



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

*The Division of State,
Provincial & Territorial
Psychological Association Affairs*

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Focus on

31

Spring 2024 • Volume 56 • Issue 2

SPTAs Special Support Program



**By Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
Division 31
President**

The SPTAs Special Support Program was created to support small states in financial need. Small states were invited to apply and receive up to three paintings to be used for fundraising through a silent auction, raffle or an auction, and support their state

psychological association.

This program was inspired by one of the outcomes of a survey conducted by Division 31 Past President, Elena Eisman. The survey highlighted the need for subsistence for small states psychological associations and the importance of receiving grants for their viability.

With the help of the Division Engagement Office and APA lawyers, four forms were created: an application form, a program

Special support program

Continued on page 11

Congratulations to 2025 Div. 31 President-Elect Dr. Anne Klee

Division 31 Congratulates Dr. Anne Klee from Connecticut, who was elected to be our next President-Elect beginning in January 2025!

Thank you to those willing to run and serve our Division. We have outstanding members and hope everyone considers running and serving our Division in the future!



Div. 31 Fellow named

Continued on page 10

APA 2024

AUGUST 8-10
SEATTLE



Division 31 Programs

Thursday, August 8

Building the Plane as We Flew It: Coordinating International Disaster Response to the Maui Wildfires (1.0 CE)

Diane Logan, Victoria Liou-Johnson, Julie Takishima-Lacasa, & Dug Lee

10-10:50 AM PT

Location: Seattle Convention Center – Room 604, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 6

Creating Shared Realities: Strategies for a Fairer World (1.0 CE)

Chuck Hollister, Paul Korte, & Amy Beck

1-1:50 PM PT

Location: Seattle Convention Center – Room Skagit 2, Arch at 800 Pike, Skagit Lower Level

Hatred and The Cycle of Violence: A Public Health Emergency (1.0 CE)

Beth Rom-Rymer

4-4:50 PM PT

Location: Seattle Convention Center – Room 612, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 6

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APA 2024

AUGUST 8-10
SEATTLE



Division 31 Programs

Friday, August 9

Using Integrated Care to Address Rural Health Inequity (1.0 CE)

Paul Korte

8-8:50 AM PT

Location: Seattle Convention Center – Room 613/614, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 6

How STPAs Can Create a Welcoming Climate – and More Diverse Membership (1.0 CE)

Jeanne Slattery

3-3:50 PM PT

Location: Seattle Convention Center – Room 618, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 6

Division 31 Presidential Address

Mayra Zoe Ortiz, Division 31 President

4-4:50 PM PT

Location: Cirrus Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Seattle 35th Floor, Pike Tower

Division 31 Heiser Award

5-5:50 PM PT

Location: Cirrus Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Seattle 35th Floor, Pike Tower

Division 31 Social Hour

6-7:50 PM PT

Location: Cirrus Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Seattle 35th Floor, Pike Tower

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APA 2024

AUGUST 8-10
SEATTLE



Division 31 Programs

Saturday, August 10

Retirement: Tips and Reflections for All Stages of Psychologists

Joanna Sells, Linda Richardson, Pat DeLeon, Rodney Baker, & Ellen Cole

9-9:50 AM PT

Location: Seattle Convention Center – Room 605, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 6

Fighting Antisemitism: Approaches and Experiences in the US and Canada Since October 7

Steven Stein & Michael Mostyn

1-1:50 PM PT

Location: Seattle Convention Center – Room 303, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 3

Increasing SPTA Membership, Member Retention and Engagement (MR&E): What Works

Raymond Folen

2-2:50 PM PT

Location: Seattle Convention Center – Room 212, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 2

Development of National Health Care Policy: Examples of Non-traditional Approaches (1.0 CE)

Joanna Sells, Antonio Puente, Robert Frank, Pat DeLeon, & Jeffrey Sherman

3-3:50 PM PT

Location: Seattle Convention Center – Room 620, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 6

