Illinois Association of Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness



FALL/WINTER

2026

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The mission of IACSSW, a Division of the Illinois Counseling Association, is to promote sexual wellness as a central part of overall wellbeing. Supporting Illinois counselors through education, research, advocacy, and training in order to advance inclusive, sex positive, and affirming sexuality care while addressing barriers and oppressive practices impacting the development of healthy sexuality, and strengthening standards for sexuality-related counseling services.

www.IACSSW.org

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Letter from the IACSSW President

Dear IACSSW Members and Colleagues,

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Illinois Association for Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness (IACSSW)!

It is an extraordinary privilege to serve as the first president of this new organization, and I am incredibly excited about what we have the opportunity to build together. IACSSW is both a new division of the Illinois Counseling Association and the first state chapter of the Association for Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness. As we take these first steps together, I am reminded that the creation of an organization like this does not happen simply because there is a need—it happens because a community of professionals recognizes that we can do better for ourselves, our profession, and, ultimately, our clients.

Our mission is grounded in a simple but important premise: sexuality is a central aspect of being human. Sexuality intersects with our relationships, identities, bodies, values, development, and experiences throughout the lifespan. And sexual concerns often impact those with marginalized identities, including BIPOC individuals differently based on centuries of historical, systemic, colonial oppression.

Many counselors receive limited education or training in how to talk about sexuality confidently and competently with their clients. Discussions about the overlaps between cultural responsiveness and sexual wellness are even more rare. Too often, sexual concerns remain unspoken—not because they are unimportant, but because clinicians may feel uncertain about how to begin the conversation. IACSSW exists to help change that.

Our vision is to become a resource hub for counselors across Illinois, promoting research, education, and advocacy that support competence in human sexuality and sexual wellness. Just as importantly, we want to create a professional community in which counselors can ask questions, develop their skills, share resources, and engage with the diversity of human sexual experience. Our strategic plan reflects three core values that will guide this work: making resources available to counselors throughout Illinois, ensuring that the diversity of sexual experience is reflected in everything we do, and—perhaps most importantly—bringing community in and sending resources out.
This first year is about building that foundation.

Over the coming months, we will be developing our resource directory, creating opportunities for learning and professional connection, and establishing committees focused on Advocacy, Education & Training, Needs of BIPOC counselors and clients, and Membership. We also hope to begin building relationships with organizations and communities whose work intersects with sexuality, sexual wellness, comprehensive sex education, and bodily autonomy.

But a strategic plan is only a beginning. **The real organization is the people who choose to participate in it.**

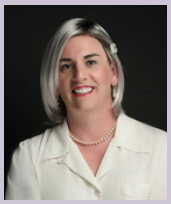
That means that I hope you will see IACSSW as a professional community that we build with you. Perhaps you have a topic you would love to see addressed in a learning event. Maybe you have a resource to contribute to our directory, an advocacy issue you think our profession should be discussing, a research question you want to explore, or simply a desire to connect with other counselors who believe that sexuality deserves a more visible and affirming place in clinical practice. Bring those ideas to us.

Our goals are ambitious, but I believe they are achievable precisely because we do not have to accomplish them alone. Every member brings knowledge, experience, curiosity, and a unique perspective that can help shape what IACSSW becomes.

So, as we launch this first newsletter and this first chapter of IACSSW's story, I invite you to participate boldly. Attend an event. Join a committee. Share a resource. Start a conversation. Tell us what you need from this organization. Tell us what you can offer. Most of all, help us create the kind of professional community you want to belong to.

Thank you for being part of this beginning. I am genuinely excited about the months and years ahead, and I look forward to learning, collaborating, advocating, and growing alongside each of you. There is so much work to do—and I cannot imagine a better group of people with whom to do it.

With enthusiasm and gratitude,



Iris Wilson-Farley, Clinical Intern, MHP, MBA
President
Illinois Association for Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness

IACSSW Board of Directors & Executive Council

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- The Executive Council shall consist of the officers of ***IACSSW,*** which shall be the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Council officers and three Trustees.

