providing recommendations to the larger leadership team or board on complex matters that require dedicated attention and expertise; essentially acting as a focused working group to facilitate better decision-making within the organization.

Key points about committees:

- Committees are formed to address particular areas of concern, allowing members to develop in-depth knowledge on those topics.
- They encourage open discussion and collaboration among different perspectives within an organization.
- Committees can analyze information, conduct research, and present well-considered recommendations to the leadership team.
- By assigning specific tasks to a committee, organizations can effectively handle complex projects that require detailed work.

The **BIPOC Committee** will focus on how power, privilege, and oppression has impacted BIPOC communities' ability to access sexual health related care and develop healthy sexual identities free from social stigma. The BIPOC Committee will make recommendations and advocate within the counseling profession for education, research, and scholarship specifically focused on increased support and care related to sexuality in BIPOC communities.

Current goals: Increase membership and prioritize goals/objectives.

Identifying qualities/interest for members:

- Background or interest in research/scholarship related to BIPOC communities
- Background or interest in alternative healing practices
- Commitment to promoting/advocating for BIPOC communities and challenging oppressive practices within the counseling profession that reinforces unhealthy sexual wellness

The committee:

- Explores research/scholarship specifically related to sexuality in BIPOC communities
- Developing practices/competencies for counselors working with BIPOC communities when addressing sexually related issues.

**Black
Indigenous
People
Of
Color**

BIPOC Committee Co-Chairs:



David Julius Ford, Jr.
Ph.D., LCMHC (NC), LPC (VA, NJ), NCC, ACS
he/him



Monica F. Boyd-Layne
PhD, LCPC
she/they

If you are interested in joining the BIPOC Committee you may contact either

Monica Boyd-Layne at drmonica@piercecounselingservices.com

or

David Julius Ford at
david.fordphd@gmail.com

Research & Scholarship Committee



The Research & Scholarship Committee is charged with gathering information and assessing trends for ACSW on matters concerning the advancement of research and scholarship in counseling sexology, encompassing all facets of research regarding education, training, and practice. Recognizing that the counseling profession must navigate a rapidly transforming field, especially in the nascent area of sexology, this committee is responsible for keeping the Board of Directors and membership updated on emerging research. Additionally, this committee will establish competencies, based on research and literature, for counselors addressing sexuality issues in clinical treatment.

This committee:

- Shall develop and promote sexuality competencies for the counseling profession for addressing sexuality issues in clinical practice.
- Shall promote research and literature in the counseling profession, especially focused on oppressed and marginalized communities.



Developed by the 2021-2024 Research and Scholarship Committee, the Exemplary Practices for Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness are now available in the Fall 2024 issue of the Journal for Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness. We deliberately selected the term "exemplary practices" instead of "competencies" to reflect the multifaceted, pluralistic, and dynamic nature of sexuality. While "competencies" suggest fixed standards that measure sufficient knowledge or skills to perform a task, "exemplary practices" refer to repeated ways of being and acting that serve as effective models for how we might shape our own behaviors and approaches as counselors.

The Research & Scholarship Committee Chair:



Juliana Lytle
PhD, LMHC, NCC

If you wish to join the
Research & Scholarship Committee
you may contact
Juliana at
juliana.lytle@gmail.com



Promotion & Membership Committee



The Promotion & Membership Committee is responsible for membership-related issues or special projects that requires discussion, research, and recommendations for association membership business which includes building ACSSW membership, membership dues, and the promotion of ACSSW in the counseling field and large mental health profession.

- Current goals:** Develop welcome packet for new members and increase social media presence.
- Identifying qualities/interest for trustees:**
- Background or interest in social media marketing and recruitment
 - Background or interest in investigating equitable due structures
 - Experience in recruitment and/or public speaking
 - Connections with the counseling field at large.
- The committee:**
- Promotes the benefits of ACSSW membership
 - Identifies issues important to members
 - Evaluates current and potential products and services
 - Works to enhance the value of ACSSW membership
 - Investigates equitable due structures

Promotion & Membership Committee Chair:



Tanisha R. James, LCSW, LCASA (she/her)

If you are interested in joining the Promotion & Membership Committee you may contact Tanisha at acssw@counselingsexology.com

This committee is responsible for promoting and welcoming new membership as well as updating and monitoring ACSSW social media and website!

