



Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice
Division 37 of the American Psychological Association

THE ADVOCATE

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Behavioral Health Disaster Preparedness and Response

By Kimberly Burkhardt, PhD



The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the child mental health crisis and existing mental health disparities. Child anxiety, depression, suicide attempts and completions, and mental health-related emergency department visits have significantly increased. In late 2021, The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), and the Children’s Hospital Association (CHA) declared a national state of emergency in children’s mental health. The mental health crisis continues as natural and manmade disasters increase and the demand for mental health clinicians remains at an all-time high. It has become increasingly clear that workforce development in behavioral health disaster preparedness and response is needed.

To address regional and national need, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) funded two Centers of Excellence – Eastern Great Lakes Pediatric Consortium for Disaster Response (EGL-PCDR – now referred to as Region 5 for Kids) and the Western Regional Alliance for Pediatric Emergency Management (WRAP-EM), which launched in 2019. In 2021, The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded the Pediatric Pandemic Network (PPN). Both are committed to empowering health care systems to provide high-quality equitable care for children in crisis. I serve as the Co-Chair of the Behavioral Health Committee for the ASPR Region 5 Pediatric Disaster Care Center of Excellence, as well as Behavioral Health Domain Co-lead for the PPN. My role as a psychologist within these multidisciplinary groups is to identify behavioral health needs during all 5 phases of the disaster cycle: mitigation, preparedness, disaster, response, and recovery.

Most clinicians do not consider themselves practicing disaster mental health. As frequency and impact of disasters become more widespread, behavioral health providers can identify how they can use their areas of expertise to increase preparedness and contribute to recovery efforts. The question most often asked of our team is “where do I start?” Summarized below are possible options/resources.

National Child Traumatic Stress Network - <https://www.nctsn.org/>

Psychological First Aid (NCTSN) – An evidence-informed modular approach to help children, adults, and families in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. The eight core actions of PFA include contact and engagement, safety and comfort, stabilization, information gathering, practical assistance, connection with social supports, information on coping, and linkage with collaborative services - <https://www.nctsn.org/treatments-and-practices/psychological-first-aid-and-skills-for-psychological-recovery/about-pfa>

Family Readiness Toolkit (AAP) – A resource guide to help families become disaster ready - https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/disasters_family_readiness_kit.pdf

For additional information on disaster preparedness and response, please refer to <https://emscimprovement.center/>, <https://pedspandemicnetwork.org/>, <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/disasters-and-children/>, and <https://www.apa.org/practice/programs/dmhi>.

President's Column

By Stephanie Block, PhD

It is my great privilege to serve as your President for 2023. This organization has always been my professional home, and I remain honored to be associated with a Division full of members who are so passionately engaged in work that serves children and families.

My presidency is focused on *A Call to Action*. I am calling on our members: researchers, clinicians, practitioners, and those who do work in policy to make *meaningful differences* as we work toward our shared mission. Division 37 is supporting this *Call to Action* in several ways. First, we have started hosting a virtual “Coffee & A Call to Action” with experts who use psychological science to promote evidence-based policies supporting children and families. Inaugural speaker Dr. Apryl Alexander spoke about her groundbreaking work engaging her students in hands-on policy work at multiple levels. We had phenomenal turnout for this session, including attendees from at least 4 different countries. A special thanks to Member-at-Large for Advocacy Dr. Sonia Rubens for organizing and coordinating these events. Save the Date for September 8, 2023, when Dr. Paula Fite and Dr. Yo Jackson will speak about how to apply research to advocacy. Dr. Marilyn Sampilo will give a talk in November on advocacy to address health disparities. Stay tuned for announcements on the listserv and social media for our future coffee talks!

As part of our campaign to encourage our members to share the ways in which you are engaged in advocacy, we have also launched a kudoboard (<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/DLXiApDF>). Please use the kudoboard to post examples of ways that you have engaged in advocacy in recent years. It can be at the federal, state, or local level, within government or with other agencies or community partners. We look forward to

engaging with our members and hearing what you all have been up to through the kudoboard and on our social media. We hope to inspire each other through these posts and we will organize this information into tip sheets to share on our website.

The *Call to Action* will culminate in advocacy training that will take place in Washington D.C. the Wednesday before the APA Convention on August 2, 2023. Alongside Division 16, we will co-host a half day workshop with APA on advocacy skills. This workshop will especially focus on skills to use with local lawmakers and on social media. Division members will be given the first chance to sign up so follow our listserv for more information coming soon.

We have a brilliant program for Convention thanks to Program chair Dr. Evan McCracken and the record number of competitive submissions. Thank each of you who submitted and reviewed proposals. We will share the details of these exciting sessions in our next issue. I am excited to share that my Presidential Symposium will feature Bruce Lesley, President of First Focus on Children. Mr. Lesley has over 30 years of public policy experience at all levels of government and a demonstrated commitment to improving the lives and well-being of children. This session will address current policy and legislation related to children and families and will address how to add advocacy to the work we do so that we can lift up the voices of the children and families we serve and study.