The Board shall include:

  - All Officers and Board of Directors, except the Treasurer, are voting members of the Board.
  - The Board of Trustees
  - One or two ex-officio non-voting IACSSW ICA Representative(s) to the ICA Governing Council, nominated and elected at large from among the members of IACSSW, who are members in good standing of IACSSW and ICA, for a three-year term. The IACSSW Governing Council Representative shall represent the interests of IACSSW, as determined by the IACSSW board, while attending ICA Governing Council meetings. These positions will only be filled if the membership if IACSSW meets thresholds outlined in the ICA by-laws.
  - All members of the board shall be IACSSW and ICA members in good standing and residents of the State of Illinois.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- The Executive Council shall act for the Board within policies as may be established by the Board. The Executive Council shall function primarily to address those issues which are necessary for the efficient operation of IACSSW where the time requirements necessitate immediate action. All actions and activities of the Executive Council shall be communicated to the Board through minutes which are sent within ten working days of an Executive Council conference or meeting. The actions taken by the Executive Council must be submitted for ratification by the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting. Any subsequent decision by the Board that is contrary to an action taken by the Executive Council shall (to the extent permitted by law) be given only prospective effect.
- The Executive Council shall confer or meet at least once per quarter in addition to the Board meetings. Other conferences or meetings may be called only in an emergency which is determined by the President or the Board. Executive Council conferences and meetings may be via live electronic video-conference as deemed appropriate by the President.
- The Executive Council represents the administrative leadership of IACSSW, charged with setting the direction of the organization and with making any determinations that affect the organization.



IACSSW President

Iris Farley-Wilson (she/her)

Iris Wilson-Farley is a second-career mental health counselor, providing trauma informed care for clients older adults, clients with sexual concerns, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. She is currently completing a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program from The Chicago School and is President of the newly-formed Illinois Association for Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness (IACSSW). Iris served as an Emerging Leader with the Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness (ACSSW), and is the chair of ACSSW's Social Justice and Advocacy committee. She is currently working toward certification as a sex therapist through the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT). Iris has presented on sexual wellness, and has been a featured guest on The Modern Therapist Survival Guide podcast, as part of their series on graduate students' motivations, expectations, and experiences.



IACSSW President-Elect

Lexi Outly (she/it)

Lexi Outly is the president-elect for IACSSW. Lexi is currently in the second year of her master's program and is starting her internship at a private practice. Lexi comes from a kink identified background and still works with members of the Science of BDSM research team from Northern Illinois University which is her alma mater. She graduated from Northern Illinois University in 2022 where her interest in science and research began. Lexi became involved in IACSSW as she recognizes that clinicians struggle to talk about sex and by extension kink in their sessions which is an important aspect of continuum of care. She wants to engage in providing education for clinicians about sex and kink to help them feel more comfortable with these aspects of the human experience both in and out of session. Lexi is the chair of the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee and is committed to advocating for clients as well as clinicians. She is excited for all the events IACSSW is bringing to the members as a division and she is excited to help the counseling field at large.



IACSSW Treasurer

Kat Collins
(she/her)

Kat graduated from Governors State University with a Master's in Counseling on the Marriage and Family track. She is a pre-licensed professional working at the private practice Counseling Works, where she sees children, couples, and families. Kat has focused her research on sex positivity and wellness, particularly as they relate to relationships. While at school, she assisted Dr. Shannon Dermer in writing an undergraduate textbook (still in progress) on applying a sex-positive lens to discussions on a variety of topics including religion, kink, and sex work. She was also accepted to present at the 2026 IAMFT conference with Dr. Ungureanu for her poster "From Bias to Understanding in Counseling Consensually Non-Monogamous Clients." Kat is a strong social justice advocate and sees sex positivity as inherently tied to the anti-oppression movements. In her spare time, Kat is working towards her 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training certification.

IACSSW Secretary

This is currently an open position. Please contact Iris Wilson-Farley (iris@archcounselingcenter.com) if you are interested in this position or if you would like to nominate someone for this position.

IACSSW Trustee & Co-Founder



Frances McClain
(she/they)

