

Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice

The Advocate



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Column	1
Bios of New Officers	3
Midwinter Meeting Minutes	4
Featured Article	9
Featured Article	10
Council of Reps Report	12
ECP Column	14
Elections	16
Executive Board Roster	20
Connect with Us	21

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Paula Fite, PhD

President

It is such an honor to serve as Division 37's President for 2024. I feel so fortunate to have the privilege of working with such amazing individuals striving to improve the lives of children and families. Thank you to our members for all your efforts and contributions in advocacy, service, practice, research, and teaching. A special note of appreciation to all of our current and past board members who put in countless hours to ensure the Division moves forward and has an impact.

This year's presidential theme is focused on disseminating members' research in ways that can directly influence policy and practice. In order for our research to be impactful and inform policy change, the work has to be presented in a way that is digestible with the implications clearly articulated. Throughout the year members of the Division will be sharing their work via social media and our website, providing clear talking points that other members and advocates can use to influence policy change and practice within their communities. Topics include trauma prevention and intervention, accurate assessment and diagnosis of children and adolescents, immigration policy, sleep and school start times, services for justice-involved youth, preventing corporal punishment and child abuse, and violence prevention in schools. If you would like to share your work in this way, please feel free to contact me (pfite@ku.edu).



The Division 37 Board held its Midwinter Meeting in Lawrence, Kansas February 1st and 2nd. The meeting was fruitful, with ideas regarding membership engagement, recruitment of new members, topics for virtual talks, and advocacy opportunities discussed. We have planned several social events at the APA Convention as well as other conferences that many of our

members attend throughout the year. Please be on the lookout for these events and join us for networking and getting to know other members of Division 37.

We are also looking forward to Division programming at Convention in Seattle. It is exciting to report that submissions to the Division continue to increase and that we will have two poster sessions this year. Drs. Shaquanna Brown and John Cooley are doing a fantastic job to maximize our hours and ensure quality sessions. This year the Presidential Hour was donated to the Division of Social Justice, which will support a session titled “Healthcare Under Fire: The impact of Restrictions on Healthcare for Transgender Youth.” Dr. Christy Oleski (our current Secretary) will be leading the symposium, with speakers with backgrounds in psychology, law, and medicine providing insights. Look for more information regarding programming in our next edition of the Advocate.

We would love to have as much membership involvement as possible. There are many ways for you to participate and contribute to the division’s mission. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Join our [Section on Child Maltreatment](#), if you have an interest in research, policy, and practice in the area of child welfare.
- Join our [Diverse Racial Ethnic and Multicultural \(DREAM\) Special Interest Group](#) and check out our [anti-racism resources](#).
- Attend our periodic congressional briefings (see [examples](#) of prior congressional briefings on homelessness, school violence, human trafficking) or suggest a topic for a future briefing.
- Contact our editor to contribute to our book series, [Advances in Child and Family Policy and Practice](#).
- Write a topical essay to our Division newsletter, [The Advocate](#) or the Section newsletter, [Section on Child Maltreatment Newsletter](#).
- Volunteer or nominate yourself for a position on our [Executive Committee](#).
- [Nominate a colleague for one of our many awards](#) recognizing excellence in research, advocacy, citizenship, or practice.

I am looking forward to working and interacting with members throughout the year. Please reach out any time with ideas, suggestions, and comments.

Paula Fite, Ph.D.

2024 President of the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice, Division 37

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

BIOGRAPHIES OF NEW OFFICERS

President 2024

Paula Fite, PhD

Paula Fite is a Dean's Professor in the Clinical Child Psychology Program at the University of Kansas. Dr. Fite's research interests are centered around the etiology and developmental progression of child and adolescent problem behavior, with a focus on aggression, delinquency, and substance use. Her research examines factors contributing to these problem behaviors in various populations, including detained youth, school-based populations, and treatment seeking youth in both inpatient and outpatient settings. This work has resulted in more than 200 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Fite obtained her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and she completed her clinical internship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is an Associate Editor of Child and Youth Care Forum and sits on the board of several journals. She has also served Division 37 in various ways over the years, including as the Early Career member-at-large and Treasurer of the board.

President Elect 2024

Jodi Quas, PhD

President-Elect Jodi Quas is Chancellor's Professor of Psychological Science at the University of California, Irvine, where she has been on faculty since 2000. At the broadest level, her work focuses on improving the lives of vulnerable children, adolescents, and families through research, education, and advocacy. Her specific research interests concern children's and adolescents' eyewitness capabilities and abuse disclosure, and the consequences of legal involvement on youth victims, witnesses, and defendants. She has received numerous awards for the impact of her work on theory and practice and for her efforts in student training. Throughout her career, she has devoted considerable attention to enhancing knowledge across the globe on issues relevant to child maltreatment and legal interventions for victimized and vulnerable youth. This includes time as a Fulbright Specialist in Asunción Paraguay where trained academic and medical professionals, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the public on the consequences of maltreatment on children, families, and communities. She is now building collaborations with teams in Norway that are testing innovative methods of enhancing training for forensic interviewers and abuse disclosures in child and adolescent victims.

