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The hope for the new integrated membership model is that it will allow the association to be more nimble while advocating for psychology with one voice. As you might imagine, educators, practitioners, scientists and SPTAs are Advocating through Change
Continued on page 3
The Importance of Vision

Pat DeLeon,
Ph.D.
Former APA
President

The next iteration of healthcare in our nation will feature team-based, interprofessional clinical services within organized systems of care. This approach represents one of the underlying foundations of President Obama’s Affordable Care Act (ACA), as well as numerous recommendations by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. APA appreciates the long-term significance of this evolution, which was a high personal priority for former APA President Susan McDaniel. Jim Diaz-Granados, Executive Director of the Education Directorate: “The Education Directorate recognizes the value of interprofessional education and training (IPE). This is evidenced by our active participation in a number of interprofessional organizations.”

The increasing utilization of telehealth (i.e., telepsychology), as well as other transformational advances (apps, virtual realities, social networks, etc.) that are occurring within the communications and technology fields will ultimately revolutionize healthcare. The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) proposed “E-Passport,” based upon the enactment of an Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) by the various state legislatures, is the future. Our sincerest appreciation for the most impressive vision of their CEO Steve DeMers.

For psychology to effectively engage in these uncharted waters, it is critical that our State Associations provide critical leadership by exposing their members to our colleagues in a wide range of healthcare disciplines, such as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), Clinical Pharmacists, Physician Assistants (PAs), Optometrists, Clinical Social Workers, etc. prior to needing to work collaborative with them in the state legislative and administrative arenas. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently projected that the supply of primary care NPs will increase by 30%, from 55,400 in 2010 to 72,100 in 2020; primary care PAs will increase by 58%, from 27,700 to 43,900 over the same period. Fortunately, we are increasing aware of academic colleagues who are working within the training institutions of other healthcare disciplines, beyond that of medicine.

Karen Pellegrin: “It’s a great time to be a psychologist in a College of Pharmacy. Over a decade ago, the Institute of Medicine [now NAM] identified working in interdisciplinary teams as one of the core competencies essential for all healthcare professionals. More recently, accreditors of pharmacy programs and other health education programs have made interprofessional education a requirement. At the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, being the only clinical psychologist on the faculty gives me so many opportunities to introduce pharmacy students to key aspects of human behavior. The first cohort of pharmacy students has begun taking coursework in our new certificate programs. As program coordinator for the Healthcare Leadership Certificate program, I teach them about the Yerkes-Dodson law of human performance, actions leaders can take to improve performance at the individual and organization levels, how organizational culture can be measured and improved, and cognitive-behavioral approaches to managing their personal finances (so that they can pay off their student loans and save enough to be able to retire some day!).”

Developing these relationships is so important I might consider donating to the American Psychological Foundation (APF) in recognition of the first one or two State Associations that understand its significance.

Update: Beth Rom-Rymer reports that the prescribing license announcement just appeared on the website of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. An application is expected in the very near future.

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ECP Spotlight: The Model Licensure Act

Eric Russ, Ph.D.
SPTA Representative for the APA’s Committee on Early Career Psychologists

In conversations with ECPs, one issue that comes up frequently is concern about the path to licensure. By definition, ECPs are either about to become licensed or have just completed the process and are familiar with the particular frustrations of the process. One common complaint is about varying requirements in the number and type of hours required for licensure. Requirements by state vary tremendously, particularly at the post-doctoral level. In an attempt to improve this situation, APA Council adopted the Model Licensure Act (MLA) in 2010. The MLA recommends licensure language that includes counting pre-internship hours towards licensure. A change in this direction generally decreases or eliminates the need for post-doctoral hours toward licensure. Currently 18 states have licensure language to this effect.

There are good arguments for getting the rest of our states on the same page. Generally, the quality of training and number of practicum hours completed during graduate school has increased, as has student debt load. Allowing licensure applicants to count those practicum hours and get their careers started earlier gives financial relief without sacrificing quality. Additionally, with the advent of a competency-based exam for licensure, there are few worries about general competence.