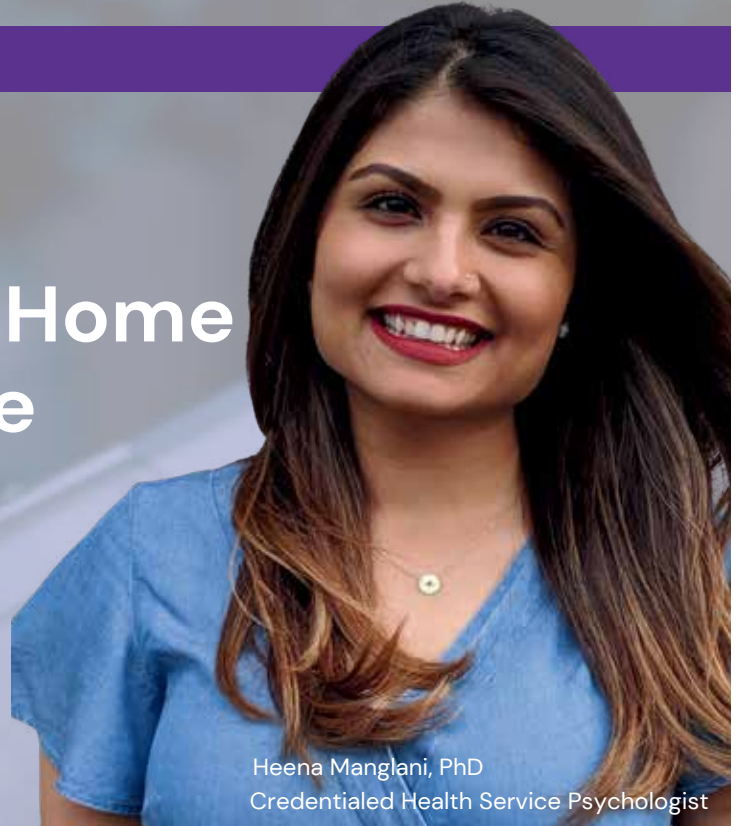
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"A Heart That's Contented, a Satisfied Mind, These Are the Treasures Money Can't Buy"



**by Pat
DeLeon,
PhD
former APA
President**

The PSYPACT

Commission: In 2016, nearly a decade ago, at our Denver APA convention, then ASPPB CEO Steve Demers and I marveled at his successful effort to have the APA Council of Representatives endorse in principle the enactment of the PSYPACT Commission legislation. This evolutionary step towards Licensure Mobility will provide credentialed psychologists with authority for interjurisdictional practice from their home state into the receiving state (where the patient is located) and further will authorize psychologists to temporarily provide face-to-face psychological services in the distant PSYPACT state. Today, advances in communication technology (such as telepsychology) are having an unprecedented impact upon all aspects of our lives including obtaining necessary health care. Steve and I agreed that the next step would be having our State Associations appreciate the importance of "Catching the Wave" and enacting timely legislation.

The legislative/ public policy process always takes time, especially when considering a significant change in the status quo. However, currently there are

ten states that apparently have not even considered implementing Steve's vision. The Sleepy Ten include: Alaska, Guam, Iowa, Hawaii, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. New York, Massachusetts, and California have introduced legislation. In California, PSYPACT recently passed out of their State Assembly and is now in their Senate. The others....

Why have the Sleepy Ten continued to slumber? Perhaps they feel that knowing who is practicing into their jurisdictions is important, or they possess a belief that their standards are higher than other jurisdictions' standards. However, it is important that they recognize that the world is beyond and larger than their own jurisdiction now. Their citizens travel; frequently, and if they are receiving care, they likely would experience interruptions to care and lack of continuity of care. In essence, those residing in the Sleepy Ten do a definite disservice to citizens when they restrict the care they are providing to being delivered ONLY when citizens are in-state. Further, it has historically been extraordinarily difficult for those residing in rural America to obtain the services of specialists of any discipline. What about the family that desperately requires access to clinicians trained in delivering empirically-validated therapies for youth? Are they to be simply ignored?

More Recent Memories:

The 2022 Practice Leadership Conference (PLC), under the leadership of APA President Frank Worrell, continued to be the highlight of my professional year. Due to the Omicron surge, that year's PLC pivoted to an abbreviated, virtual event which was attended by over 225 colleagues from all around the world. Population health became an increasing priority, as visionary APA CEO Arthur Evans has been consistently urging. APA's Chief of Professional Practice Jared Skillings: "I want to acknowledge the grief and loss... the anxiety... the incivility and division... the injustice... the violence... the trauma that these years have brought, even war including most recently in Ukraine.... The world needs psychology and psychologists more than ever.

