

January 11, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Questions have been raised regarding whether Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) are authorized to diagnose and treat mental health problems and conditions. A review of the applicable laws and rules indicate that such activities are clearly within the scope of practice for these professionals.

In particular, ORS 675.705(5) defines a LMFT's scope of practice in part as "the **identification and treatment** of cognitive, affective, and behavioral conditions as symptoms of familial and marital dysfunctions" (emphasis added). The rules interpreting this statute define "identification and treatment" to include "**diagnostic appraisal and assessment**" (OAR 833-010-0001(5) - emphasis added).

ORS 675.705(6) defines a LPC's scope of practice as including, but not limited to, the "application of counseling theories and techniques designed to assist clients with current or potential problems and to facilitate change in thinking, feeling, and behaving." The rules interpreting this scope of practice specifically provide that the application of such theories and techniques may include "**diagnostic appraisal and assessment**" (OAR 833-010-0001(2) - emphasis added).

Therefore, it is the position of the Oregon Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (OBLPCT) that the scope of practice for both LPCs and LMFTs includes the diagnosis and treatment of personal problems, conditions and other behavioral health issues.

For further information, see chart entitled, "Scopes of Practice for Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists under Oregon Statutes and Rules" (reviewed by the OBLPCT on 1/10/08).

Sincerely,

Marlin Schultz, LMFT
OBLPCT Chair