Our board members have been hard at work on your behalf. Our Diverse, Racial, Ethnic, and Multicultural Special Interest Group (DREAM SIG) hosted a successful online event commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month. Special Guest Speakers included Dr. Angela Haeny, and Charles Grady CEO/Founder Hang Time, and board member Dr. Mirian Ofonedu.

We are focusing on expanding our membership and creating more opportunities to connect. I challenge each of you to invite two colleagues to join our Division's efforts! Thank you to graduate student representative Rayna Enriquez for helping the membership committee organize this effort. Our next opportunity to gather in-person will be at a networking social hour we are co-hosting with the Section on Child Maltreatment at the Division 41 (American Psychology-Law Society) conference this month in Philadelphia. Let us know if there are other conferences where Division 37 members might gather. Please follow all of our social media (listed below) to stay on top of Division news. A special thanks to our Social Media Chair Dr. Jenifer Woolard for coordinating our online presence, please feel free to send her (jennifer.woolard@gmail.com) news/updates/ and announcements to be shared on these venues.

It is my honor to work with the outstanding members of our Executive Committee. I hope to use my experience to work toward our division goal of applying research knowledge to policies affecting children and families in a diverse and inclusive society.

Please email me (stephanie_block@uml.edu) anytime to get more involved in our efforts or just to introduce yourself. It is crucial that we collaborate in our efforts in this call to action to serve children and their families. Get in touch so we can start the conversation.

Social Media

Twitter: @Division37ofAPA

Facebook: Division 37 of the American Psychological Association

Instagram: Division37ofAPA

Linked In: APA Division 37 Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice

Division 37 Midwinter Meeting Minutes

By Christy Olezeski, PhD

In attendance: Spencer Evans, Paula Fite, Christina Rodriguez, Maggie Stevenson, Evan McCracken, Stephanie Block, Jen Woolard, Jenelle Shanley, Sonia Rubens, Christy Olezeski, Rayna Enriquez, Cynthia Brown, Charissa Pizarro

Via Zoom: Mirian Ofonedu, Shaquanna Brown, John Cooley, Cindy Miller Perrin, Thomas McMahon

President's Activities: Stephanie Block

The presidential address this year will be about a call to action and advocacy in action. In collaboration with Division 16, the Wednesday before the APA convention, there will be an advocacy and policy training preconference with CE credits.

Liz Gershoff is current fellows chair. Nominated Mary Haskett as chair elect. Rick Short served as past chair. This will always be committee of three. The position starts in August, so we will need to elect another chair at that time.

Communications/Membership: Spencer Evans

Website traffic – hard to understand clearly. Numbers seems to indicate increase in page reads. Bounce rate has increased, too. More people coming but clicking away faster.

The EC decided to leave the listserv open. The question was posed, “Is the goal to be more inclusive?” We will not moderate the listserv; we will address any untoward issues as they come up.

Membership – It is not uncommon at this time of the year to have lower numbers. We will work as a team to increase member benefits including CE offerings, SIG events, and increased financial support for underrepresented students and faculty.

Past President: Christina Rodriguez

The slate is full for the upcoming election for 2024. Board members approved the slate. Clarification that students cannot run for EC board positions, consistent with other APA divisions.

Division awards were discussed and nominations approved: Distinguished Contributions to Child Advocacy Award: Stacey Patton; Lifetime Achievement Award: Bette Bottoms; Nicholas Hobbs Award: Mary Ann McCabe.

Division 37 is in the process to be their own CE sponsor. Christina is working on lining up CE talks so we can be ready to go once approved.

Advances: Thomas McMahon

We have taken Advances and moved this to a published book series with Springer. The first publication was open-access, which allowed for much higher download traffic. Division EC will consider making one Advances book series open access per year. Book series allow for longer content. Tom is working on creating a list of contributors to work on future volumes.

MAL Task Force Coordination & Diversity Activities: Charissa Pizarro

Charissa will create a section in the Advocate on EDI issues, research and advocacy such as reproductive justice, stereotypes in research questions, rural health disparities, women in detention centers and medical mistreatment in ICE centers.

MAL Advocacy Update: Sonia Rubens

Sonia will be working on initiatives on how to turn their work (clinical and/or research) into advocacy. This will educate members on how to advocate at different levels of government and transform their work into policy. This will be done via methods such as virtual coffee hours, top ten list of how to engage in advocacy, and toolkits for clinicians.

Citizen Psychologist award winner: Anjali Ferguson

DREAM SIG Update - Mirian Ofonedu

Meeting Quarterly. First webinar was Feb 15: Dismantling stigma of MI and disability.

Program Chair – Evan McCracken, John Cooley and Shaquanna Brown

There was a concern about reviews not being blinded. This impacted all Divisions.

We would like to have more ECP attendance at events. Program chairs will work with ECP MAL and other divisions to provide options for ECPs.

Cynthia Brown -ECP

Cynthia would like to connect more to the ECPs in the division and learn better how to serve them. If you are an ECP member that would like to be more connected with Division leadership, please let Cynthia know.

Jenelle – Treasurer

We increased our MWM budget to reflect current pricing. Investments are looking good at present. The board approved the budget and will have a mid-year check in at Convention to review again.