"I would to thank the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). They are the primary organization for Specialty Board Certification in Psychology. This year is their 75th anniversary. PLC has become an important anniversary. Telework started right after PLC two years ago. We met in person with no masks, and we elbow bumped and kicked our feet together instead of hand-shakes or hugs. I very much look forward to gathering together again. I know a lot of you feel the same way... so until then. This year's PLC is briefer than before.

Treasures Money Can't Buy

Continued on page 13

SAVE THE DATE! Unveiling Our Needs as Grad Students



Kymbriona Taylor, M.Ed., Div 31 ECP and Student Committee Co-chair

Division 31 invites our graduate student members to this exciting graduate student town hall networking event moderated by our student representative Kymbriona Taylor!

- Receive Valuable Resources: Discover tools and support to enhance your academic journey and professional growth.
- Network with Student Leaders: Connect with inspiring student leaders, build your network, and share experiences.
- Share Your Insights: Let's celebrate what's going well in our SPTAs and brainstorm ideas for improvement. Your feedback is crucial in enhancing our training,

professional development, and overall experience.

Don't miss this chance to make your voice heard and contribute to the betterment of our graduate community. Together, we can create a more enriching, inclusive, and supportive environment for all! We look forward to seeing you there!

Hope to see you there!

July 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. EST

RSVP through Connie Paul at

tpamember@juno.com.

APA
2024
AUGUST 8-10
SEATTLE



Register NOW for APA 2024:
convention.apa.org

SPTA Updates from Around the Country



By Jennifer F. Kelly PhD, ABPP, Past President, APA

Georgia

The Georgia Psychological Association (GPA) held its annual Diversity Brunch on Sunday, June 2nd, and was hosted by Jennifer F. Kelly. While no one seems to know exactly how this special event got started, it is agreed that it has been going on for at least 20 years and is one of the most fun events of the association. There was a wonderful array of guests who contributed specialty and/or ethnic dishes. In attendance were many students, long-time members of GPA, past and current leaders of GPA, ECPs who are anxious to get connected to colleagues, and members of the extended psychology community who show up and mix and mingle.

In addition to the incredible and enriching social aspect of the brunch, this year, there were two outstanding guests. Maysa Akbar, PhD, ABPP, APA Chief of Diversity and Chief of Psychology in the Public Interest, shared markers of achievement related to the 2021 APA Apology to people of color in the US. Dr. Akbar also talked about the APA Apology to First Peoples in the United States.

The second speaker was Frank Worrell, PhD, Distinguished Professor in the Berkeley School of Education at the University

of California, Berkeley, and a past-president of APA. Dr. Worrell offered a rich insight into his research in the area of measurement of ethnic and racial identity.

It was a wonderful afternoon filled with new and old friends and colleagues, scrumptious food, learning more about what is going on in the profession, and a generally fun time.

Idaho

The Idaho Psychological Association founded its Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee in 2021. Subsequently, the following leadership positions were created: two Co-Chairs, two Committee Student Representatives, an EDI Liaison who attends IPA's Executive Committee meetings, and an EDI Committee Representative who attends IPA Board meetings and has voting power. Since its creation, the EDI Committee has developed a Diversity Climate Survey, disseminated it to IPA members, and presented the data at the 2023 Annual Convention along with community data related to resource disparities existing in Idaho. IPA's Ethics Committee has presented ethical dilemmas in their workshops pertaining to gender-affirming treatment during the 2023 and 2024 Annual Conventions, and the 2024 Annual Convention included a presentation covering Intersectionality on Identity. An EDI Committee webpage has been developed to include the EDI

Committee's mission statement, IPA's revised Diversity statement that emphasizes a commitment to equity and social justice efforts, as well as practice resource links. In 2023, IPA's President, former EDI Committee Co-Chair and current EDI Committee member nominated IPA's first Diversity Delegate to attend APA's Practice and State Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. During the 2023-2024 association year, the EDI Committee created an EDI Student Scholarship allowing registration for the Annual Convention at a significantly reduced rate, intended to support the graduate training of those students pursuing a career in psychology with experience with marginalization, and for those who promote social justice in their clinical work, research, and advocacy. Finally, and most recently, IPA's Advocacy Committee sent a statement to state legislators during the 2024 legislative session, opposing a proposed bill that would allow psychologists to deny services to individuals based on a "strongly held principle" (i.e., potentially permitting discrimination against LGBTQIA+ and other minority group members).