One hurdle to starting to work on a big issue like this is where to get started. APAs Committee on Early Career Psychologists helped develop a toolkit (http://www.apa.org/careers/early-career/licensure/index.aspx) to guide you through the process. On the toolkit, you will find case studies, advocacy advice, and training data to help support your case. If this is something you are interested in, reach out to your SPTA or ECP committee to start gathering support. Once you have a committed group of advocates together, consider applying for the Early Career Licensure Project Award (http://www.apa.org/about/awards/early-career-licensure.aspx) to help fund your efforts.

Many states are looking for ideas to recruit more ECPs and many ECPs are looking for opportunities to engage in state level advocacy. Easing the path to licensure is a great win for both, as a clear commitment to ECPs from supportive SPTAs and a relatively non-controversial (outside of psychology) issue for new advocates to develop relationships with their legislators. I hope this helps some of you get the process started. If you get stuck, please reach out to me directly (erusso@gmail.com) and we can find resources to help you get moving!

Advocating through Change
Continued from page 1

Concerned about how this new model might impact their resources and advocacy agenda, I, and the other members of workgroup, are being very deliberate to ensure that there is equity in oversight and funding for all groups in the new model. Although there was no SPTA slate for the workgroup, you will see below that there are several presidents of Division 31 and members that have been very involved in their SPTAs. The members of the workgroup who are familiar with SPTAs have been advocating for SPTA participation in all levels of the new model, which has been well received by the workgroup co-chairs and the other members of the workgroup. I am hopeful that this new model will allow for more resources for advocacy and SPTAs in near future.

Co-Chairs:
Jennifer Kelly, PhD, ABPP - past Div. 31 President
Antonio Puente, PhD - Div. 31 Fellow

Members:
Sharon Berry, PhD, ABPP

Lindsey Buckman, PsyD - Div. 31 President and CAPP Chair
Jean Carter, PhD - APA/APAPO Board
June Ching, PhD, ABPP - Div. 31 Fellow
Amber Hewitt, PhD
Divya Jain, M.S.
Jennifer Jutte, MPH, PhD
Deirdre Knapp, PhD
Mary Ann McCabe, PhD, ABPP
Shavonne Moore, PhD
Nora Newcombe, PhD
J. Bruce Overmier, PhD
Thomas Plante, PhD
Dinelia Rosa, PhD - past Div. 31 Pres.
Graduate Students Engaging in Advocacy Coast to Coast

Rosann Fish Getchell, George Fox University, Chair-elect APAGS

Throughout the United States, there has been a significant need for more mental health professionals from the American Psychological Association’s (APA) 54 divisions to lead the way in legislative advocacy regarding mental health policy nationwide. With our current political climate and the increasing amount of school shootings, many Americans feel very stressed and the need to speak to someone, although, they may not have access to these vital services. In August 2017, APA conducted a survey asking about people’s top stressors. They found that the top five stressors for Americans are the future of our nation, money, work, our current political climate, and violence/crime (APA, 2017).

Psychology graduate students from across the country are taking action and getting involved. From educating their local representatives about important mental health legislation, to engaging in social activism, to even leading fellow professionals in advocacy training, graduate students have their eyes on the future. Paul Vespo, recently elected as the APA Division 16 Student Leader for the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS) works with his fellow graduate student colleagues in New York and shares his advocacy efforts below.

In light of recent national events, school psychology graduate students, practitioners and trainers have stepped up to the plate. The role of a school psychologist has greatly evolved from being the person who administers assessments and collects data to someone who can engage in educational consultation/collaboration, counseling, and crisis preparedness, response, and recovery. Paul Vespo has worked with the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) that follows federal public policies/legislative platforms that support students from all walks of life to receive a high-quality public education, enriched with positive learning environments. During the week of November 13-17, 2017, NASP strongly promoted its theme “Power Up! Be a Positive Change” for National School Psychology Awareness Week. Many schools all throughout the country celebrated and engaged in positive school wide activities.

While at Marist College, Paul Vespo engages in leadership activities on a state and national level so that he can advocate for the field. Recently, he accepted a position with the American Psychological Association (APA) as Division 16’s school psychology student leader. Now, he is able to collaborate with other graduate students who are studying different psychology disciplines and not only advocate for the field, but also for psychology as a whole. He also works with other school psychology graduate students and school psychologists for NASP and the New York Association of School Psychologists (NYASP)’s policy development.