Open discussion: Ideas for increasing membership

The board had a lengthy discussion about ways we can increase member benefits, including ideas for translational science, EDI initiatives, and scholarships. We will continue to explore all of these avenues.

Day2

Section of Child Maltreatment: Maggie Stevenson

Section budget is stable. There is a new section board slate and folks are excited to move section program forward. There is also a goal to have more collaboration and coordination between the section and division. There will also be a special issue request for proposals in February.

APA Council Update: Cindy Miller-Perrin

APA has adopted several plans and important reports and resolutions. Importantly, they are attempting to address systematic racism. While these have been adopted, still remains what action steps will be taken.

Graduate Student Rep: Rayna Enriquez

Rayna hosted a webinar with Divisions 53 and 54 for graduate students which was very successful. The plan is to do another later this year. APA mentor breakfast had a great turnout. Plan is to do this next year.

President Elect – Paula Fite

Paula would like to spend her presidential year showcasing the ways research can be translated into policy using various examples of work already being done.

Social Media Chair – Jen Woolard

Jen will work on increasing social media presence.

Council of Representatives Report

By Cindy Miller-Perrin, PhD

The APA Council of Representatives held a hybrid meeting Feb. 24-25, with most Council members convening in person in Washington, DC.

The Council passed a policy asserting that confidentiality is central to the practice of psychology, and that psychologists should follow the APA Ethics Code when it comes to patient confidentiality surrounding reproductive health. The Council vote was 148-4, with one abstention. The policy reaffirms “that a psychologist’s allegiance to the Ethics Code, including ethical standards related to patient confidentiality, should be given the utmost attention and significance especially when psychologists are faced with ethical conflicts with a law requiring the disclosure of confidential information regarding sexual and reproductive health, including birth control; fertility treatment; contemplating, seeking, or having had an abortion; and related issues.” This measure follows a resolution the Council passed in February 2022 reaffirming APA’s commitment to reproductive justice as a human right, including equal access to legal abortion, affordable contraception, comprehensive sex education and freedom from sexual violence, with a particular emphasis on individuals from marginalized communities. The policy is available on the APA website.

The Council voted to amend the Association Rules to establish a Committee for the Advancement of General Applied Psychology (144-13, with one abstention). The committee’s purpose will be to promote, in settings outside the direct delivery of health care services, the utilization, application and advancement of science where psychologists work to enhance performance, learning, and well-being of individuals, groups, organizations, and society as a whole.

The Council unanimously adopted the revised *APA Principles for Quality Undergraduate Education in Psychology* and approved December 2032 as the expiration date. These principles offer best practices that faculty members, programs, and departments can adopt to facilitate student learning and development, in ways that fit their institutional needs and missions. This document is designed to complement, and to be used in conjunction with, the APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major. The report is available on the APA website.

The Council voted to adopt *Educational Guidelines for Equitable and Respectful Treatment of Students in Graduate Psychology Training Programs* (151–4, with one abstention). These guidelines encourage graduate psychology programs to promote the equitable and respectful treatment of graduate students throughout their education and training so that students may fully benefit from their graduate education and maximize their potential within and beyond their graduate programs. The guidelines are available on the APA website.

The Council adopted a resolution on *Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Quality Continuing Education and Professional Development* (139-8, with two abstentions). This resolution is aimed at providing CE sponsors and the broader public evidence-based recommendations to support the integration of equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility in continuing education. The policy may be used as a foundation to develop additional resources that build on this document and provide tangible support to CE sponsors to infuse EDIA thoughtfully and intentionally in their offerings. The resolution may be accessed on the APA website.

The Council voted to amend the Association Rules to modify the review process for Board of Directors member-at-large candidates and to apply that review process to all other members of the Board of Directors (147-2, with four abstentions). Changes include asking prospective candidates, upon being slated, to disclose to the Election Committee claims made against them within the last 10 years for malpractice or unethical or unprofessional conduct, or if they are currently the subject of criminal indictment. The Election Committee will then evaluate the disclosures and determine whether the candidate can remain on the slate. The decision of the Election Committee can be appealed to the Board of Directors

The Council voted unanimously to extend the effective date of the APA Specialty Guidelines In Forensic Psychology through December 2026. The purpose of these guidelines is “to improve the quality of forensic psychological services; enhance the practice and facilitate the systematic development of forensic psychology; encourage a high level of quality in professional practice; and encourage forensic practitioners to acknowledge and respect the rights of those they serve.” The guidelines are available on the APA website.

The Council accepted a Report of An Offer of Apology, on behalf of the American Psychological Association, to First Peoples in the United States (148-2, with three abstentions). This report builds upon APA’s Apology to People of Color for APA’s role in Promoting, Perpetuating, and Failing to Challenge Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Human Hierarchy in U.S., which the Council adopted in October 2021. The offer of apology to First Peoples will be

delivered by the APA president to the Society of Indian Psychologists at a time and place to be determined jointly with the SIP leadership. The full report is available on the APA website.