Illinois

The Illinois Psychological Association's EDI Task Force spearheaded an initiative to mandate CE in EDI for

SPTA Updates
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ISC Advisory Group Leads APA's Advocacy and Promotion of Integrated Behavioral Health in Specialty Care



By Kathleen Ashton, PhD, ABPP, Div. 31 Liaison, APA ISC Advisory Group

The APA Integrated Specialty Care (ISC) Workgroup aims to provide direction and resources that enhance and sustain the specialty integrated psychology workforce. The group also makes recommendations for partnerships with (allied) behavioral and medical professions and the services they provide

from a perspective of holistic, biopsychosocial care, across health care systems and settings. Currently the group is working on increasing awareness of psychologists working integrated specialty care. Ideas include featuring articles on ISC in the Monitor and other media, creating a tip sheet for psychologists interested in starting ISC practices, and advocating for CE for psychologists who complete medical CME as part of their ISC training and maintenance. Additionally, this group is gathering information on RVU models of compensation in ISC and workforce data on psychologists

in ISC, including a list of medical specialties where psychologists are integrated.

How does Division 31 fit in? Division 31 plays a crucial part in Integrated Specialty Care including attention to diversity issues, ISC advocacy issues with state implications, and disseminating information across SPTAs.

To learn more, visit:

[https://www.apa.org/practice/integrated-specialty-care-advisory-group#:~:text=The%20Integrated%20Specialty%20Care%20\(ISC,the%20specialty%20integrated%20psychology%20workforce.](https://www.apa.org/practice/integrated-specialty-care-advisory-group#:~:text=The%20Integrated%20Specialty%20Care%20(ISC,the%20specialty%20integrated%20psychology%20workforce.)

Visit the [Division 31 web site](https://www.apa.org/practice/integrated-specialty-care-advisory-group#:~:text=The%20Integrated%20Specialty%20Care%20(ISC,the%20specialty%20integrated%20psychology%20workforce.)
to see these blogs for a variety of communities:

[Diversity Task Force](#)

[Early Career Psychologists](#)

[Ethics Education](#)

[Health Care Reform](#)

[Student Task Force](#)

Beauty of the LGTBQ Community and Power of Our Allies



**By David
Pascale
Hague,
PhD, DIV
31 LGBTQ
Liaison**

As psychologists, we know that being LGBTQ is more than just an identity; it's a unique tapestry of diversity that enriches our world and human lives in innumerable ways. As researchers, academics and clinicians, we have the amazing privilege of working with LGBTQ people across the lifespan and can directly see the transformative power of living authentic lives. From breaking boundaries to fostering inclusivity, the positive aspects of being LGBTQ are truly something to celebrate.

At the core of LGBTQ identities is the spirit of resilience and acceptance. Even when facing discrimination, many of us emerge stronger and more determined to live authentically. This resilience inspires others and showcases the power of self-acceptance and the importance of standing up for what is right. We cannot do it alone. We need allies to advocate for equity.

In the last two years in my home state of Kentucky, where I teach, practice and raise my family, we have faced an onslaught of hateful and misleading messages about LGBTQ identities and attempts to codify discrimination and denial of healthcare to LGBTQ people. Some of these legislative proposals were defeated but, sadly, others passed into Kentucky law.

Through it all, my STPA, the Kentucky Psychological Association (KPA), championed truthful representation of the LGBTQ community and accurate science about LGBTQ people. Moreover, it allowed me (and many others) to have a community of professional colleagues who had my back when our families and identities were under attack. KPA was our advocate and ally when the times were the hardest.

Advocacy is one of the most beautiful aspects of being LGBTQ. The sense of community and belonging it fosters moves us forward, believing that change can continue, even when some actively fight against us. My allies and colleagues at KPA, champions for the LGBTQ community, were part of the fantastic force we needed. I am proud to be a member of KPA.

You see, it is not just LGBTQ individuals who form tight-knit communities of support; it is also our allies and those champions who will step in and speak the truth when others are positing lies. Our communities serve as safe spaces where individuals can be themselves without fear of judgment, forming bonds based on support and acceptance. But we cannot do it alone. We need our allies to come alongside us. As psychologists, our SPTAs are uniquely positioned to advocate, educate, empower and become these allies.

