

Partnering for Progress:

Building Cross-Professional and Interdisciplinary Alliances

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Your Advocacy Toolbox

Direct Lobbying

Professional advocates engaging directly with officials to encourage them to adopt or oppose a policy position.

Grassroots Engagement

Mobilizing constituents and stakeholders to advocate for policy changes through calls, emails, and public actions..

Foundation of a Strong Advocacy Program

Political Giving

Fundraising to support campaigns of candidates who champion issues relevant to your mission, typically through a Political Action Committee (PAC)

Coalition Engagement

Partnering with diverse organizations to amplify your advocacy efforts and show broad support.



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Why are Coalitions Important?



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1. Strength in Numbers

- Coalitions bring together diverse organizations and voices, which demonstrates broad-based support for an issue.
- Lawmakers are more likely to pay attention when multiple constituencies—such as healthcare providers, educators, businesses, and community groups—are aligned

2. Amplified Messaging

- Coalitions can coordinate communications, ensuring consistent and widespread messaging across media, social platforms, and public events.
- Joint statements, press conferences, and advocacy days have greater visibility and impact when backed by a coalition.

3. Shared Resources & Expertise

- Coalition members can pool knowledge, research, and funding, making advocacy efforts more efficient and informed
- Each organization brings unique strengths—whether it's policy expertise, grassroots networks, or media access—that enhance the overall campaign.

Coalition Engagement: Key Questions to Consider

- Do our missions and values align?
- **What are the short-term and long-term goals of the coalition?**
- What role will our association play in the coalition?
- What resources (staff, time, funding) will be required?
- **What unique value do we bring to the table?**
- Who else belongs to this coalition?
- **How are decisions made in this coalition?**
- How will joint actions be communicated to the public and policymakers?



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Collaboration: *Stronger Together*



- ✓ Aligns policy goals
- ✓ Improves service delivery impact
- ✓ Expands expertise & resources
- ✓ Strengthens unified advocacy voice

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Partnering for Progress: Building Cross-Professional and Interdisciplinary Alliances

Collaboration strengthens policy advocacy and service delivery by aligning goals, amplifying expertise, and improving community outcomes.



[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Contact Danna Fowble, Executive Director

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Okla. Psychological Assn. and Blue Cross Blue Shield Announce Reimbursement for Trainees – Investing in Our Future Mental Health Workforce

(Oklahoma City, OK) - Wednesday, March 12, 2025 - The Oklahoma Psychological Association (OPA) is excited to announce a transformative development in mental health care reimbursement. What started as recent conversations and past legislative initiatives, has brought a landmark decision, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma (BCBSOK) has joined Aetna, Cigna and our long-time partner SoonerCare by approving reimbursement for services provided by supervised mental health trainees.

Yesterday's news of policy changes within BCBSOK, effective immediately, will empower the next generation of the mental health workforce and is a game changer for trainees who are the future of Oklahoma's mental health care. OPA's Workforce Development Task Force believes that this will enhance training opportunities for psychology interns and post-doctoral residents who can receive reimbursable clinical experience, equipping them with the practical skills needed to thrive. In addition, to psychological trainees, Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC's) Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), and other master's level mental health care providers will benefit from this OPA and BCBSOK initiative, ensuring a comprehensive boost to Oklahoma's mental health workforce.



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- Internal Collaboration: Cross-committee communications within your SPTA strengthens efficiency, prevents duplication and aligns organizational strategy
- External Collaboration: Partnerships opportunities including universities, health systems, nonprofits, tribal entities and professional associations



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2026 SUMMER PRACTICE SUMMIT

ONE DAY. TWO PATHS. BETTER PRACTICES FOR OKLAHOMA PSYCHOLOGY.

AUGUST 1, 2026
SAMIS CENTER, OKLAHOMA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

PATH 1: PSYCHOLOGISTS

PATH 2: BILLERS & CODERS

SHARED GOAL: THE INTEGRATED PRACTICE

ETHICS WORKSHOP WITH ΨTRUST

Focus: Liability, Ethics, & Protection
Credit: 6 Hours Ethics CE
Audience: Psychologists & Providers

THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BILLER & CODER INTENSIVE WORKSHOP

Focus: Revenue Cycle & Compliance
Credit: Coding Certificate (3.5 Hours)
Audience: Billers, Coders, & Admin

REGISTRATION OPTIONS & BUNDLES AT [OKPSYCH.ORG/PRACTICE](https://okpsych.org/practice)



Partnering for Progress: Building Cross-Professional and Interdisciplinary Alliances

- Policy Collaboration: Unified messaging increases legislative impact, shared expertise improves policy recommendations, coordinated testimony and joint priorities reduces conflicting efforts.
- Psychological Service Deliver Collaboration: enhanced continuity of care through coordinated networks, shared training and clinical tools strengthen workforce capacity, partnerships reduce gaps in underserved areas.