All APA members are able to access the Council of Representatives agenda book (and those of all boards and committees) here: <http://www.apa.org/about/governance/bdcmte/secure/agenda-books/index.aspx>. If you have any questions or concerns or would like more information, please feel free to reach out to me (cindy.miller-perrin@pepperdine.edu).

Member at Large for Early Career Professionals

By Cynthia Brown, PhD

I am delighted to serve as the Member at Large for Early Career Professionals (ECPs) for these next few years. I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and outline my vision for this role.

I am a clinical psychologist by training and a Midwesterner by nature. I completed my undergraduate work in psychology at the University of Kansas. Though I had started my undergraduate journey with aspirations of becoming a medical doctor (a pathway traversed by many psychology majors), these dreams were dashed by an abysmal performance in introductory chemistry. Luckily, I found a niche for myself in several psychology research labs. When it came time to un-declare myself from the pre-medicine track, I set my sights on graduate school. Despite my being a Jayhawk (sports fans will understand this), I was extended an offer to the clinical psychology Ph.D. program at the University of Missouri, where I worked with Dr. Chuck Borduin. I left the Midwest for my clinical internship at Stony Brook University and Stony Brook University Hospital, where I also completed my postdoctoral training and got very into New York style pizza and bagels. After completing my postdoc, I accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Pacific University, just outside of Portland, Oregon. Not a week goes by where I don't think about New York's carbohydrate goodness, but the beauty of the Pacific Northwest provides a decent enough distraction.

As I begin my term, I hope to gain a deeper sense of what ECPs are looking for from their Division 37 membership. Is there a need for support and resources beyond what ECPs get from their own mentoring and collegial networks, and if so, what would that look like? Are ECPs looking for a sense of community and opportunities to expand their connections? Are there topics that ECPs would like to discuss with other ECPs? I have a few ideas relating to non-academic careers, navigating the world of funding, mentoring others, and mitigating burnout as an ECP. But, mine is just one perspective from one discipline in one type of setting, and I'd like to have some more data from ECPs to give *you* the resources you're looking for. After all, we love data-driven decisions.

So, now that we know each other a little more, I hope that you will reach out and share your thoughts with me. If you'd like to bring forth any ideas for webinars, resources, or you just want to say "hi," please reach out! I would love to hear from you.

Marginalized Youth and Historical Trauma

By Charissa Pizarro, PsyD

Youth of color have significantly increased in number in recent years in the US. As of 2020, the majority of children in the US are of African American, Latinx, Asian, Native American, and immigrant populations from Latin America, Southeast and East Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Unfortunately, this budding population is more likely to live in poverty, and experience inequities in education, and health and mental health services. They are also at risk for higher rates of discrimination, racism, exposure to community violence and stressors such as immigration and acculturation issues. These challenges place this group at additional risk for poor mental health, and social outcomes such as behavior issues, disciplinary actions at school and eventually school dropout, incarceration, involvement with child protective services and other negative consequences.

It has been found that traumatic experiences disproportionately affect marginalized youth. Trauma is typically an emotional response although it may also be physical, to a distressing event such as a natural disaster, loss of a loved one, or physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. The trauma reaction may vary from person to person and may include disturbance in sleep or appetite, difficulty concentrating, nightmares, memory loss, flashbacks to the distressing event and other symptoms. Trauma reactions may escalate to a posttraumatic stress disorder diagnosis. Experiences with trauma may cluster within families and may be transmitted generationally among family members. Intergenerational transmission of trauma theory posits that trauma experienced by an individual is passed down to future generations via diverse pathways. Researchers have tracked trauma to children and grandchildren of trauma survivors. Some ways trauma may be transmitted is via the parent- child relationship or attachment and epigenetically, via gene expression. For example, if a child is exposed to domestic violence in their environment certain aspects of the gene (i.e., propensity to anxiety) will be expressed in the gene. Other trauma symptoms can also be transmitted through the parent- child relationship. Parents with PTSD symptoms will model for their children how to react to their environment and how to respond to stressors and even neutral stimuli. Children can learn very early on to respond with fear and anxiety to benign situations.

It is of note that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) have historical trauma and collective trauma such as the trauma of slavery experienced by those of African descent. Historical trauma and its transmission is a strong predictor of psychological stress in BIPOC groups.

Examples of historical trauma from Pumariega, Jo, Beck, & Rahmani (2022):

- Native American groups- Genocide
- African American groups- slavery- continue to experience racial discrimination
- Black mothers separated from their babies as slaves and forced to breastfeed their master's babies contributing to present day decisions not to breastfeed

- Filipino- American groups- USA colonization of the Philippines from 1880s-1940s
- Chinese groups- Ban of immigration from China in late 1880s
- Latinx groups- colonization of indigenous people by Europeans
- Latinx immigrant groups- fleeing present day political, sexual, gang violence, and poverty

These examples of historical traumas affect those who originally experienced the trauma as well as their descendants including present day BIPOC youth. For instance, Native Americans report the highest number of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and highest rates of physical abuse, sexual abuse, parental substance abuse and witnessing of violence than persons from any other race. Native American youth in the USA from ages 15-24 have the highest rate of suicide. African American sequelae of historical trauma is endless ranging from mistrust of government entities related to the Tuskegee unethical experiments to systemic racism among others. No marginalized group remains unscathed.