Dr. Frances McClain, PhD, LCPC, "Dr. Mac", (she/they), completed her Master's in Counseling from Governors State University and PhD in Counselor Education C Supervision from The Chicago School. She is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) in Illinois. In 2013, she was inducted into the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, a prestigious honor society that recognizes and promotes academic excellence, leadership, and service. Dr. Mac is the Director of Clinical Training/Associate Professor in the Counseling Psychology Department, has been teaching with The Chicago School since 2008. Prior to joining The Chicago School, she was the Program Director at a community mental health center on the North Shore for ten years. Throughout her career she has worked in several different capacities that include clinical work, supervision, grant writing, program development, supervision and consultation. She is a co-founder of the Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness (ACSSW), a division of the American Counseling Association and is the co-founder and a trustee of the first state branch of ACSSW in Illinois (IACSSW). Dr. Mac is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness: Research, Practice, and Education* (ISSN: 2577-1299), is the editor of the quarterly ACSSW newsletter, and committee chair for the ACSSW annual webinar series. She has co-authored an article and book chapter focused on sexuality. She is also on the Editorial Board for the Association for Counselor Education & Supervision Teaching Practice Briefs (ACES-TPB) reviewing scholarly summaries and practical guides that describe teaching innovations and instructional strategies pertinent to counselor education. She maintains a limited private practice where she provides pro bono and sliding scale psychotherapy services, as well as providing training and consultation for supervisors, community agencies, area hospitals, Cook County probation, and Cook County Judges office staff. Dr. Mac is on the Board of Teaching While Queer, a non-profit organization providing advocacy and support for LGBTQIA+ educators and students. Dr. Mac regularly presents at the local, state, and national level on topics related to cultural sensitivity, supervision, professional ethics, sexuality and sexual wellness, especially as it relates to marginalized populations. She has also been a guest speaker for several different podcasts and other social media outlets due to her expertise in sexuality.



Trustee & Co-Founder

Lisa Salvadore (she/they)

Lisa Salvadore, MSW, LCSW, LCPC, CADC, (she/they) received their Master's in Social Work from Aurora University. Mx. Salvadore has been full-time faculty at the Jane Addams College of Social Work at University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) since 2015. They have worked as an adjunct at both UIC and The Chicago School since 2009. During their tenure teaching at a graduate level, they have taught a wide variety of courses which include skills and interventions in practice, corrections, policy, human sexuality, theories, as well as substance use related courses. In 2016 they developed the Clinical Interventions for Adults in Social Work Practice course which focuses on practical application of CBT, Mindfulness, Harm Reduction and Motivational Interviewing in clinical treatment. Along with being a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) they have maintained licensure as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) and Certification as an Addiction counselor (CADC). Between 1994 to 2011 they worked at the DuPage County Behavioral Health Department and were instrumental in the development of the first mental health court in Illinois. Additionally, Mx. Salvadore assisted in the development of the Mental Health Court Professionals Association of Illinois, which was the first in the nation. They were elected to the inaugural Board of Directors for the association and served as Board Secretary. In 2009 they were awarded the Advocate of the Year award by the DuPage County National Alliance for Mentally Ill. Since 2006 Lisa has maintained a limited private practice in Illinois and specializing in working with people with co-occurring substance use and mental health issues as well as people with gender identity issues and other sexual minority populations. Mx. Salvadore has presented at state and national conferences and provided training on topics related to compassion fatigue, motivational interviewing, assessing risk, crisis training in working with mental health and substance use, working with adult offenders, and human sexuality. Their areas of professional interests include counseling sexology and sexual wellness, social justice, fighting stigma against mental illness, harm reduction advocacy, promoting wellness in the LGBTIA+, Kink and Sexual Minorities Communities.

ACSSW'S 1ST STATE BRANCH & ICA'S 14TH DIVISION!

In the fall of 2024, at the Illinois Counseling Association's Annual Conference, Dr. Nicole Thompson, then President of ICA, attended the Saturday session on addressing sexual issues in couple treatment provided by Dr. Frances "Fran" McClain, Co-Founder of ACSSW, and Lisa Salvadore, LCSW, LCPC, CADC. During the course of their presentation they mentioned that ACSSW was the newest division of ACA. After the session Dr. Thompson approached Fran and Lisa letting them know that she was interested in supporting the development of a state branch of ACSSW.

Fran and Lisa then began the process of co-founding the first state branch of ACSSW. They contacted the ACSSW Executive Council who were excited at the opportunity to grow and expand the impact of ACSSW at the state level. Throughout 2025, Lisa and Fran met with licensed counselors, students, and counselor educators from Illinois who were interested in developing the new organization. At the fall 2025 ICA conference the newly formed Illinois Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness was given a table and over 80 people signed up indicating their interest in becoming members.