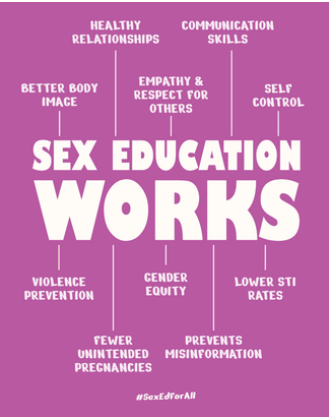


Education & Training Committee



The Education & Training Committee is a committee which shall develop, implement, and report on educational programs for ACSSW which include webinars, seminars, basic, intermediate, and advanced sessions, or special projects.

- The committee shall:
- Support the ACSSW mission of providing educational programming for professional counselors and mental health professionals related to sexuality and sexual wellness.
 - Ensures educational programming sponsored by ACSSW adheres to the mission and vision of the association.



If you are interested in joining the Education & Training Committee you may contact Angela Schubert at aschuber@centralmethodist.edu



Education & Training Committee Chair Angela M. Schubert, PhD, LPC, NCC, BC-TMH (she/her)



Frances McClain PhD, LCPC, NCC ACSSW Annual Webinar Series Sub-Committee Chair

Sub-Committee of Education & Training

ACSSW Annual Webinar Series

Sub-Committee Chair
Frances McClain, PhD, LCPC, NCC

The Annual Webinar Series Sub-Committee coordinates in partnership with The Chicago School Office of Continuing Education a series of webinars based on the ACSSW President's theme for the year. This subcommittee is responsible for obtaining and writing speakers within the mental health and sexuality fields with expertise and knowledge on identified themes/topics as demonstrated by specialized training, research, and/or counseling. All webinars will offer CEU at a reduced rate for ACSSW membership. The goal of the Annual Webinar Series Sub-Committee is to promote education/training around sexuality and sexual wellness in the mental health field for educators, students, and clinicians.

If you are Interested in joining the Annual Webinar Series Sub-Committee you may contact Frances McClain at fmccain@thechicagoschool.edu

Social Justice & Advocacy Committee



The Social Justice & Advocacy Committee is responsible for providing organizational leadership related to issues of social justice as it pertains to sexuality and sexual wellness. This committee is responsible for providing leadership in ACSSW related to advocating for issues of sexuality both within the counseling profession and the wider communities.

The committee:

- Shall monitor current and upcoming social justice issues related to concerns of discrimination based on sexuality.
- Shall initiate action providing support for sexually minoritized groups who experience discrimination.



Make your voice heard
on issues of
sexual health policy

The Social Justice & Advocacy Committee is responsible for monitoring current events and promote ACSSW's mission to engage in advocacy for human rights, especially sexually related rights. One of the ways the committee does this is through composing statements that are reviewed and endorsed by the ACSSW Board of Directors. Below are two of the statements written by the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee which can be found on the ACSSW website (www.counselingsexology.com).

ACSSW Unified Statement on Anti-LGBTGEQIAP+ Legislation

Statement Regarding Recent Mass Shooting Targeting the LGBTQIA+ Population

Social Justice & Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs



Dana Kirkpatrick
LPC, CST, CSTS, NCC



Debra Perez
PhD, LPCC

If you are interested in
joining the Social Justice &
Advocacy Committee
you may contact either
Debra Perez at
debraperez@aol.com
or Dana Kirkpatrick at
dana@calmpittsburgh.com

Welcome to the New Co-Chair of the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee

Dana L. Kirkpatrick, founder of Calm Pittsburgh, is an internationally certified sex therapist who has been practicing for more than 20 years. Prior to becoming a therapist, Dana's experience consisted of working with families whose children were on the autism spectrum disorder. Neurodivergent herself, Dana has established Calm Pittsburgh as an inclusive space for neurodiversity and all underserved populations.