After briefly discussing the disparities of youth of color across several spheres of their lives as well their current and historical trauma and trauma transmission, what can we do? How can we begin the healing process of the deep wounds associated with historical trauma or even present trauma? First, it is important to recognize that every culture and at times communities within a given culture have their own healing practices intended to ameliorate and revive its members. These practices are by no means exhaustive but simply examples of practices which may be used.

Practices which have been identified as helpful combatants of trauma including historical trauma. It is of note that these practices may have also been used at the time of the original trauma of enslavement, Native American genocide, and other subjugations.

- Spiritual coping
- Strengthening of identity attitudes
- Traditional healing practices passed down from ancestors
- Reclaiming cultural traditions pre-dating colonization
- Collectivist orientation and interrelatedness/ Making use of social support
- Creating a narrative/ story telling

Ideally, in addition to these practices there would be more culturally sensitive mental health services available and accessible to BIPOC populations to address current and historical trauma.

References

Pumariega, A.J., Jo, Y. Beck, B. & Rahmani, M. (2022). Trauma and US Minority children and Youth. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 24(4), 285-295.

Henderson, Z.R., Stephens, T.N., Ortega-Williams, A., Walton, Q. L. (2021). Conceptualizing healing through the African American experience of historical trauma. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 91(6), 763-775.

In Honor of Black History Month: American Girl Books on Rosa Parks and Misty Copeland.
Click link to download

[Rosa-a-girl-named.pdf \(contentstack.io\)](#) African American civil rights activist with a pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott

[Misty-Copeland-2.pdf \(contentstack.io\)](#) First African American Principal dancer

DSJ Resources

[Deeply Rooted in the Patriarchy: The Consequences and Burdens of Overruling Roe: Journal of Social Issues \(wiley.com\)](#)

[11.14.22 MEDICAL MISTREATMENT OF WOMEN IN ICE DETENTION \(1\).pdf](#)

Voice of the Students

By Rayna Enriquez, MA

This past fall, a collaborative programming event was organized by the graduate student representatives of APA Divisions 37, 53, and 54: Marketing Yourself: Navigating Advanced Training Opportunities and the Job Search. This webinar served as a resource to assist graduate students and trainees in preparing for professional development, expanding their networks, and hearing directly from a panel of current administrators about important qualities that employers look for in an applicant. The panelists selected for this webinar each provided a unique perspective on these topics and served as representatives for each division: Dr. Sasha Jasquez from Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, Dr. Elizabeth McQuaid from Brown/Hasbro Children's Hospital, and Dr. Carla Adkinson-Johnson from West Michigan State University. The panelists addressed the current boom in the behavioral health and psychology job market and provided insight on submitting applications, interviewing, and important tips for offers and negotiations. This event was free and held online to ensure that students across the country can join to hear about these important skills. In addition, a [recording](#) of this webinar is available on Division 53's website for those who were not able to attend. This webinar has become a traditional event held annually with the collaboration of these three subdivisions of APA. This year's webinar will be held in the fall again, so be sure to look out for an email with more information.

A primary goal for Division 37's graduate student committee this year is to increase student engagement and connectivity for members. The 2023 APA Convention in Washington D.C. this year will be a great opportunity for members to interact with one another. Division 37 will be hosting several events to give members the chance to network, including a student-mentor breakfast that will be held at a nearby restaurant. This breakfast will give students the opportunity to connect with other members, mentors, and esteemed fellows and exchange ideas. More information about the breakfast will be provided to members closer to the date of the Convention.

Lastly, Division 37 is launching a student spotlight program to acknowledge the achievements of our student members on our social media platforms and website. This initiative will recognize the important work our student members are doing to support children and families. To nominate a student member that you believe deserves the spotlight for their work and advocacy, please email the graduate student representative: [Rayna Enriquez](#), or mention our division in your social media post by using [@division37ofAPA](#).

Follow us on social media for more updates and opportunities for members to stay engaged. We are excited to see the ideas of the students flourish over the year and are eager to share more updates in the next issue of *The Advocate*.

Advocacy is very important to members of Division 37, so here are some helpful links to current advocacy initiatives or resources for more information:

- [Advocating for equal treatment of graduate students in student debt relief programs](#)
- [Psychology workforce training and education programs get funding boosts with sustained advocacy](#)
- [APA Government Relations](#)
- [Children & Families at the Center: Policy Ideas for Communities, States and the New Administration](#)

Citizen Psychologist Award

By Sonia Rubens, PhD

This year, the Division 37 Child and Family Citizen Psychologist Award was awarded to **Dr. Anjali Ferguson**. Dr. Ferguson received her doctorate in Medical-Clinical Psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2016. Within the last several years, Dr. Ferguson has created numerous culturally responsive interventions and community outreach programs for marginalized communities, such as the creation of trauma-informed resources and psychoeducational support for Blindian (Black x Indian) communities and psychoeducation materials that address South Asian mental health, anti-racism, and children's mental health. In 2021, Dr. Ferguson launched Parenting Culture (www.parentingculture.org), a free research-informed, inclusive parenting resource intended to support parents, educators, and practitioners. The resources are curated by a team of early career psychologists of color with professional expertise in children's mental health and lived experiences as parents. The platform has

developed several products, including a culturally-responsive values assessment to assist practitioners/educators in family-centered care and a podcast series to disseminate information to families. In addition, Dr. Ferguson recently co-authored a children's book, "An Ordinary Day" which introduces microaggressions to young children.