When IACSSW held it's first elections Iris Wilson-Farley, a Clinical Mental Health Counselor student from The Chicago School, was elected the first President. The rest of the IACSSW Board of Directors are Lexi Outly, President-Elect, Katherine Crockett, Secretary, Kat Collins, Treasurer, Lisa Salvadore and Frances McClain are Trustees. In the spring of 2026, IACSSW received approval from ACSSW to move forward with it's application to become a branch of ACSSW and, shortly thereafter, ICA approved IACSSW to become a division of ICA.

IACSSW became the 1st state branch of ACSSW and the 14th Division of ICA. This is groundbreaking as ACSSW was the first division in professional organizations whose mission is to advocate for education, training, and research addressing sexual needs in clinical treatment for everyone. While there are divisions for LGBTQIA+ and sexual minority communities, there are none that focuses on all identities and aspects of sexuality inclusive of races/ethnicities, genders and gender identities, ages, sexual orientations, religions, abilities, SES, or other sexual expressions. IACSSW embraces a sex positive framework which not only respects but celebrates differing ways of sexual expression. A sex-positive framework is an approach to sexuality that recognizes sexual expression, sexual diversity, pleasure, intimacy, and sexual health as normal aspects of human experience. It emphasizes respect, autonomy, consent, safety, and individual values rather than assuming there is one "right" way to experience or express sexuality.

IACSSW Committees

IACSSW Standing Committees

IACSSW will have Standing Committees that will be active based on membership interest and availability. The President will appoint Committee Chairs. Committee Chairs may remain in the position on an ongoing basis with approval of the incoming President. Each Committee Chair will determine the needed number of members for each committee in consultation with the President.

BIPOC Committee
Interim Chair - Lisa Salvadore
Our Mission

The BIPOC Committee shall be responsible for research and education/training related to sexuality and sexual wellness within the BIPOC community. Special attention will be given to challenging institutional oppression and ensuring IACSSW remains inclusive in its practices. All members of IACSSW in good standing are eligible to become members of any Standing Committee with the permission of the Committee Chair. Members may be asked to leave a committee due to extended absences from committee meetings and/or failure to complete assigned tasks within a committee. In order to be asked to leave a committee, the Committee Chair must first consult with the President for approval.

Education & Training Committee
Interim Chair - Frances McClain
Our Mission

The Education & Training Committee shall be responsible for coordinating and planning of all webinars, conferences, workshops and other educational activities as deemed appropriate by the IACSSW leadership, including the IACSSW newsletter.

Financial Affairs Committee
Chair - Kat Collins
Our Mission

The Financial Affairs Committee monitors the financial health and fiscal health of IACSSW. Members are tasked with budget planning, financial reporting review, investment oversight, and financial audits.

Engagement & Membership Committee
Interim Chair - Iris Farley-Wilson
Our Mission

The Engagement & Membership Committee shall be responsible for the solicitation of new members and renewal of existing members. The Engagement & Membership Committee shall advise the IACSSW President and IACSSW Executive Council about membership trends and work in tandem with the IACSSW Executive Council to elicit membership. The Engagement & Membership Committee is responsible for updating and maintaining all IACSSW social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and the IACSSW website. The Engagement & Membership Committee is responsible for notifying IACSSW membership of all IACSSW events and announcements. An IACSSW Social Media Coordinator may be appointed by the Engagement & Membership Committee Chair if needed to assist in managing IACSSW social media accounts.

Social Justice & Advocacy Committee
Interim Chair - Lexi Outly
Our Mission

The Social Justice & Advocacy Committee shall be responsible for monitoring all current events in legislature and related sexuality and sexual wellness that impacts the counseling profession and/or the rights of people served by the counseling profession. The Social Justice & Advocacy Committee will be responsible for notifying the IACSSW leadership of any areas of concern as well as developing IACSSW statements in response to current events and legislation that is in violation of or counter to the IACSSW mission statement.

IACSSW Committees



Help Shape the Future of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness in Illinois!

The *Illinois Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness* (IACSSW) is the newest division of the *Illinois Counseling Association*—and we are building something exciting together!

As a newer organization, our committees are an opportunity to help shape who we are, what we prioritize, and how we serve our members and the communities we work with. We are looking for passionate members who are interested in taking a leadership role and helping bring our vision to life.

