



- Quarterly Social Gatherings on: 2/6/2026, 5/8/2026, 8/21/2026, and 11/13/2026
- KEEP AN EYE ON ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2026!

MENTORING DAY WRAP-UP

by Marilyn Reibsamen, MFT

Each October, the crisp breath of autumn, the changing leaves, and the shortening days alert me that Mentoring Day is arriving soon. Throughout the years, as an intern to fully licensed, I've attended at different points in my career. If you've been following NCSC for a while, perhaps you can relate. For a moment, envision the changing season, the evolution of Mentoring Day, and the personal transformations in yourself with each passing year.

This year, we had the privilege of hosting keynote speaker Judge Deborah Shumacher. She expertly addressed the topic of court-involved clients and therapy with skill and compassion. She offered invaluable insights drawing on her experiences with family courts and her dedication to mental health advocacy. Our panel of experts, Ann Wilson, April Lang-Barroga and Dr. Regina Marshall, shared their respective areas of expertise, the unique challenges faced by court-mandated clients, and provided guidance on navigating the uncertainties of the legal field with confidence. The chemistry between the panelists and their depth of knowledge was truly inspiring.

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We were pleased to welcome a variety of agencies providing services and offering opportunities to prospective interns at the agency tables. We aim to provide accurate information to students, interns, and other licensed professionals in our field. The supervisor Q & A, meet and greet, and CEU (presented by Barbara Hudson) were additional opportunities to meet with other clinicians who are passionate about passing on their wisdom. It is our honor and privilege to continue to host these events for the Northern Nevada community. As 2025 nears its end, we look to 2026 with the goals of building community, enhancing systemic practices, and advocating for our field. We hope you can continue to engage and participate in the coming year.

by Dr. Chuck Holt

In response to "Joey, Leah and You," from the last Ethical Corner several of you sent emails, so I want to offer our appreciation for your comments.

A couple of you who work in the rural areas observed that such an event as giving a young client a ride home in rainy weather would not be unusual. You observed that in your respective communities, everyone knows everyone, so the unintentional or inadvertent crossing of an ethical boundary is not at all uncommon. These same folks doubted that they would even bother to document such a common event. The other responses indicated that they, too, would have given the lad a ride home, and would have maintained the confidentiality of their relationship with Joey, even if he told your daughter Leah that you were his therapist. This group of respondents was inclined to document in a brief narrative simply describing the situation. Another writer noted that she had been surprised by Leah telling her loudly to stop and wondered if her stopping was partially related to not wanting to disappoint Leah and possibly disrupting the progress she had been making in coming out of her own depression.

Ali and Tom

The end of your week has arrived, and you are convinced that this particular week consisted of eight days, maybe even nine. As you're closing your office door, your friend Tom, also a new intern with Unicorn Wellness, approaches, inviting you for a drink and a chat, saying that he has very important news to share with you. You gladly accept, thinking how weary you are, how excited Tom is, and how dreary your apartment will be when you get home and feed your cat, Lilly, your sole companion through graduate school.

With a burger in one hand and a cold brew in the other you teasingly nudge Tom to tell his story. And he does. With much excitement, (giddiness, really) he says he has found love, possibly true love, but certainly some sort of love, and that it is reciprocal. You wait, and he says you will never guess who, and you don't, so he tells: Ali. You almost aspirate your bite of burger because Ali is the owner and clinical director of Unicorn Wellness. Without noticing your effort to gulp that burger bite, Tom continues, saying very confidentially that they have been seeing each other for about four months, that Ali is amazing, so easy to talk with, and that they are compatible in all meaningful ways, including sexually. Oh, and he asks you to please not tell anyone because they're not quite ready to go public.

You gradually finish your drink and burger and try to focus on what else Tom is telling you, and you're thinking how much you like and respect Ali. Although not your primary supervisor, she is a secondary for you, and you recognize that you have received some excellent supervisory advice and support from her. She is good friends with your primary supervisor. Tom's words slowly creep into your awareness, and you hear him describe his and Ali's visit with a local attorney who suggests that the "true love" exception to specific aspects of their ethical code is probably defensible. You note that Tom's smile has grown.

Lilly is probably hungry...

Consider any ethical issues, any clinical issues, and any legal issues. Imagine more than one action you might take. Imagine who you might want to consult with if anyone.

Let us know your thoughts at info@nevadacsc.org

by Ron Toft, CPC-I

Hello NCSC readers! My name is Ron Toft, I am a CPC-I at Alta Vista Mental Health and the new Intern Liaison for the Nevada Coalition for Systemic Counselors.

My role is to create helpful services and points of connection for mental health interns and students in our region. As the demand for mental health care continues to rise, it is imperative to create a supportive and collaborative professional network in Northern Nevada. A strong inter-professional community among pre-licensed clinicians will grow into a more cohesive and supportive mental healthcare system for our region. To that end, I am implementing a few initiatives designed to support the growth and connectivity of our interns and students:

1. Support for the licensure exam, a major stressor as we all know, but also a great opportunity to develop supportive relationships with our peers! I am facilitating intern cohorts based on license track that can act as study groups and support groups for the exam. I am also working to gather a library of donated study materials to make available for those cohorts.
2. I am designing opportunities for students, interns, and their colleagues in adjacent fields (clinical social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists) to connect with each other. It is my hope that this will eventually include those working or planning to work in rural areas of northern Nevada. This initiative will include special events as well as increasing the reach and services available for interns at Mentoring Day.

For more information on these programs, to join an exam cohort, or donate study materials, please reach out to Ron at rtoft@altavistamh.com

Are you enjoying this newsletter? We hope so! To help us continue to offer great resources like this, please consider becoming a member or checking your membership status. Your membership keeps NCSC running. We are grateful to all of our members!

COMMUNITY CORNER



Ongoing support groups offered virtually and in person, check out their calendar [here!](#)

Topic: Family Support Group
Date & Time: 2nd and 4th Monday at 3PM
Location: Must register for address
[Register here!](#)

Topic: Grupo de Apoyo para Familiares
Date & Time: Dec. 20, 2025, 11:00am-12:30pm
Location: Virtual
[Register here!](#)