Dr. Ferguson will be presenting a webinar related to emerging literature on the impact of microaggressions on child development later this year. Stay tuned for more details!

Division 37 (Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice) Elections and Call for Nominations

By Christina M. Rodriguez, PhD

I am excited to announce six division members who have volunteered to run for election for our three open positions (these offices begin in 2024). Please take a moment to find out more about each of these candidates. You will receive a link through APA by email later this spring to cast your vote. Should you have any questions, please contact me via email at crodriguez@odu.edu.

Slate of Candidates for Election:

President-Elect (2024)/President (2025)/Past-President (2026)

The duties of the President include setting the priorities of the division for the year, presiding at all meetings of the division, serving as chair of the Executive Committee, supervising the affairs of the division, and coordinating the activities of the division with those of other divisions and APA.

Jodi Quas, PhD

Professor, University of California at Irvine

Division 37 Fellow, 2018 Nicholas Hobbs Award Winner

As a developmental psychologist whose work falls at the interface of science, policy, and practice, I have devoted my career to finding ways of improving identification of and outcomes for vulnerable children and adolescents. I have studied methods of enhancing the accuracy of children's eyewitness accounts and abuse disclosures. I have identified consequences of maltreatment and legal involvement, and tested methods of reducing some of those consequences. Most recently, I have turned my attention toward other victim populations, including adolescent victims, particularly those who have been commercially sexually exploited. I have been documenting challenges that arise when these victims are interviewed and strategies to overcome these challenges, which can facilitate intervention, service delivery, and prosecution of perpetrators. To pursue this research, I have partnered with governmental agencies and private foundations, whose knowledge helps shape the research's design, execution, and interpretation. These partnerships are crucial to effective dissemination of findings to professionals who serve vulnerable populations.

My hope is to use the skills that I have acquired forming and maintaining these partnerships in my role as President of Division 37. I will be able to continue to promote collaborative projects that address the needs of children and youth. I have served in multiple other leadership roles for the APA (e.g., Division 37 Member-At-Large; Member and then Chair of the APA Committee on Child, Youth, and Families) and worked with several past executive committee members of Division 37, but also with Division 7 and 41, on important interdivisional initiatives. Finally, I am very familiar with the Section on Child Maltreatment and its important activities that also serve the broader mission of Division 37 and thus would be thrilled to work with the Section on ongoing and new projects. Overall, I am honored to be running for the position of President of Division 37 and excited to work with others to effect change that improves the lives of vulnerable children, youth, and families.

Janelle R. Shanley, PhD
Associate Professor, Pacific University
Division 37 Fellow

I am honored to be considered for the position of Division 37 President-Elect. I am an Associate Professor in the School of Graduate Psychology at Pacific University in Oregon. My career focuses on implementing evidence-based parent support programs to promote healthy child development. I have extensive experience with national and international implementations of parenting programs. My research endeavors focus on improving implementation strategies and adapting these programs to promote child mental health and reduce the impact of maltreatment.

For the past 15 years, I have served in several officer roles for Division 37 and the Section on Child Maltreatment, including Division Treasurer (my current position), Division Secretary, Section on Child Maltreatment Membership Chair, Section Secretary, and Section Program Chair, providing me firsthand experience with the important work carried out by the Division and Section. These integral roles provide me with a unique perspective to carry out the Division President's responsibilities and supporting the mission of Division 37. My professional career is devoted to promoting children's healthy development, and continuing my involvement with the Division is an important aspect of my work and a major reason I am seeking to serve as Division President. I am excited to continue collaboration with other professionals in our field through interactions with Division officers and members. I am also excited to leverage my experiences and expertise to promote our Division's mission of applying psychological knowledge to advance service delivery, advocacy and policy to support children and families across the US and internationally. Thank you for your consideration.

Treasurer (2024-2026)

The duties of the treasurer involve collection, disbursement, and investment of Division funds, budget oversight, interfacing with banking entities, and coordination with APA on annual tax filings.

Yoojin Chae, PhD
Associate Professor, Texas Tech University

I would be deeply honored to serve as Treasurer for APA Division 37. I am Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Sciences at Texas Tech University. I earned my PhD in Human Development from Cornell University and completed postdoctoral training at the

University of California, Davis. I have been devoted to a wide range of research on child development. My research emphasis and educational background primarily concern children's eyewitness ability, emotion and memory, trauma and memory, attachment, parent-child reminiscing, suggestibility, and child forensic interviewing.