When we embrace LGBTQ identities, we push boundaries, break down stereotypes, and foster inclusivity. This not only benefits LGBTQ individuals but also paves

the way for a more diverse and accepting society where everyone is free to be themselves without fear of discrimination. We face a culture that discriminates, divides and needs change for many groups, not just LGBTQ people. As SPTA's and individual psychologists, we must redouble our efforts to break down barriers systemically holding back equity for all areas of diversity.

We do this not just for society but for the individuals we serve as psychologists. Being LGBTQ and living in authentic ways has positive impacts on mental health and well-being. Studies have shown that LGBTQ individuals who are open about their identities and have supportive communities experience higher levels of self-esteem, lower levels of anxiety and depression and overall greater life satisfaction.

Embracing one's LGBTQ identity is a powerful act of self-love and acceptance that can bring about a fulfilling and authentic life. Our professional associations are a powerful voice to accelerate these societal changes. By embracing LGBTQ identities, we are celebrating individuality and creating a more inclusive and accepting world for all. Let us continue to champion diversity, stand up for equality, and celebrate how LGBTQ individuals enrich our communities. I hope you can also see how your SPTA is a champion of these issues and can be proud of your personal and professional advocacy over these difficult times.

Special support program

Continued from page 1

description and criteria form, a rubric scoring form and a form donation acceptance agreement. The donation acceptance agreement needed to be signed and returned by email prior to the mailing of the paintings. Painting sizes were from 12 x 12, 11 x 14, and 16 x 20. The paintings were primarily Caribbean and European landscapes. They were all framed and shipped to the SPTAs at no cost to the recipients.

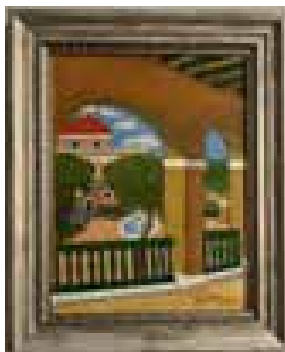
Listed below were the criteria to apply:

- The SPTA must be a small state with less than 500 members.
- The SPTA's level of need.
- The extent to which the panel believed that the SPTA's plan for use of the donation would leverage the value of the donation to potentially maximize the impact of the donation.
- The extent to which the panel believed that the SPTA's plan for use of the donation may provide continuing financial support for the SPTA (e.g., such as by increasing or sustaining membership in the SPTA or by regular implementation of the model for successive years).
- Be a current/active member of Division 31.

The deadline to apply was April 30, 2024. A committee was created to select recipients to be awarded the paintings. Members of the committee were: Melba Vazquez, Antonio Puente, Eric Russ, Elena Eisman, Dinelia Rosa, Bruce Bobbitt and Chuck Hollister. I'm pleased to announce that the

recipients of paintings were:

- Arizona Psychological Association



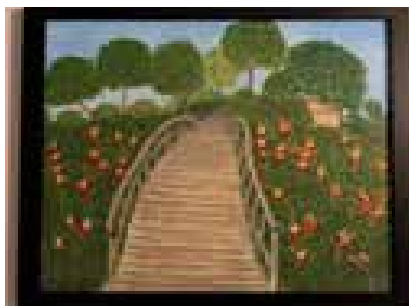
- Guam Psychological Association



- Mississippi Psychological Association



- Missouri Psychological Association



- Oklahoma Psychological Association



- Nevada Psychological Association.



We want to congratulate these psychological associations. In addition, recipients will be meeting with some SPTAs Special Support Program Committee members to share thoughts on how to maximize the use of their paintings in support of their psychological association.

Division 31 continues to advocate for APA grants for our small state psychological associations. Although this was a new program, we hope it sets the model for new ideas and programming to support our state associations in need. See attached pictures of some of the paintings awarded. We thank all who participated in this program.

See page 12 for additional photos.

SPTAs Use Special Support Program Artwork

Wendi O'Connor, Executive Director of the Nevada Psychological Association expressed their heartfelt appreciation to Division 31 for their generous donation in support of the SPTA Special Support Program.