About a month ago, he contacted all 63 New York State (NYS) senators and 150 NYS assembly members about supporting the licensure bill for NYS school psychologists. Since bullying is still a major problem for students, he is also working as a research consultant with Tom Thelen, one of America’s top anti-bullying speakers, by helping him develop his bullying prevention/intervention program that is being used in schools all throughout the country.

Moving to the west coast in Portland, Oregon, Roseann Fish Getchell, Chair Elect of the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students, has had a passion for legislative advocacy since her first years in graduate school. While she focused on better understanding graduate student advocacy in her dissertation titled, “Exploring Graduate Student Involvement in Advocacy” she has pursued several interactions with local Oregon legislators to discuss important issues regarding psychologist prescriptive authority, public service student loan forgiveness, and affordable healthcare. She hopes to continue to learn how to advocate for increasing mental health access, especially for the most vulnerable people in our

APAGS Spotlight on Illinois
Continued on page 6
The American Psychological Association (APA) Council of Representatives (COR) met March 9 and 10, 2018 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. The meeting focused on several important issues.

**The Council Diversity Work Group (CDWG)**

The CDWG had prepared an experiential curriculum with the Council Leadership Team (CLT) that they expected to implement through the Council session. My understanding is that shortly before the meeting President Daniel decided not to include the activity on the agenda. Members of the CDWG and others were concerned that the program was not included in the Council agenda.

The Council voted to accept the report of the CDWG.

**Clinical Practice Guidelines and Professional Practice Guidelines**

Some members of the APA practice science and academic communities have significant concerns about The Clinical Practice Guideline on Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) that is the product of a Guideline Development Panel. At the February 2017 meeting, Council approved the Guideline with a proviso that APA would promptly prepare a Professional Practice Guideline (PPG) on PTSD. The task was referred to the Board of Professional Affairs (BPA). BPA instead decided to work on a generic PPG document. Following the February meeting there was disagreement among people in attendance about what BPA was charged to do. That issue was not resolved until this Council meeting when Secretary Kelly reported that staff had listened to the audio recording of the meeting and determined that BPA had indeed been charged to write a PTSD specific document not a generic document. The Council voted to accept a revision to the minutes of the February 2017 meeting to correct the error.

Prior to and in the interval between February 2017 and March 2018 Association members across the country expressed concern about the limited scope of the PTSD Guideline and the potential unintended consequences the guidelines could create for practitioners. There is particular concern for those members who use methodologies that do not lend themselves to study by the very limited methodology permitted by the National Guidelines Clearinghouse (NGC). The NGC rules are largely limited to studies using Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT) which effectively means that only CBT treatments will be considered. Members in New Jersey; New York; Psychotherapy Action Network; Divisions 31, 39 & 42; and others wrote to leadership with their concerns. These groups and then additional members developed their own critiques of the guidelines and recommendations to address their concerns. Eventually they connected with the help of Divisions 31 and 42 and began working together. As expected there were differences of opinion, but the groups eventually found consensus around two ideas:

- Developing a super-policy that would address how APA creates guidelines of all kinds and their limitations.
- Recommending that a clear notice be posted on the front of the PTSD Guidelines filed at the clearing house that clearly states their limitations.

Rather than attempting to summarize complex positions in this article you can read the documents created by this group at: [https://tinyurl.com/ybnbps2v](https://tinyurl.com/ybnbps2v).

Information posted by APA’s Advisory Steering Committee (ASC) about the PTSD Guideline and guideline development is posted at: [http://www.apa.org/about/policy/approved-guidelines.aspx](http://www.apa.org/about/policy/approved-guidelines.aspx).

The group of members who have concerns about the guideline development process generated a New Business Item (NBI) for Council. They were too late to ask that the item be placed on the formal agenda for the March meeting. The group then sought to have Council add the item to the agenda at the meeting. To do that required either unanimous consent or a 2/3 vote of the Council membership.