In addition to my research activities, I have held several prior leadership positions on the Executive Committee of Division 37's Section on Child Maltreatment, including Member-at-Large (2016-2018) and Treasurer (2019-2022). Also, I am currently having a second term as Treasurer for Division 7 (Developmental Psychology). Through these leadership experiences, I have had the opportunities to collaborate with colleagues on applying developmental science to policies and practices that facilitate positive development of children and families. In particular, my experiences as Treasurer have strengthened my skills related to financial management. It was my privilege to be on the executive committee of Division 37's Section of Child Maltreatment and I am excited about the possibility of serving at the Division level as well. I would love to apply the extent of my knowledge, experience, and energy to further the goals of Division 37 in contributing to social policy on behalf of children and families and enhancing education and networking. I am enthusiastic about providing scientific evidence for professionals who work with children and families and partnering with policy makers. If elected, I will give my full effort to fulfill the mission of our Division through my research, mentoring, and public engagement.

Casie H. Morgan, M.A.

Doctoral Candidate, University of Alabama at Birmingham

I am currently a fifth year graduate student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in Birmingham, Alabama. In the summer, I will be transitioning to Charleston, South Carolina for my predoctoral internship at the MUSC Charleston Consortium Internship program. I am passionate about working with families of children with challenging behaviors as it relates to their physical, mental, and developmental health conditions. I also am enthusiastic about engaging in prevention-focused translational research with a primary interest in examining the influences of family dynamics and parent-child relationships on family health outcomes. I consider myself a life-long learner and am constantly looking for new growth opportunities, so it is an honor to be considered for the Treasurer position for Division 37.

Member-at-Large for Communications and Technology (2024-2026)

The duties of this member-at-large is to oversee the Division webpage and listservs; to coordinate with the Social Media Chair; and otherwise improve communications among Division members.

Jennifer B. Blossom, PhD

Assistant Professor, University of Maine

I am a Clinical Child Psychologist, an Assistant Professor, and a member of the Clinical Faculty in the Department of Psychology at the University of Maine. I received my PhD in Clinical Child Psychology from the University of Kansas and completed my predoctoral internship and postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Seattle Children's Hospital. My program of research employs an implementation science approach to improve community capacity to identify and intervene for youth with mental health problems, including enhancing service delivery, efficiency, access, and engagement. Specifically, my

research evaluates the effectiveness and implementation of evidence-based interventions (EBIs) within pediatric primary care and community settings with the goal of realizing a public health impact of EBIs for common youth mental health concerns, including anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention.

It would be a privilege to serve as Division 37's Member-at-Large for Communications and Technology. Increasingly, central themes of my research and professional roles reflect the intersection of public policy and systems that youth and families often encounter when attempting to access or engage in mental health services. To that end, my professional values and efforts mirror those of Division 37, namely, "[a commitment] to the application of psychological knowledge to advocacy, social justice, service delivery and public policies affecting children, youth, and families in a diverse and inclusive society." Central to this mission is facilitating active, consistent discussion among Division members regarding resources, opportunities, and initiatives relevant to our shared goal. I certainly hope that you provide me the opportunity to contribute to this important work. Thank you for your consideration.

Krishna Patel, M.S.

Doctoral Candidate, Florida Institute of Technology

With great enthusiasm, I submit my statement for the Member-At-Large: Technology & Communication position. I am a third-year graduate student in the clinical psychology PsyD program at Florida Institute of Technology. As a doctoral student with ongoing professional experience, submitting a poster presentation to the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS), and continued involvement in the psychological community, I believe my multidisciplinary skills and qualifications will make me a qualified candidate for this position.

Prior to my graduate experience, I founded and captained a collegiate-level competitive dance team that performed nationally. Further strengthening my leadership skills, I taught more than a hundred prospective members of my college volunteer organization and became a registered behavior technician working with children with developmental disabilities. A volunteer opportunity I contributed to was in Kenya, Africa helping orphaned children with their schoolwork, household tasks, and with American Sign Language. As I continue to gain diverse experiences, my appreciation of and drive to accept opportunities for enlightenment and development strengthens.

Earlier in my graduate training, I adopted several important leadership positions in my clinical program. I have co-authored a trauma study presented at the virtual ACBS conference in 2021 examining coping styles and trauma symptomology in college students. I have been a member of the Integrated Behavioral Health research team working on leading efforts for a research project that evaluates parents' health perceptions and attitudes associated with the COVID-19 vaccination for their children. I am currently the PsyD student senate president elected by my peers and diligently striving to increase retention and engagement, provide student advocacy, and facilitate student and faculty relations. In my practicum training, I currently provide services to a diverse population at outpatient mental health clinics and patients in a medical hospital. Independent of the program, I serve as a social media chair for the Society of Health Psychology (Division 38) executive board. In closing, I am thrilled at the possibility of holding an executive position for MAL-Technology & Communication in Division 37. In addition to being flexible

and responsive, I show initiative and professionalism in my work and education. I appreciate your consideration.