We are currently seeking Committee Leaders for:

- ***BIPOC Committee* – Help promote inclusion, representation, and culturally responsive practices within counseling sexology and sexual wellness.**
- ***Education & Training Committee* – Help develop educational opportunities, trainings, and professional development for counselors and other helping professionals.**
- ***Social Justice & Advocacy Committee* – Help identify opportunities for advocacy and advance social justice related to sexuality, sexual wellness, and access to affirming care.**
- ***Engagement & Membership Committee* – Help build our membership, strengthen connections among members, and create opportunities for involvement and community.**

You do not need to have all the answers or extensive committee leadership experience. What we are looking for are people who are enthusiastic, collaborative, and willing to help build something from the ground up.

As a committee leader, you will have the opportunity to connect with colleagues across Illinois, contribute your ideas and expertise, develop leadership skills, and make a meaningful impact on the future of counseling sexology and sexual wellness.
If you have ever thought, "I wish there were more opportunities to..."—this is your chance to help create them.

Join us in building the future of IACSSW. We would love to have your voice at the table!

Make a Difference...

Join a Committee!



Illinois Counseling Association's Newest Division!

Illinois Association of Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness

Fall 2026 Webinar Series

in parternshipwithTheChicagoSchoolOfficeofContinuingEducation

"Sex Positive Therapy with Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (QTBIPOC)"



Presented by Lauren Wiklund, PhD
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
8am-10am PT / 10am-12pm CT / 11am-1pm ET

Click Below to Register

https://tcsppofficeofce.com/product/sex-positive-therapy-with-queer-trans-black-indigenous-and-people-of-color-qtbipoc/

In resistance to narratives that pathologize marginalized sexualities, this program focuses on how to incorporate sex positive practices into therapy with queer and/or trans Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (QTBIPOC). Theoretical frameworks exist to help us shift our language and actions toward more socially just and destigmatizing care. By utilizing intersectionality theory (Crenshaw, 1991) and embodiment (Krieger, 2001), this program illustrates the reciprocal relationship between the body and its social context within compounding systems of oppression.



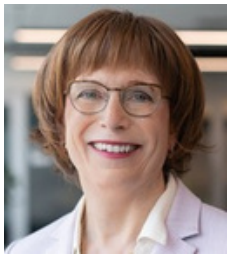
"University Students Engaged in Sex Work"
October 21, 2026
10a-12p (CST)

Julia L. Lancaster, PhD, LPC, ACS, BC-TMH
(she/her)



"Introducation to Working with Non-Monogamous Clients"
November 4, 2026
10a-12p (CST)

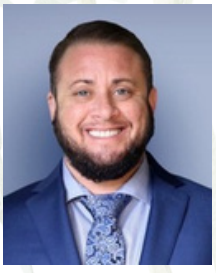
Nicole Sonnefeldt, LPC
(she/her)



Emma Vosicky, J.D., MAT
(she/her)



Shannon Lane, LCSW
(he/him)



Jameson Pagano, LCPC
(he/him)

"The Transgender Experience"
December 9, 2026
10a-12p (CST)



Join IACSSW at the ICA Conference in November! We will have a table with fun goodies for everyone - especially IACSSW members!

IACSSW
Member
Illinois Association of Counseling
Sexology and Sexual Wellness

Be sure to attend the session presented by Frances McClain, PhD, LCPC & Lisa Salvadore, LCSW, LCPC, CADC IACSSW's Co-Founders & Trustees

Embodied Pleasure: Reframing Body Image as a Foundation for Sexual Health and Pleasure in Clinical Practice	**11/6/2026**	**10:15 AM**	**11:45 AM**	**Friday**

Body image plays a critical yet often under-addressed role in clients' sexual health and overall wellbeing. Negative body perception is associated with reduced pleasure and diminished relational intimacy, while positive body image supports greater sexual agency and satisfaction. Despite this, many mental health professionals receive limited training on addressing body image concerns within a sex-positive, inclusive framework. This presentation will explore how sociocultural influences, internalized stigma, trauma, and intersectional identities shape embodied experiences. The session will introduce practical, developmentally appropriate interventions that promote body neutrality and self-compassion. Through case examples and clinical tools, participants will learn how to help clients shift from appearance-based self-evaluation to a more pleasure-centered relationship with their bodies. Emphasis will be placed on inclusive, affirming practices that support clients of all body sizes, abilities, genders, and cultural backgrounds.

Illinois Association of Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness

We are now accepting manuscript submissions for the IACSSW Spring 2027 Newsletter.

The deadline for submissions is December 2, 2026.