There was considerable discussion of the guideline on the Council listserv prior to the meet-.
Four Karl F. Heiser Presidential Awards for Advocacy will be given at the APA Convention this August in San Francisco. The awards, which are administered by Division 31, will be presented by Division 31 President Lindsey Buckman and APA President Jessica Henderson Daniel on Saturday morning.

The four awardees are from across the country.

- Bob Bohanske, PhD was nominated by the Arizona Psychological Association for his years of service on the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners and for his role in the development of PsyPact, an agreement facilitating interstate service provision.
- Chuck Hollister, PhD was nominated by the Missouri Psychological Association for his involvement in the passage of numerous bills shaping the definition of psychological services in Missouri.
- From Minnesota, Robin McLeod, PhD was nominated for her work to help draft and pass legislation to fix difficulties with their Board of Psychology.
- Gaye Vance, PhD was nominated by the Alabama Psychological Association for her successful efforts to legislatively update psychology’s practice act in her state.

These four Heiser Award recipients follow in the tradition of others who have advanced psychology through legislative and regulatory changes. Without these kinds of extraordinary efforts the profession would stagnate and our clients would have reduced access to service. We owe these advocates a great debt for their service.

By Thoms J. DeMaio, Ph.D.
Chair, Heiser Award Committee

Visit the Division 31 web site for current information for SPTAs and blogs for a variety of communities.

APAGS Spotlight on Illinois
Continued on page 4

As we explore graduate students’ efforts in legislative advocacy coast to coast, it is clear that there are many ways graduate student professionals are leading the way for the future of psychology.

References

About the authors:
Paul Vespo is a third-year candidate in the school psychology graduate program at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. Prior to this, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology with a minor in sociology from SUNY Purchase.

Roseann Fish Getchell is a fifth-year candidate in the graduate department of clinical psychology at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon and will earn her Psy. D. in August of 2018. She is the APAGS Chair Elect and an active member of the Oregon Psychological Association.
Summer SPTA Diversity Updates

Connecticut
The Ethnic Diversity Task Force of the Connecticut Psychological Association community outreach for 2018 includes completion of a 2-year project with development of a state-wide Mental Health Professionals Directory of Color (i.e., Psychologists, Social Workers, and LMFTs) that includes bilingual/multilingual therapists to put on the CPA website by summer 2018. Further community outreach includes a presentation to a large group psychological practice near the urban center-New Haven-to educate them about cultural sensitivity and cultural competency in treating people from diverse backgrounds. A third community outreach expands to the national stage with Dr. Jan Owens-Lane, Chair of EDTF and Sita Nadathur, University of Hartford graduate student presenting at the Diversity Challenge Conference October 19-20, 2018 and sponsored by the Institute for the Study & Promotion of Race and Culture at Boston College on the topic Cultural Sensitivity in Supporting and Mentoring Minority STEM Students.

Iowa
The Diversity and Social Justice Committee of Iowa Psychological Association (IPA) aims to create a more welcoming environment for individuals, disseminate information regarding diversity events in the state, and provide educational trainings. Since our formation last fall, we have held a number of social events including two Coffee and Conversations. We invite IPA members to join us at local coffee-houses to discuss social justice issues affecting the community. We disseminate information by frequently updating our webpage on the IPA website with local diversity events. Finally, we offer social justice trainings. Our most recent salon was on the New Psychology of White Privilege and White Supremacy. We plan to have a follow up salon in the fall. One of our co-chairs is also working with the conference committee to bring a diversity/social justice component to the conferences. The Iowa Psychological Association also has a diversity delegate that attends the annual Practice Leadership Conference. The conference serves as a training opportunity and allows networking for those from diverse backgrounds to share ideas, build relationships, and encourage running and mentorship for leadership roles at both the state organization and within IPA.

Oregon
The Oregon Psychological Association (OPA) Diversity Committee was established eleven years ago and their role is to address the many issues of diversity that affect the practice of psychology including:
• Provide support and networking opportunities for psychologists who are of diverse backgrounds and/or who work with individuals of diverse backgrounds
• Foster awareness and knowledge about diversity, multicultural competence, and psychological practice
• Ensure that CE workshops reflect a commitment to integrate information about diversity into the education of psychologists
• Help OPA stay informed and be responsive to ongoing challenges and opportunities presented by diversification
• Ongoing review of social and community concerns, healthcare, and community and statewide mental health services
• Provide advocacy support for minority psychologists and/or psychologists working with underserved populations, and community members
• Increase recruitment, retention, mentoring and participation of diverse members within OPA

The chair of the committee is also an OPA board member.

