

Counselor Identity Article

Liberty University

Maggie R. Moran

Abstract

This article looks into the changes made in the counseling profession over the course of the last 100 years and attempts to unify these issues through the 20/20 group. This group, acting as almost the United Nations of the professional counseling world, takes great strides to set a clear-cut direction for the future of the field. The 30 organizations who participate in this group, have been meeting over the last few decades, bringing topics and concepts for improvements in professional counseling. Out of all 30 of these organizations, only 1 has declined to endorse the 20/20 group's efforts to agree on topics for further discussion. All other groups have endorsed the group's efforts and agree the specific topics chosen are the most imperative discussions that need to take place in future conferences. Because delegates split into sub-groups, which are the specific areas of expertise for each, it is thought by the committee to be the best way for defining the most areas with most challenge for the future of the field.

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Summary

Over the course of nearly 100 years of professional counseling, there have been a number of changes and developments that have occurred which influenced the type of counseling that takes place in modern day. In order to mandate a great deal of this process, *20/20: A Vision for the Future of Counseling* was created to attempt unity within all important areas of professional counseling. A group of delegates from professional counseling organizations nationwide collectively voted on what the most important aspects needed to be addressed, in order to maintain a strong sense of direction for the future of the counseling field.

All 30 organizations invited to participate in 20/20 accepted their invitations, proving to be a solid course of action. The invited groups were all those associated with the counseling profession; these groups either accredit, certify within in the field, or are among an honorary professional counseling group. One elected delegate per organization participated in a brainstorming conference and helped to adhere important principles of the counseling community that need to be addressed further. According to Kaplan and Gladding (2011), “the delegates determined priorities, topics, and tasks and the Oversight Committee would then determine a method that would allow the delegates to accomplish their goals” (p. 368). While the delegates focused on the content, the Oversight Committee “decided that its role would be limited to a focus o process” (Kaplan & Gladding, 2011, p. 368).

Upon having 90% of elected delegates give approval for specific concepts, the information is then set up in an official document and sent to all 30 participating organizations in hope for endorsement. In the past, there has only been one organization who was unwilling to participate, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). This group disagreed with the

20/20 concept “that there is a single, common professional identity among counselors” (Kaplan & Gladding, 2011, p. 370). That said “20/20 has become the United Nations of professional counseling” (Kaplan & Gladding, 2011, p. 371). This group is representing the future growth of the counseling profession and making sure to include all aspects of the field throughout the process.

Reactions

I find the article to be hugely beneficial to my knowledge of proactive members in the professional counseling community. It gives me great confidence to know that I participate in a field that takes great strides to not only improve its current situation, but “due to the possibilities offered by technology, counselors would make a major commitment to investigating the utilization of computers and technology in counseling” (Kaplan & Gladding, 2011, p. 368). I was unaware of this group prior to reading the article, but it has motivated me to research the organizations specifically created for the Marriage and Family Therapy and it has given me great reason to financially donate to these groups in order to assist with the endorsements given to 20/20. In addition, it has motivated me to be an active member of one or more of these groups in order to offer my ideas that might better the future of the professional counseling field.

I find it most interesting how the 20/20 group emerged only a few decades ago and has come to govern a great deal of the counseling profession over 50 states. The process of having delegates split into sub-groups dependent on their area of expertise and brainstormed to find collective topics to work on in future conferences was a very organized way of predicting future challenges. I found the topics of importance: “strengthening identity, presenting ourselves as one profession, improving public perception/recognition, and advocating for professional issues, creating licensure portability, expanding and promoting research (...), focusing on students and

prospective students, and promoting client welfare and advocacy” (Kaplan & Gladding, 2011, p.369) all to be very serious topics that needed addressed, regardless of whether professional counseling ended up moving together as a whole or if the sub-sections chose to move independently. Seeing as there is still one organization in disagreement of whether all counseling fields should be recognized as one union, will most likely continue to be a challenge that will be faced in the future. I believe it would be easier to write ethics codes and laws pertaining to counseling if everyone came together in one union, but also see the side of individual sub-sections feeling they differ greatly from other areas of the field.

Summary and Reactions to SafeAssign Report

The SafeAssign Report’s primary purpose is to indicate whether or not there is any suspected plagiarism in a student’s draft of a paper due at Liberty University. SafeAssign pulls information from other sources on the web, including published articles, books, websites, other student’s papers, etc... This site is intended to be a helpful tool for students that will help them correct any improper citations and any closely related material on the Internet. This resource is not intended to call students out on possible plagiarism, but rather to help them understand the effects improper research and citations may have on his or her writing.

The SafeAssign Report indicates there is a 36% match between my Counselor Identity Paper and other uploads to the site. The report indicated that my paper’s citations matched those of eight other students who have previously submitted their paper’s via SafeAssign. This said, there were no indications of potential plagiarism with any other source, other than those eight student papers. This suggests to me the 36% has very little effect on my paper, since I never came across any other student’s papers in my research, therefore I believe my work was done very well for this assignment. In addition, I have taken into consideration the length of the

article we were to base our assignment on; it was relatively short and there was not a great deal of information that could have been pulled from it to make valid points about the topic. Because this article was so short, it would have been difficult for any student to pull quotes that did not match a number of other student's papers. This information leaves me with the conclusion that although 36% is considered a high number to have in the SafeAssign document, considering the figure is solely based off other student's papers that most likely were written under the same assignment, my paper is plagiarism free and I am able to submit it as is.

References

- Kaplan, D.M. & Gladding, S.T. (2011). A vision for the future of counseling: The 20/20 principles for unifying and strengthening the profession. *Journal of Counseling and Development*, 89(3), 367–372.