"As a small state non-profit organization operating within a tight annual budget, the Nevada Psychological Association relies heavily on our Continuing Education (CE) workshops and membership dues, so is continually seeking new avenues to bolster our non-dues revenue streams. We are profoundly grateful for the exceptional opportunity extended by Division 31, offering additional financial support crucial for sustaining and expanding our programs, thereby facilitating the realization of our organization's



mission," she explained. "The donation of the two paintings by Ana Miriam Cruz represents unique and invaluable assets that

we intend to leverage in our fundraising endeavors and events."



At left is the artwork presented to the Mississippi Psychological Association. Above is the artwork presented Arizona Psychological Association.

Treasures money can't buy

Continued from page 6

We received feedback that since many of us are on computers all day long, it is very challenging to continue to be online outside of normal work hours, especially over a weekend. For the first time we will also host a virtual PLC event this fall. Now, the same question I posed at last year's PLC: 'What Lessons have you learned in the past year?' And, 'What are you hopeful about for the future?'

"We have learned that we are truly in a mental health crisis. That was true before COVID... and the grief, violence, isolation, and trauma of the last two years have caused folks to reach a breaking point. It is especially true for communities of color, LGBTQ+ folks, other historically marginalized groups, and youth overall. At the same time, there is a severe shortage of mental and behavioral health practitioners. The public is reporting serious difficulties gaining access to care, and we are hearing stories of extensive waitlists for many psychology practices. This lack of access to care will drive more crises if we don't turn this around, and quickly. We are moving along a journey to re-envision the future of the profession, rather than allowing the future to be re-envisioned for us.

"Why am I optimistic for the future? Because I believe Martin Luther King's famous statement that 'The moral arc of the universe bends toward justice.' I want to thank Katherine McGuire in the advocacy office and Ron Schlittler in our public interest department for bringing their expertise and

science to the policy debate. Turning to the national level, we believe technology and data are going to continue to play a bigger role in health care and society. APA is the only non-physician mental health association to be accepted into the FDA network of experts program; this program allows APA members to bring psychological science and expertise to all kinds of technologies and health interventions. To be responsive to emerging issues in society and ensuring that our practice remains aligned with science, we have begun to think more broadly and update our evidence-based practices in psychology. We have been considering an updated model to incorporate elements such as EDI, health equity, ethics, shared decision making, and population health.

"As the public health emergency orders in states subside, this creates inconsistencies in psychologists' abilities to provide telehealth. I am pleased to announce that we are developing 50-state+ territory legislation for telehealth and audio-only services to be reimbursed the same as the in-person rate. Based on the recent anti-racism and health equity resolutions passed by the APA Council of Representatives, we have just submitted an application for social determinants of health code that once approved will help psychologists be reimbursed for that work. We are announcing plans to develop 50-state+ territory model legislation for population health and integrated care. This Cadillac proposal will allow all psychologists to expand into

prevention and early intervention, as well as truly innovative services such as annual mental and behavioral wellness checkups. We are excited about this work and the possibilities it raises for improving population health and health equity into the future." In 2024, APA achieved this important milestone, due to the expert and diligent work of Stephen Gillaspay and the advocacy of SO many SPTA leaders and colleagues. We now have codes for assessing social determinants of health and utilizing peer support specialists, patient navigators, and community health workers to better serve our patients. Psychologists can now drive that Cadillac....

Aloha, "Over the rainbow, three miles beyond Christmas" (Acres of Diamonds, The Nightingale Album).

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SPTA Updates

Continued from page 8

Psychologists in IL. The effort garnered support from the Legislative and Executive Committees and Council of Representatives. The Clinical Psychologists Licensing and Disciplinary Board and the IPA worked together to include an EDI CE requirement in our Rules. The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) meets this week, and we expect the rules to be adopted. Every psychologist in Illinois will be required to complete 3 hours of Diversity CE per renewal period beginning in October 2024. Three of IPA's BIPOC leaders have been running a support group for members to address some of the specific concerns coming up for many BIPOC clinicians especially in clinical practice but also in other realms.