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OK PSYCHOLOGISTS: WHEN BEHAVIOR CHANGES OVERNIGHT: UNDERSTANDING PANS/PANDAS

Conference Session Feature:

What happens when infection sparks sudden emotional and cognitive turmoil in a child? This session dives into the emerging science of Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS)—where the immune system and the mind collide. Learn how infections and autoimmune responses can trigger psychiatric flares, how to interpret neuropsychological testing for functional decline, and how to coordinate multidisciplinary care that truly helps families navigate recovery. Walk away equipped with the latest research, real-world strategies, and renewed confidence to recognize and respond to PANS/PANDAS in your practice.

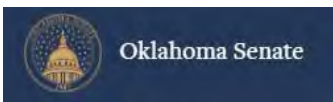


OPA 2025

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Nov 14-15 Northeastern State University Broken Arrow Campus

www.okpsych.org/opa2025



FLORIDA HOUSE of
REPRESENTATIVES





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Partnering for Progress: Building Cross-Professional and Interdisciplinary Alliances

Eric Russ, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Kentucky Psychological Association

Show up and do things!

Advocacy is
relationships



Raising your profile

- Public mental health communication
 - Health/Mental Health Events
 - Webinars
 - Podcasts
- Media
 - Op-Eds
 - Mental health stories
- Challenges
 - Quick availability
 - Clear position



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HEALING AFTER TRAUMA: WHAT SCIENCE TELLS US ABOUT RECOVERY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2026

12:00 - 1:00 PM EST ON ZOOM

Trauma is more common than most people realize, and its effects can shape our emotions, relationships, health, and daily lives. The good news is that healing is possible—and the science of trauma recovery gives us a clearer roadmap than ever before. In this accessible, empowering workshop, Dr. Christal Badour will explain what trauma is (and what it isn't), how it affects the brain and body, and why people respond in different ways. Participants will learn practical coping strategies, signs that additional support might be helpful, and how to support loved ones who have experienced trauma. This session is designed for the general public and emphasizes hope, understanding, and real-world tools for recovery.

PRESENTED BY:



DR. CHRISTAL
BADOUR



Leadership Development

- Leadership Institute
 - Lead to First Responder Treatment Network
 - First podcast
 - Advocacy training
- Cultivate Leadership Networks
 - SPTAs should be a hub for mentorship and connection
 - In person events and socials
- Cultivate strong relationship with
 - University/academic colleagues
 - Organizational psychologists
 - Psychologists in leadership
- Award good work
 - Citizen Psychologist Award



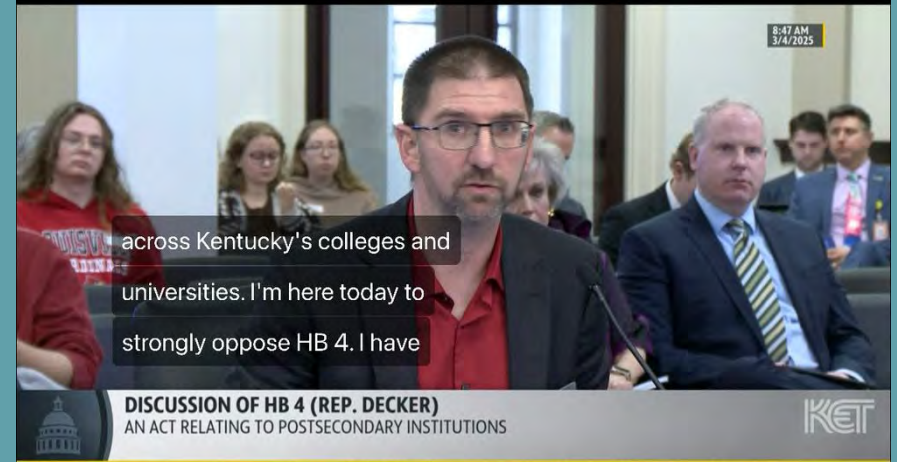
Partners



Access to Care and Suicide Prevention

Conversion
practices

Diversity
Equity and
Inclusion



Creating your roadmap

- Leadership buy in
 - Goals and guardrails
 - Define Solo vs Coalition Efforts
 - Policy development
- Member buy in
 - Set priorities
- Environmental Scan
 - Who are the key organizational connections?
- Who is responsible for developing/maintaining relationships?
 - Succession planning
- Feedback/Updates
 - Board meetings? Committees? Member town halls?



Questions:

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