Treasurer 2024-2026

Yoojin Chae, PhD

Yoojin Chae is Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Sciences at Texas Tech University. Her research emphasis and educational background primarily concern children's memory, being particularly directed toward several controversial issues regarding stress, coping, and autobiographical memory. She has conducted projects that examine children's eyewitness ability and suggestibility, attachment and memory for distressing experiences, parent-child reminiscing, childhood maltreatment and memory, trauma-related psychopathology, and narrative skill and memory accuracy. She has further investigated the effects

of different interviewing techniques on low-SES children's eyewitness memory. Dr. Chae earned her Ph.D. in Human Development from Cornell University and completed her postdoctoral training at the University of California, Davis. She previously held several leadership positions on the Executive Committee of Division 37's Section on Child Maltreatment, including Member-at-Large and Treasurer, and is currently having a second term as Treasurer for Division 7 (Developmental Psychology).

Member-at-Large: Communications & Technology 2024-2026
Jennifer Blossom, PhD

Jen Blossom, Ph.D. (she/her) is a Clinical Child Psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Maine. Dr. Blossom received her PhD in Clinical Child Psychology from the University of Kansas and completed her predoctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship training at the University of Washington/Seattle Children's Hospital. As a member of the Clinical Faculty at UMaine, Dr. Blossom maintains an active program of research, mentors doctoral and undergraduate students, and teaches at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Dr. Blossom's 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. The two broad goals of Dr. Blossom's research are to ensure that youth have access to evidence-based services when and where they need it and to realize a public health impact on youth suicide prevention. Dr. Blossom has clinical expertise in youth internalizing problems, including anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention and maintains an active clinical role through consultation and training of primary care-based clinicians and community providers.

DIVISION 37 MIDWINTER MEETING MINUTES

President's Activities – Paula Fite

Presidential initiative for 2024– making research digestible! As a member of the Division of Social Justice, the Presidential Hour will be donated for a talk on transgender healthcare and the impact of policy on children and families.

During the presidential year, we would like to make research more accessible to all and be clear about how to connect research with policy. In addition, we will be describing advocacy more broadly and help folks in all levels of their career become more involved in advocacy. We would also like to make this a priority for the website and social media. Stay tuned!

We would like to also increase messaging about Division activities at APA. We are planning a student breakfast, networking hour and a great set of talks. We will be more intentional about posting to the APA app as well as on social media – make sure you are following us on social media!

As we want to be able to honor and celebrate awardees, all awards will be presented at the Division Business Hour.

The Section as well as the Division are considering the addition of a teaching/mentoring award to honor members. We are creating a subcommittee to determine the application criteria and selection rubric.

We are also considering various perks for members – how to engage in advocacy at the local/state level, having coffee hours with various members/leaders in the division, having coffee hours for members to connect at other meetings, creating task forces to attend to specific needs of children and families. We also have several CE talks planned for the year (we are now a certified CE provider). We will continue to explore additional ideas of talks that are of interest to members.

Membership – Mindy Williams

Quick discussion of theories about recent trends in membership numbers - numbers were going up, then drop in 2023 and this year. Did we have early career /students that haven't renewed? Did anyone reach out to folks non-renewing to see what is going on?

Did change fees in 2022 for 2023. APA loses members at year 4 bc there is a jump in financial commitment. We have a problem keeping people. How to advertise, get more people but also how to KEEP people.

Need to have more stable Membership Role. It's appointed, not elected. Feel a lot of the responsibilities as elected members. Two tag-teaming membership chairs, with staggered terms/institutional knowledge and also to make sure that there is overlap if one drops out. Will add new formal role for Student Affiliate Membership Chair and having it staggered, same as Membership Chair.

Broadcasting board member activities /Social media posts - Folks should post more about what they are doing to social media to show members what we are doing. Also, might be helpful to talk about membership benefits here. People can learn who you are, what are you doing, who is in leadership. Would like to do a member spotlight on social media.

Past President Report – Stephanie Block

Steph did coffee and talk events her Presidential Year. All recorded. Sonia worked on this and also added to Kudo board how folks are taking action. Lots of talks drew in members of how research added to policy. Juicy info in talks and in chat. Want to find a way to take information and getting it on website and tipsheets that could be promoted on social media (statements/quotes) to add.