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 IACSSW 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 IACSSW 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.

We are looking for new team members!

Send inquires to Frances McClain at fmcclain@thechicagoschool.edu



IACSSW Membership Benefits:

- Access to resources about addressing sexuality in clinical treatment.
- IACSSW Newsletter with articles, division updates, & more!
- Discounts for IACSSW Webinars offering CEs!
- Opportunity to work with an organization engaged in social justice & advocacy to ensure sexual rights for everyone.
- Participate in a community that embraces a sex positive framework that respects and celebrates all sexual expression, gender and gender expression, values and beliefs, regardless of race/ethnicity, age, religion, SEX, physical abilities.
- Consultation with knowledgeable licensed professional counselors with years of experience in the field addressing issues related to sexuality.

During the 26-27 year membership in IACSSW is free! Take advantage of the free membership and we hope you will join us again in 27-28.

IACSSW Leadership

Board of Directors

Executive Council

President: Iris Farley-Wilson
President-Elect: Lexi Outly
Secretary:
Treasurer: Kat Collins

Trustees

Frances McClain
Lisa Salvadore

IACSSW Newsletter Staff

Editor: Frances McClain

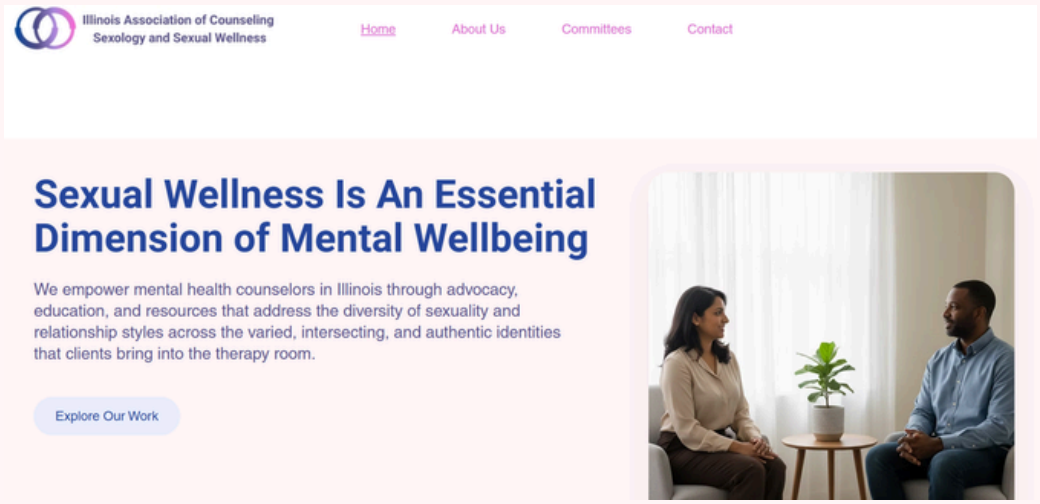
Committees *

BIPOC Committee (Chair/Lisa Salvadore)
Education & Training (Chair/Frances McClain)
Financial Affairs (Chair/Kat Collins)
Engagement & Membership (Chair/Iris Farley-Wilson
Social Justice & Advocacy (Chair/Lexi Outly)

Except for the Financial Affairs Committee which is chaired by the Treasurer, all other chair positions are temporarily filled by board members until other volunteers become available.

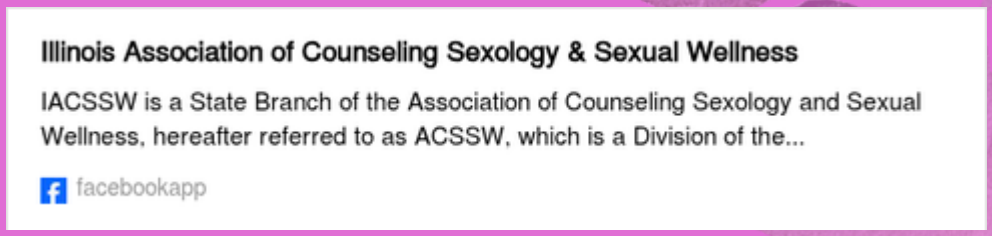
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Follow IACSSW on Social Media



Visit IACSSW's New Website!