She is as a Certified Sex Therapist through IBOSP (International Board of Sexuality Professionals) as well as a sex therapy supervisor through AASECT (American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists). Dana's 2009 breast cancer diagnosis and discovery of the BRCA2 gene taught her much about managing stress, assertiveness, and living life to the fullest. She has developed expertise working with clients who are living with cancer and leads support groups for adolescent and young adult survivors through Pittsburgh-based Young Adult Survivors United (YASU) and serves on the national advisory board for Elephant's and Tea's One Herd campaign for YA cancer.

Dana is a long time member of ACSSW and excited to become part of the leadership team!

<https://www.counselingsexology.com>

**Interested in
joining the editorial
newsletter team?**



**We are looking
for new team
members!**

Send inquires to Frances McClain at
fmcclain@thechicagoschool.edu

or

Katrina Ramirez at
kramirez2@ego.thechicagoschool.edu



**WE ARE NOW
ACCEPTING
MANUSCRIPT
SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
ACSSW FALL 2025
NEWSLETTER.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS IS
AUGUST 15, 2025.**

Submissions must be no more than 1500 words, grounded in peer-reviewed research/content, and may not have been previously published, nor be forthcoming in an archival journal or book (print or electronic). The ACSSW newsletter is not a peer reviewed journal, but we do have editors who review the submissions for grammatical errors and ensure the article is in keeping with ACSSW principles and guidelines. We will publish articles that promote sexual wellness, research studies, and conceptual articles. The ACSSW newsletter editorial team requires that all authors follow the most current ACA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. All manuscripts must conform to standards detailed in the most recent edition of the APA Publication Manual. The newsletter supports the use of gender-neutral pronouns, including the singular "they." Manuscripts should be concise, yet with enough detail to provide clarity.

Send submissions to Frances McClain at
fmcclain@thechicagoschool.edu

Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness



Editor-in-Chief
Shannon Shoemaker, Hood College

<https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/jcssw/>

The Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness: Research, Practice, and Education will publish two issues per year: Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter.

All manuscripts will undergo double-blind peer review by at least two Editorial Board members. The Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness: Research, Practice, and Education editorial team is committed to ensuring an efficient review process and aims to communicate all initial decisions within 90 days of submission.

Manuscripts are accepted throughout the year on a rolling basis so send yours in any time!



The article, [*The State of Sexuality Counseling Training in Counselor Education*](#) (Pope et al, 2025) which was featured in the *Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness* 6(1) was highlighted in the May 28, 2025 issue of, "Counselor's Corner" the ACES newsletter.

The State of Sexuality Counseling Training in Counselor Education

Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness

Sexuality counseling training remains underdeveloped and lacks standardization across counselor education programs in the United States. Researchers examined the integration of sexuality counseling in Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs. [Read More](#)

ACES News Brief

Association for Counselor Education and Supervision

PO Box 557 | Brookings, SD 57006

[Contact Us](#)

www.acesonline.net/

<https://www.counselingsexology.com>

ACSSW LEADERSHIP

Elective Council

President Amber Pope
President-Elect Aaron Sheldon
Secretary Julia Lancaster
Treasurer Kameela George
Past President Laurie Bonjo

Trustess

Patricia Arredondo
Marty Jencius
Jane E. Rheineck

Emerging Leaders

Doctoral Level: Jerry Mize
Master's Level: Iris Wilson-Farley

Representatives

Student Representative Kim Hughes
SWIC Representative Cheryl Walker
ACA Representative Angela Schubert