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### Div. 31 Program at APA Annual Convention August 9-12

#### APA 2018

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| **Session ID: 828**
Executive Committee Meeting (B): | 8/9/18, 9:00 - 11:50 AM | Marriott Marquis Sierra Room F |

| **Session ID: 634**
Discussion (A): Integrated Care Across the Continuum---Let's Talk Practicalities, Training, and Opportunities | 8/9/18, 1:00 - 1:50 PM | Moscone Center Room 206 |
| Participant/1stAuthor: | | |
| Kathleen R. Ashton, PhD, Cleveland Clinic, OH | | |
| Kevin D. Arnold, PhD, Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy of Greater Columbus, OH | | |
| Barbara V. Ward-Zimmerman, PhD, MS, Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care, Glastonbury, CT | | |
| Nataliya Pilipenko, PhD, Columbia University in the City of New York | | |
| Roseann Fish Getchell, MA, MEd, George Fox University | | |
| Elena Eisman, EdD, APA, Washington, DC | | |

| **Session ID: 676**
Symposium (A): The Enhanced EPPP --- Integrating a Skills Component Into the Psychology Licensing Examination | 8/9/18, 2:00 - 3:50 PM | Moscone Center Room 2011 |
| Participant/1stAuthor: | | |
| Emil R. Rodolfa, PhD, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Peachtree City, GA | | |
| Emil R. Rodolfa, PhD, | | |
| Title: The Development of the Enhanced EPPP | | |
| Carol Webb, PhD, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Tyrone, GA | | |
| Title: The Blueprint for the Enhanced EPPP and Its Implementation Plan | | |
| Jacqueline Horn, PhD, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Tyrone, GA | | |
| Title: Item Development for the Skills Portion of the Enhanced EPPP | | |
| Discussant: Matt Turner, PhD, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Tyrone, GA | | |

| **Session ID: 679**
Symposium (A): PSYPACT---A Way to Provide Interjurisdictional Telepsychological Services Legally and Ethically | 8/10/18, 8:00 - 8:50 AM | Moscone Center Room 2003 |
| Participant/1stAuthor: | | |
| Alex M. Siegel, PhD, JD, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Tyrone, GA | | |
| Janet Orwig, MBA, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Tyrone, GA | | |

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*Division 31 Program*

Continued on page 9
Session ID: 635
Skill-Building Session (A):
Advocating for Your Profession---The Effectively Squeaky Wheel
Gets the Grease
Chair: Lindsey R. Buckman, PsyD, Independent Practice, Phoenix, AZ
Participant/1stAuthor:
Scott Barstow, MS, APA Practice Directorate, Washington, DC
Laurel Stine, JD, APA Practice Directorate, Washington, DC

Session ID: 826
Social Hour (S) 8/10/18, 4:00 - 5:50 PM Marriott Marquis
Yerba Buena Salons 1 and 2

Session ID: 675
Symposium (A): Twitter, Instagram 8/11/18, 8:00 - 8:50 AM Moscone Center
and Facebook---What's a Psychologist to Do?
Cochair: Mary A. Peterson, PhD, George Fox University
Linda Nishi-Strattner, PhD, Oregon Board of Psychologists Social Media Workgroup, Salem
Participant/1stAuthor:
Linda Nishi-Strattner, PhD
Title: Social Media: Before You Get Started
Celeste E. Jones, PsyD, George Fox University
Title: Tips and Techniques for Using Social Media Responsibly
Discussant: Clifford A. Johannsen, PhD, Oregon Board of Psychologists, Salem