Section on Child Maltreatment President's Column

By Margaret C. Stevenson, PhD

I am honored to have assumed the role of president of the Section on Child Maltreatment as of 2023 and beyond grateful for Karen Carmody's leadership and continued support as past president. I am eager to serve the Section and delighted to provide an update on the Section on Child Maltreatment activities. It was a pleasure to have recently represented the Section on Child Maltreatment at Division 37's executive board midwinter meeting in February. The midwinter meeting facilitated areas for Division and Section intersection and collaboration which will strengthen efforts within both organizations. The Section has continued its efforts to engage and recruit members, disseminate information via social media, and highlight policy updates and current issues pertaining to child maltreatment in the [Section's newsletters](#). Please follow the Section's LinkedIn page and Twitter account (@Div37ChildMaltx) where you will meet and engage with others working in child maltreatment prevention and treatment and learn about relevant news, awards, jobs, and conference information.

As of January, the Section has welcomed several newly elected and appointed officers including, President-Elect Kristin Valentino (University of Notre Dame), Secretary Elisa Vele-Tebbador (Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Harvard University), MAL for Diversity Cynthia Najdowski (University at Albany), Membership Chair Kristin Dean (University of Tennessee), Newsletter Editor Helen Milojevich (Center for Child and Family Policy Duke University), Program Co-Chair Kimberly Burkhart (Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital; Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine), and Student Representative Alexandria Winstead (University of Massachusetts Lowell). Looking to the near future, several Section positions will be open for 2024, including the elected position of Member at Large (Policy/Advocacy). We will also be seeking individuals interested in two appointed positions available for 2024, which are Website Coordinator and Program co-chair. I encourage all interested individuals to [contact me](#) if you are interested in any of these positions.

At the upcoming 2023 APA Convention, we are excited to feature Dr. Thema Bryant as the invited speaker at the Section's Presidential Symposium. Dr. Bryant is professor of psychology at Pepperdine University and current APA President. Her clinical and research expertise lies within the intersection of interpersonal trauma -- particularly child abuse -- and cultural oppression. In her presentation, Dr. Bryant will highlight implications for child maltreatment researchers, therapists, and policy-makers by drawing from her psychological expertise at the intersection of child abuse, trauma, cultural oppression, and racism. We encourage all Division and Section members to attend the Section Presidential Symposium at the APA convention this August!

In keeping with the Section's presidential theme regarding the impact of the COVID pandemic on issues pertaining to child maltreatment, Section members have collaborated to develop a special issue of the journal *Child Maltreatment* on "[COVID-Related Professional Challenges and Innovations and Implications for Child Maltreatment Victims](#)." We encourage all Division and

Section members to disseminate the call for this special issue broadly and hope you consider submitting relevant work for consideration for this special issue. Please direct any questions you might have about this special issue to [Dr. Shanna Williams](#).

We are currently seeking nominations for our three Section awards (Dissertation Award, Karen Saywitz Early Career Award, and Mid-Career Award). Applications for all awards are due **March 24, 2023**, to: [Karen Carmody](#), PhD. Applicants will be notified of the decision in May. All awards will be presented at the annual APA convention. Application details are as follows:

Dissertation Grant Award

A \$400 grant will be awarded to one successful graduate student applicant to assist with expenses in conducting dissertation research on the topic of child maltreatment. The award includes a one-year free membership in the Section on Child Maltreatment. Applicants are requested to submit:

1. A letter of interest, indicating how the applicant would use the award funds toward the completion of the dissertation research;
2. A 100-word abstract; and
3. A proposal of the research to be conducted, not to exceed five double-spaced pages (inclusive of tables, references, etc.).

Karen Saywitz Early Career Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research or Practice

The Section on Child Maltreatment (Section 1 of Division 37, APA) is seeking nominations for its 2023 Early Career Awards. The Section Awards Committee is accepting nominations in two categories (Outstanding Contributions to Research, or Outstanding Contributions to Practice), with each category being judged separately. Nominees should be professionals within ten years of receiving their terminal degree. They need not be a member of the Section. Self-nominations are welcome.

Nominations should include an electronic copy of the following:

1. A cover letter summarizing the nominee's accomplishments to date and anticipated future contributions. This summary should describe the nominee's major accomplishments related to the field of child maltreatment and how the nominee's work has had an impact on the field;
2. The nominee's current curriculum vitae;
3. A letter of support; and
4. Other relevant supporting material, as appropriate.

Mid-Career Award For Outstanding Work in Child Maltreatment

The Section Awards Committee is accepting nominations recognizing outstanding teaching, policy, research, or practice at mid-career. Nominees should be professionals within 11-20 years of receiving their terminal degree. They need not be a member of the Section. Self-nominations are welcome.

Nominations should include an electronic copy of the following:

1. A cover letter outlining the nominee's accomplishments to date and impact on their field. This letter should describe the nominee's major accomplishments related to the field of child maltreatment and how the nominee's work has had an impact on the field;
2. The nominee's current curriculum vitae;
3. One letter of support; and
4. Other relevant supporting material, as appropriate (e.g., no more than two articles authored by the nominee).

Please [reach out to me](#) with any questions you might have about becoming involved in the Section on Child Maltreatment. The Section is devoted to advancing science, practice, and advocacy in the field of child maltreatment. We are eager to hear from you, to promote your important work in the field of child maltreatment, and to involve you in advancing our important mission of advocacy in the field of child maltreatment.