https://iacssw.org





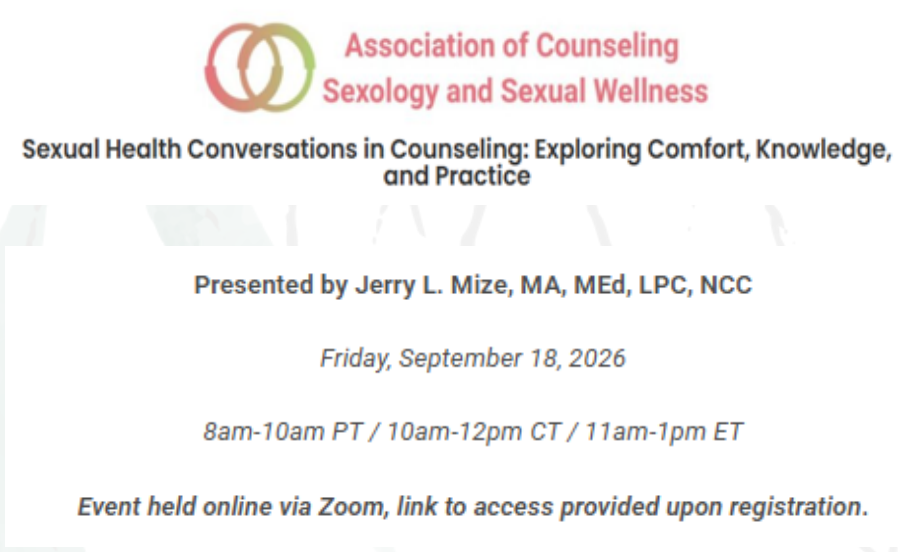
Annual ACSSW Webinar Series 26-27

It is ACSSW tradition to have the theme of the annual ACSSW Webinar Series to focus o the ACSSW Presidential platform. Therefore, the 26-27 ACSSW Webinar series will focus on Sheldon Aaron's, ACSSW 26-27 ACSSW President, stated platform:

Presidential Platform

Part of the mission of ACSSW is to promote understanding, foster education, advance knowledge regarding sexual health and wellness. It is also a part of our mission to respect the diverse histories and experiences of the people we serve in our profession. Evidenced by current legislative movements and rhetoric regarding sexuality, gender, and sexual health, especially with youth, it is pertinent that we continue advocating for and educating on inclusive and comprehensive sexual health and wellness within the counseling profession to ensure scholarship can inform future practices and policies. For these reasons, my platform for my presidency will be focused on the role mental health providers have in inclusive, trauma-informed comprehensive sex education with youth, particularly within the k-12 education system. I believe mental health practitioners, beyond school counselors, have a responsibility to advocate for and advance knowledge around developmentally appropriate sexual health education with children and adolescents. To put my platform into practice, I am collaborating with the ACSSW Education Committee to plan our webinar series around topics related to sexual health and wellness with children and adolescents.





https://tcsppofficeofce.com/product/sexual-health-conversations-in-counseling-exploring-comfort-knowledge-and-practice/

Association of Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness

Think about joining ACSSW - our National Division!

https://counselingsexology.org

Why join as a paid member?

Here are a few reasons to stay connected and engaged with our unique and powerful organization:

- Reduced costfor ACSSW events, including monthly webinars and upcoming certification track *(est. release date 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
- Networking with ACSSW members

How to join:

If you are a **current ACA member**, call the ACA Member Services Center (MSC) at 1-800-28-2276, Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm ET to add ACSSW as a division membership on 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.

If your ACA membership is up for renewal, join ACSSW as a division in the ACA member portal online.

Division Dues:

Professional: $50

Regular: $50

New Professional 1 (first year): $45

New Professional 2 (second year): $45

Student: $40

Retired: $40

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



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 submissions.

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

To find more, check out the following link:
https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/jcssw/

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

Special Issue Call for Papers:

Bridging the Gap: Advancing Comprehensive Sexual Health Education from the Classroom to the Clinic

The *Journal of Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness* (JCSSW) invites submissions for a special issue focused on the continuum between early sexual health education and advanced training for helping professionals.

As conversations around sexuality continue to evolve culturally, ethically, and developmentally, there is a growing need for integrated, evidence-informed approaches that span the lifespan. This special issue seeks scholarship that bridges K–12 comprehensive sexual health education with graduate training and clinical practice in counseling and related helping professions.
We welcome submissions that examine how developmentally appropriate, inclusive, and values-aware education can support healthier adult relationships, improved mental health outcomes, and more effective, ethical clinical care. We are especially interested in work that addresses training gaps, clinician and educator discomfort, cultural responsiveness, and sex-positive, trauma-informed approaches across the lifespan.