Session ID: 637
Symposium (A): Psychology's Voice At the Table---Psychologists As Advocates and Elected Officials
Chair: Bobbie Celeste, PhD, Independent Practice, Columbus, OH
Participant/1stAuthor:
Alan Lowenthal, U.S. Congress, Washington, DC
John Lee Evans, PhD, San Diego Unified School District, CA
Laurel Stine, JD, APA Practice Organizaion, Washington, DC
Jorge Wong, PhD, Palo Alto University
Division 31 Program
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Event Title | Day/Time | Facility/Room | Co-Listing Divisions
---|---|---|---

**Session ID: 677**

*Symposium (A): The Role of Psychology in Integrated Behavioral Health Care---An International Perspective*

- **Day/Time**: 8/11/18, 4:00 - 5:50 PM
- **Facility/Room**: Moscone Center Room 159

*Co-Chair:* Diana L. Prescott, PhD, Hampden Psychological Consultation, PLLC, ME

James H. Bray, PhD, University of Texas at San Antonio

**Participant/1stAuthor:**

Diana L. Prescott, PhD,

- Title: The Role of Psychology in Integrated Behavioral Health Care: An International Perspective
- Co-Author: James H. Bray, PhD, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Co-Author: Tor Levin Hofgaard, PhD, Norwegian Psychological Association, Oslo, Norway
- Co-Author: Robyn Vines, PhD, Western Sydney University, NSW, Australia
- Co-Author: Susan H. McDaniel, PhD, University of Rochester Medical Center, NY
- Co-Author: Peter Kinderman, PhD, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom
- Co-Author: Marie-Hélène Chomienne, MD, Hôpital Montfort, Ottawa, ON, Canada
- Co-Author: Jean Grenier, PhD, Hôpital Montfort, Ottawa, ON, Canada

**Discussant:** Diana L. Prescott, PhD

**Session ID: 636**

*Skill-Building Session (A): Desire to Help in Trying Times---Ethically Responding to Disasters*

- **Day/Time**: 8/12/18, 8:00 - 9:50 AM
- **Facility/Room**: Moscone Center Room 314

*Chair:* Stephanie A. Vitanza, PhD, Independent Practice, Scottsdale, AZ

**Participant/1stAuthor:**

Stephanie A. Vitanza, PhD,

- Title: Overview of Ethical Principles and Possible Challenges in Disaster Contexts
- Co-Author: David J. Romano, PhD, Barry University

- Title: Models of Ethical Decision Making
- Co-Author: Jeanne Marie LeBlanc, PhD, Independent Practice, Vancouver, BC, Canada

- Title: The Context of Culture in Ethical Decision Making
- Co-Author: Rebecca S. Thomley, PhD, Orion Associates, Golden Valley, MN

- Virginia Frazier, PhD, Spalding University

- Title: Application of Ethical Decision-Making Models to Disaster Scenarios

**Session ID: 678**

*Symposium (A): APA and ASPPB Working Together---Where Ethics and Regulations Converge*

- **Day/Time**: 8/12/18, 10:00 - 11:50 AM
- **Facility/Room**: Moscone Center Room 160

*Cochair:* Fred Millán, PhD, Independent Practice, Bayside, NY

Alex M. Siegel, PhD, JD, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Peachtree City, GA

- **Participant/1stAuthor:**

Linda F. Campbell, PhD, Independent Practice, Johns Creek, GA

Stephen Demers, Edd, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Peachtree City, GA

Jack P. Haynes, PhD, Independent Practice, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Sharon L. Lightfoot, PhD, Independent Practice, St. Louis, MO

Brian H. Stagner, PhD, Texas A&M University

Patricia L. Watson, PhD, Independent Practice, Prescott, AZ
Council Report
Continued from page 5

ing and at the Council. June Feder (NY) and Fred Wertz (D24) made a motion to have the NBI included on the agenda. There were some questions about the appropriate procedure that were eventually addressed. The proposal did not get anywhere close to the support it needed to be added to the agenda, and thus there was no formal discussion of the concerns and recommendations of the group.

The Guideline for the Behavioral Treatment of Obesity in Children and Adolescents was on the agenda for the second day of the session. That item provided the opportunity to discuss some of the general concerns that members have about guideline development and the limitations of the National Clearinghouse Guidelines, as well as some specific concerns about the Obesity Guideline (factors related to body shaming, fat oppression, links between trauma and obesity and the differential impact of obesity on marginalized communities). It is concerning that while this Guideline clearly states that there is very little research in this area it included treatment recommendations. The Council approved the Guideline by a significant margin.