Committee Chairs

BIPOC Committee
Monica Boyd-Layne
David Julius Ford

Education & Training
Angela Schubert

Membership & Promotion
Tanisha James

Social Justice & Advocacy
Debra Perez
Dana Kirkpatrick

Research & Scholarship
Clark Ausloos
Julie Lytle

ACSSW Newsletter Staff

Editor Frances McClain
Assistant Editor Katrina Ramirez
Contributing Editor Jeff Strozier
Contributing Editor Brandy Seigenmartin
Social Media Coordinator Cameron Chaikin

FOLLOW ACSSW ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[Follow us on Facebook](#)



[Follow us on Instagram](#)



SEXUALITY RESOURCES

<https://www.zurinstitute.com/resources/human-sexuality-resources/>

Human Sexuality

- American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists – AASECT members common interest is in promoting understanding of human sexuality and healthy sexual behavior.
- American Sexual Health Association – ASHA programs include: the ASHA Research Fund, HPV Cervical Cancer Prevention Resource Center, Cervical Cancer Prevention Project, ISALSA! (STDs, Adolescents and Latinos: Sexual Health Awareness), Herpes Resource Center, ASH-Net (Adolescent Sexual Health and the Internet), Herpes Foundation, and Viral Hepatitis Education and Training.
- American Society of Reproductive Medicine – ASRM is an organization devoted to advancing knowledge and expertise in infertility, reproductive medicine and biology.
- Association of Reproductive Health Professionals – AHRP is a multidisciplinary association of professionals who provide reproductive health services or education, conduct reproductive health research, or influence reproductive health policy.
- Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality – FSSS' mission is to promote funding for conducting scholarly, scientific research related activities to further the understanding of all aspects of sexuality.
- The Alan Guttmacher Institute is focused on sexual and reproductive health research, policy analysis and public education.
- The International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health is an academic and scientific organization that provides opportunities for communication among scholars, researchers and practitioners about women's sexual function and experiences, and supports high standards of ethics and professionalism in research, education and clinical practice of women's sexuality.
- Kinsey Institute – The Institute's mission is to promote interdisciplinary research and scholarship in the fields of human sexuality, gender, and reproduction.
- Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US – SIECUS develops, collects, and disseminates information, and promotes comprehensive education about sexuality.
- The Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health provides information about sex addiction for lay persons as well as clinicians.
- The Society for Sex Therapy and Research is composed of a range of professionals who have clinical or research interests in human sexuality. SSTAR aims to facilitate communications among clinicians who treat problems of sexual identity, sexual function, and reproductive life.

Gender Identity

- [The World Professional Association for Transgender Health](#) – The Association is devoted to the understanding and treatment of gender identity disorders, and provides opportunities for scientific interchange among professionals through its biennial conferences and publications.
- [International Foundation for Gender Education](#) – IFGE is an advocate and educational organization for promoting the self-definition and free expression of individual gender identity.
- [Intersex Society of North America](#) – The ISNA's "Medical Treatment of Intersexuality" page includes recommendations for treatment of intersexed children.

Sexual/Affectional Orientation

- [American Academy of Family Physicians' Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Information](#) – This page contains links to sexual orientation sites for physicians and their patients.
- [Association for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues in Counseling](#) – The mission of the Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling is to educate mental health service providers about issues confronting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) individuals.
- [Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists](#) – The AGLP provides networking and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered psychiatrists, and education and advocacy on GLBT mental health issues.
- [Gay and Lesbian Medical Association](#) – GLMA members include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered physicians, medical students, and other health care professionals, as well as patients throughout North America.
- [National Association of Lesbian and Gay Addiction Professionals](#) – The Association is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of alcoholism, substance abuse, and other addictions in GLBT communities.
- [National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 2000 Census and Same-Sex Households](#) – The Census 2000 reporting statistics released by the US Census Bureau have continued to show an increase in the number of reported same-sex partner households across the United States.
- [Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues, Division 44, American Psychological Association](#) – Division 44's goals include: advancing the contribution of psychological research in understanding lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues; promoting the education of psychologists in matters of lesbian, gay, and bisexual concerns; and informing psychologists and the general public of relevant research, educational, and service activities. The site includes a newsletter, Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients, and a list of member's publications.
- [It Gets Better](#) – TAKE THE PLEDGE: Everyone deserves to be respected for who they are. I pledge to spread this message to my friends, family and neighbors. I'll speak up against hate and intolerance whenever I see it, at school and at work.