Topics of Interest Include:

- **Curriculum development and evaluation for K–12 comprehensive sex education**
- **Barriers to inclusive and affirming sex education in school systems**
- **Training gaps and competencies in graduate-level helping professions**
- **Developmentally appropriate approaches to sexuality education across systems**
- **Collaboration between educators, families, clinicians, and healthcare professionals**
- **Sexuality across the lifespan and implications for clinical training and practice**
- **Addressing educator and clinician discomfort, bias, and avoidance**
- **Cultural, ethical, and policy considerations in sexuality education**
- **Integration of trauma-informed and sex-positive frameworks**
- **Innovations in pedagogy for counselor education and supervision related to sexuality**
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Types of Submissions:

JCSSW welcomes empirical research, conceptual and theoretical manuscripts, practice-focused articles, and pedagogical or supervision innovations.

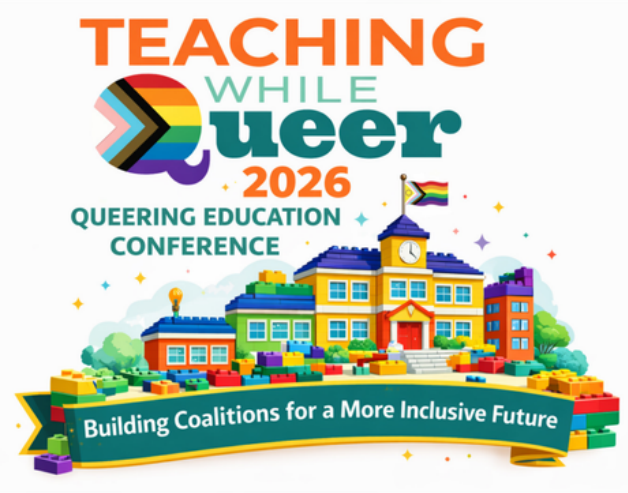
Submission Information:

Manuscripts should be submitted through the JCSSW online submission system:
https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/cgi/submit.cgi?context=jcssw

Authors should follow standard JCSSW submission guidelines and indicate in the cover letter that the manuscript is intended for the special issue on "Bridging the Gap: Advancing Comprehensive Sexual Health Education from the Classroom to the Clinic."

Timeline:

Submission Deadline: September 15, 2026
Initial Decisions: November 15, 2026
Revised Manuscripts Due: January 15, 2027
Final Decisions: February 15, 2027
Anticipated Publication: May 2027



Dates: October 10 & 11, 2026
Time: 12:00pm ET - 6:00pm ET
Venue: Virtual

Building Coalitions for a More Inclusive Future

Join *Teaching While Queer* this October for the 2nd Annual 2026 Queering Education Conference, a virtual gathering of educators, researchers, advocates, students, school leaders, and community partners committed to building more inclusive educational spaces.

The Queering Education Conference brings together people who are supporting queer and trans people in education from multiple angles. Some are in classrooms. Some are in leadership. Some are doing policy work, research, community organizing, teacher preparation, student support, or family advocacy. This conference is designed to bring those conversations into the same space.

LGBTQ+ people, histories, and ways of knowing are being challenged, erased, and politicized; this conference is rooted in something deeper than reaction. It is rooted in practice. In pedagogy. In coalition. In the belief that trans and other queer people deserve educational spaces where they can learn, work, lead, and exist fully.
Whether your work is grounded in research, direct service, teaching, organizing, or institutional change, this conference is meant to offer a space for learning, strategy, connection, and possibility.

Who should attend

- **K–12 educators**
- **Higher education faculty and staff**
- **School and District leaders**
- **Researchers and graduate students**
- **Counselors, Social Workers, and Student Support Staff**
- **Community organizers and nonprofit leaders**
- **LGBTQ+ advocates and allies**

Why this conference matters

The work of queering education is not just about inclusion language. It is about transforming the conditions under which people learn, teach, lead, and belong.
For some, that means changing curriculum. For some, it means protecting students. For some, it means supporting educators who are exhausted, isolated, or being targeted. For some, it means doing the long institutional work of shifting systems that were never built with us in mind.
This conference exists to hold all of that together.