Some of the members involved in guideline development and some of the people with concerns are interested in having discussions to see if they can find a mutually satisfactory resolution to these concerns. We are in the process of trying to connect with them for ongoing discussions. The BOD and CLT have also shared that they are considering having the guidelines issue be a “mega-issue discussion” at the next Council. Hopefully, there will be a way to address these concerns in a manner that is satisfactory to a great majority of the membership. If that does not occur, I am concerned that a significant segment of the membership may decide that APA is putting a lot of money and effort into creating policies that are not helpful to them or are detrimental to their interests as they are at risk to be used by others to seek to undermine the validity and credibility of their work.

Masters’ Education and Credentialing

For 70 years APA has not taken a position on whether masters’ degree programs should be accredited, and whether APA should endorse credentialing people with masters’ degrees with a credential that would enable them to engage in independent practice (with perhaps limitations on their scope of practice and title, and potentially requirements for supervision). The issue is being pressed now as the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the organization that credentials counseling education programs, is seeking to prohibit psychology faculty from teaching in their accredited counseling programs, and to change licensing laws to exclude people with masters’ degrees in psychology from being licensed as masters’ level counselors.

Understandably APA members who educate masters’ students are concerned about their students’ ability to work after graduation, as well as their own job security. Universities also make money from masters’ programs not doctoral programs. So institutions have a financial interest in this as well. Some members also see credentialing masters’ degree holders as a way to encourage people who do not want to get a doctorate to be healthcare service providers and to have more people willing to work in underserved areas.

However, this agenda has implications for doctoral psychologists that have not been given anywhere near the consideration it is due. Psychology in healthcare services could become a masters’ level workforce with some doctoral psychologists continuing to be researchers, educators and for a limited time administrators.

The March 2018 Agenda stated that at the August 2017 meeting Council voted that “APA should take a position on master’s level training and/or practice. As part of Council’s charge to staff and governance to identify and explore options for APA to pursue, staff reached out to a select group of key stakeholders in late fall 2017 to collect feedback in advance of wider dissemination to Council. In January 2018, webinars were offered to collect feedback from Council members. The information gathered during those webinars informed the development of the main motion that is currently before Council for consideration.” Council charged leadership “to identify and explore options for APA to pursue.” Executive Directors Katherine Nordal (Practice) and Jaime “Jim” Diaz-Granados (Education) were selected to lead that workgroup. The Workgroup offered a series of webinars for
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“stakeholders.” The webinar identified “serious implications to be: that graduates of masters’ programs will not have a path to licensure and that their employment opportunities would be limited, that masters’ and doctoral programs might not be viable, and that there would be reduced access to services to those in need.”

I have significant concerns about how the issue got to this place at the Council:

After the August 2017 Council meeting the Workgroup had assembled a set of documents relative to these issues. Those documents were shared with the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP). Three CAPP members (including me) reviewed the material and presented to CAPP issues and further questions generated from those materials and other sources. A significant portion of those questions were guild issues. CAPP asked the Workgroup to attempt to answer the questions that the subcommittee developed. The Workgroup did not attempt to answer the questions posed by CAPP. Further, the information gathered by the Workgroup was not shared with Council members prior to the meeting by staff or Council Leadership Team (CLT), nor were the issues or questions raised by CAPP included in the webinars.

Recognizing that this information had not been provided to Council I wrote CLT Chair Joseph Coyne with my concern that Council members did not have adequate information to make informed decisions, and I indicated my intention to ask that the matter be referred to the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA), the Membership Committee and CAPP to gather and report additional information. I shared this letter on the Council Listserv. In the week prior to the meeting Dr. Nordal gave me permission to share the documents the Workgroup had collected with Council, which I did.

The basis for the motion on the March Agenda was cited as “select group of key stakeholders in late fall 2017 to collect feedback in advance of wider dissemination to Council. In January 2018, webinars were offered to collect feedback from Council members. The information gathered during those webinars informed the development of the main motion that is currently before Council for consideration.” The Workgroup reported responses to survey questions that members completed after watching the webinar that was based solely on information chosen by the Workgroup. The sample size was consistently an N of only 28 (people who had just watched the webinar).