Sexual Abuse

- Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers – ATSA was founded to foster research, further professional education and provide for the advancement of professional standards and practices in the field of sex offender evaluation and treatment.
- Child Welfare Information Gateway – Child Sexual Abuse: Intervention and Treatment Issues – This manual is intended to address the needs of professionals who encounter child sexual abuse in the course of their work.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

- CDC's Reproductive Health Information Source – Resources cover: assisted reproductive technology reports; unintended pregnancy; women's reproductive health; men's reproductive health; surveillance and research; racial and ethnic minorities; scientific and technical assistance.
- Consortium for Improvement in Erectile Function – CIEF is a membership organization comprised of multidisciplinary healthcare practitioners who share an interest in developing and participating in a variety of educational and interactive programs designed to enhance the clinical outcomes of erectile dysfunction therapy.
- The National Vulvodynia Association (NVA) is a nonprofit organization created in 1994 to improve the lives of individuals affected by vulvodynia, a spectrum of chronic vulvar pain .

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

- AIDSInfo – Links to regional training centers; cultural and gender resources; management of HIV complications; maternal-child transmission; information for exposure to HIV and how to prevent it; and treatment consultation.
- American Foundation for AIDS Research – AmfAR's mission is to prevent HIV infection and the disease and death associated with it and to protect the human rights of all people threatened by the epidemic of HIV/AIDS. amfAR has active programs in basic and clinical research, public and professional education, public policy, prevention science, and global initiatives.
- Center for AIDS Prevention Studies – CAPS conducts interdisciplinary research on methods to prevent HIV infection and its consequences. The site includes a list of current research projects, links to model prevention programs, intervention curricula, and survey instruments.
- HIV/AIDS Bureau – Health Resources and Services Administration – oversees the CARE Act, which funds primary care and support services for individuals living with HIV who lack health insurance and financial resources for their care.
- HIV InSite – Medical Issues includes information on epidemiology, diagnosis, management, transmission and prevention, treatment resources, antiretroviral management, interactions database treatment guidelines, treatment access & advocacy, patient fact sheets, conference abstracts and summaries, and links to medical newsletters for clinicians.

- NIH – Division of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome – “Research Resources and Programs” cover AIDS-related data sets; a database for anti-HIV compounds; an HIV / OI therapeutics database; an HIV sequence database; an HIV molecular immunology database; the NIAID/NCI inter-institute program for development of AIDS-related therapeutics; the NIH AIDS research and reference reagent program; a resource guide for the development of AIDS therapies; and links to reagent programs and repositories. Click on “Resources for Patients, Physicians, and Investigators”
- STD Prevention – Centers for Disease Control provides national leadership through research, policy development, and support of services to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and their complications. The site contains information on funding, program guidelines, research, surveillance, statistics and treatment guidelines.

Journals

- Archives of Sexual Behavior
- Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality
- Contemporary Sexuality
- Culture, Health & Sexuality
- Gender & History
- Gender and Development
- Gender and Society
- Gender Issues
- Gender, Work, and Organization
- Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships
- Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness
- Journal of Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy
- Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services
- Journal of Homosexuality
- Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy
- Journal of Sex Education & Therapy
- Journal of Sex Research
- Journal of Women's Health & Gender-Based Medicine
- Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Psychology, Evolution & Gender
- Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity
- Sexual Science
- Sexuality & Culture
- Sexuality and Disability
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Studies in Gender and Sexuality
- Theology & Sexuality

Other electronic Journals

- Electronic Journal of Human Sexuality