Iowa

The Iowa Psychological Association's (IPA's) Diversity and Social Justice (DSJ) committee provides education and support to IPA members through a quarterly e-newsletter, "Diversity Spotlight," and by responding to members' diversity-related questions through the "ASK the DSJ" service. We work to foster an inclusive and welcoming environment for new members by creating opportunities for connection, including a virtual book club and providing clinical resources (e.g., The Antiracism Handbook, The Racial Healing Handbook, The Body is Not an Apology are recent examples) as door prizes at IPA's

spring conference. At the spring conference awards ceremony, the DSJ honored two graduate student members of IPA, Amber Rissman, and Ashley Banta, who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to DEI and social justice work through their clinical training, research, and advocacy in the community. Diversity training over the past six months included "Cultural Humility" by Dr. Joyce Goins-Fernandez and "Addressing Whiteness in Psychotherapy: Clinical and Systems Approaches" by Dr. David Drustrup. Finally, IPA's advocacy team registered opposed positions on several bills that were proposed by State lawmakers, including legislation proposing the removal of gender identity protections under the Iowa Civil Rights Act, limiting "gender" to binary labels matching the person's internal reproductive system at birth, and prohibiting schools from disciplining students and staff who misgender others.

Maine

The Maine Psychological Association's (MePA's) 2023 Annual Conference was a full-day training event entitled "Embracing a Culture of Equity, Inclusion, and Community," featuring Dr. Idella Glenn and Ms. Quinn Elleen Gormley, who spoke on intercultural competence and transgender inclusivity. Additionally, through its Community Engagement and Social Justice Committee, MePA created its first Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement and a

Position Statement Affirming Support of LGBTQ+ Youth in early 2024. We are also participating in Pride Month on an individual basis, but next year hope to get started earlier.

Manitoba

Over the last year (June 2023-May 2024) the Diversity Director for the Manitoba Psychological Society engaged in several tasks and projects to help increase diversity in the profession. One activity was the continued involvement in the "Pathways Working Group", which is a group of professionals from academics, training, students, and community, looking at ways of encouraging Indigenous students to engage in and continue their training in Psychology and surveying how Indigenous content is included in courses and training. The Diversity Director was also a member of the Psychological Association of Manitoba (PAM's) Truth and Reconciliation Committee, who worked on a report to create recommendations for implementing the TRC Calls to Action. The Diversity Director created a new Diversity committee in 2024, which includes a range of Psychology professionals and students who represent many aspects of Diversity. This committee had its first meeting in May 2024. Of note, Dr. Lindsay Woods (Diversity Director from June 2020- June 2024) will be transitioning to the President Role

SPTA Updates

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SPTA Updates

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in MPS in June 2024 and is the first Indigenous leader of a provincial or territorial psychological association in Canada.

Missouri

The Missouri Psychological Association (MOPA) continues to champion diversity in its leadership. This year, several women of color have assumed or maintained significant roles: Dr. Jameca Cooper as our new President, Dr. Lizette Smith as Diversity Chair, and Dr. Amy Beck, who continued her pioneering role as the first woman and first person of color to serve as our association's State and Federal Advocacy Chair. Dr. Beck has received considerable recognition, including three invitations to speak at APA on leadership, advocacy, and EDI topics in the past year. She also consulted as our association's representative

for APA on legal challenges facing psychologists providing care to transgender individuals. Few bills were passed by our legislature due to infighting and two end-of-session record-setting filibusters. MOPA successfully helped stop the defunding of EDI programs within nonprofits receiving state funds and legislation that would hinder the citizen-led initiative petition process. Attempts to better protect audio-only telehealth, prevent the defunding of Planned Parenthood, and protect and support women's access to contraceptives were unsuccessful. MOPA was honored with the Outstanding Diversity Program Award by Division 31 at the recent PSLC meeting.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma hosted a successful diversity division virtual learning CE on April 20th titled "Understanding Gender Identity Development: The Science Behind

Gender Dysphoria in Youth".

The one-and-a-half-hour virtual seminar was conducted by Dr. Allie Delozier, Ph.D. During the seminar, she described the science behind gender identity development and utilized the Minority Stress Model as a framework for understanding health disparities and poor health outcomes among gender diverse youth.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Psychological Association developed guidelines that they shared with attendees, presenters, BOD members, committee chairs, etc., to make sure they had a SAFE AND WELCOMING convention in Pennsylvania this year and in the future! For those interested in a copy of the guidelines please contact the Executive Director, Ms. Ann Marie Frakes (annmarie@papsy.org).

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