The agenda for the March 2018 meeting contained the following motion: “that Council supports pursuing accreditation of master’s level programs in psychology.” To me that was quite a leap from the August 2017 charge. After the item was initially presented I rose to make a substitute Motion to Refer as I had indicated. My substitute motion was solidly defeated and the main motion passed with a substantial majority.

It is my understanding that APA will now pursue a process of developing accreditation standards for masters’ programs. It is evident that the accreditation standards for healthcare service degrees will be created with the intent of linking accreditation to licensing. I expect that accreditation standards will be created to match the model scope of practice for people with masters’ degrees and that Council’s approval of a policy endorsing licensure for people with masters’ degrees will be presented to Council as necessary and inevitable.

APA should be starting this discussion from consideration of what job skills in the realm of psychology are needed and best served by a person with a masters’ degree rather than a doctoral degree, and what are the workforce needs for these skills. Rather, in my view, the driving consideration is what can the Association do to support members and educational institutions that benefit from the existing system of educating masters’ students. The Association also stands to benefit from a new class of masters’ members. The interests and future of doctoral psychologists and the overall future of the profession have barely been given a passing thought in this process. I do appreciate the desire to support professional psychology to serve underserved populations and places, but this is not the only way to do it. There is no reason to expect people trained at a masters’ level to serve underserved populations any more than doctoral psychologists or any other profession. How about financial incentives or loan forgiveness programs to encourage doctoral psychologists to work with underserved communities?

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The documents I referenced are available to you at: https://tinyurl.com/y8muz6t6. The folder contains my letter to Dr. Coyne and my follow up email to the Council members.

Here again, I am concerned that a significant segment of the membership may decide that APA is putting a lot of money and effort into creating policies that are at a minimum not helpful to them or even detrimental to their interests.

**Transformation**

The Council was asked to approve the concept of transforming membership so that members are members of both the APA C3 and a transformed APapo C6 organization. The APapo has continued to lose membership and revenue. In its current form it won’t survive more than a couple of years at best. APA has been looking for ways to support and enhance advocacy for the entire organization. Members of governance groups have expressed concern that Council was asked to approve the concept without knowledge of the details of how the transformation would be accomplished and the new organization governed. The council voted in support of the transformation. The yet unarticulated details will matter.

Features of the transformation include:

- Members will automatically be members of both the C3 and C6 with payment of their dues.
- Dues will be paid to a third party organization. Some as yet undetermined governance structure will decide how to split the dues between the two organizations each year.
- Through the new C6 entity, APA will be able to lobby in all areas of psychology without the C3 limitations with which it now contends. And the association will have the ability to better coordinate advocacy among all realms of the organization.

A few weeks ago Dr. Daniel appointed a task force to articulate the details of the plan.

**Transparency**

The Work Group to Review Organizational Policies and Procedures made a motion to require the association to record and post the individual votes of all the BOD, CLT, Council, boards and committees. The proponents viewed this motion as a way to increase governance transparency and accountability. Leadership opposed the motion as costly and potentially undermining participant’s ability to vote their fiduciary responsibility to the Association in favor of satisfying their perceived constituency. The motion was adapted to remove boards and committees, and then postponed till next year.

**Finance Rules**

The Council voted to postpone a motion about changing finance rules until August. The Council had a long discussion about the reason and implications of the proposed changes. The Council postponed further consideration to the next meeting.

**Other Issues**

The Council reviewed the content of the Multicultural Guidelines that were accepted by Council last August.

Council approved the Resolution on Pregnant and Postpartum Adolescent Girls and Women with Substance Use Disorders.

I am concerned about the future of the Association, our profession and our professional futures. The guidelines, the masters’ accreditation and credentialing issue, and the transformation each have the potential to benefit constituencies of APA’s membership to the detriment of other constituencies of the Association. It is important that our association be thoughtful about the impact these choices may bring.
We seek to motivate early career psychologists through Division mentorship.

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