NASEM – we plan to have continued involvement. We are small but mighty division. Would like to stay in NASEM if can continue modest contribution. There has been more communication and collaboration this year. More representation with Cristin Ogle present at meetings. We have a full state of nominees for elections. 2 People president, 3 people MAL Diversity. Everyone running has received MOUs and have asked for candidate statement. Check out their bios in the current Advocate and make sure to vote!

Treasurer Update – Yoojin Chae

Over past several years saw a deficit except for pandemic, because there was no travel. Added royalties and CE in 2023. Membership dues went up too. However, net loss of 9K.

When we have a deficit, pull from the Ameritrade. Did add costs in the past 2 years (CEs, new awards) but always have broken even with Ameritrade investment profit.

As the MWM expenses have bridged 2 years for reimbursement, we will earmark 2K for folks who need/want to be reimbursed the year before the meeting. We will not adjust the MWM budget at present, but will continue to monitor. It might make sense to have the MWM in a central location to where members are, rather than where the President is. We will also keep the Ameriprise risk tolerance as is for this year and see if it needs to be changed in the coming years.

Presidential Agenda 2025 – Jodi Quas

Thanks to all. Following great leaders/initiatives. What were the common themes moving forward. Broadened the idea of advocacy. Make it digestible for folks. Wanted to bring membership together in terms of call to action. Wanted to do pre-conference policy training for folks who wanted that extra training. Got more specific as time went on – not necessary those in academics, those doing the policy work. When working together can have longer time to think about how to continue the work into the next year.

Would like to continue with policy trainings. Schedule meetings with legislators to get on the hill. Making science digestible into the hands of legislators, policy makers. Other ideas more narrow – We as a division need to talk about the effects of social media – a tool and a risk for kids. What the science is saying and what the public is saying. Or another option is kids in the social service/justice system. Children's interface with the systems. How to have impact at lower levels in terms of policy. This carries on from what is Advocacy from Paula's Pres theme. How to empower folks with a couple of examples to bring their research into the policy realm. Will discuss the coming Presidential Theme at the Business Meeting at Convention.

MAL Communications and Technology – Jennifer Blossom

Website analytics from 2018-2022. High bounce rates. Will want to think about what is happening – links broken? What are folks looking for? Why do they bounce back off? Folks are accessing the Advocate – how can this be useful for teaching?

Steady listserv membership. Big jump in 2022 reconciliation among listservs. Will continue to highlight important areas of work that members are doing.

MAL: ECP – Cynthia Brown

First year tried to connect to ECPs develop programming wanting to attend, while also making it an easy lift for the committee. Landed on informal coffee chat model. Informal talk around topic. Promising attendance beforehand, but only 3 people showed up. Happy hour was a success though. What do ECPs want? The ECPs want to also meet the later career folk, so this is why everyone is invited to the ECP networking event at APA. We will call it a Div 37 ECP networking hour for all, while still focusing on increasing student and ECP membership. We are also exploring other topics that might be relevant to ECPs: How to get licensed in certain states, how to apply for funding, how to talk to NIH program officers, sharing about salary negotiations, syllabi examples.

Section of Child Maltreatment Margaret Stevenson

Budget – Looking healthy financially. Consistent growth in assets. Since good financially, consider increasing award amounts or adding teaching and mentorship award.

Membership – since dropped by APA in help with membership, it has dropped. This is an extra thing to become a member of the section. It used to be one-stop shop, now came up from last year, but still low. Will brainstorm ways to help others join section. Have MAL for membership engagement. Looking for virtual talk series for folks who did or wanted to present at convention. What would it mean to be a benefit for section members. Highlighting work/publications. Article briefs.

Board members – have several new board members website, membership, policy/advocacy, program chair.

Journal Special Issue - special issue in journal Child Maltreatment on COVID implications for child maltreatment victims– coming out in summer.

Social Media Update – presence is low, will be trying to grow following – more emphasis on LinkedIn.

Folks are confused that there is a difference between the section and the division. It's a barrier to membership. Make sure communications between program co-chairs and leadership across division and section.

Program Chair Update – Shaquanna Brown and John Cooley

Highlight – net gain of 5 proposal submissions from last year. Symposia – 7, skill building 3 (stable), no critical convos, 40 posters (up), 7 data blitz (new). Can take all 40 posters. Can split them up for two sections. That way can connect to more people.. Have only 11 hours this year – down from 12. Have 3 hours for business hours – business, board meeting. Will give poster awards on site this year. Will then honor them at the business hour and CYF presentation.

Social Media Update – Jennifer Woolard

Lab manager has been helping with posts on social media. Regular presence. Can schedule all social media posts in one app (Loomly). Will push things out for Division and Section. If find out info about events/interesting talks, please add to send to membership. If come across interesting work/talks, please send them to Jen.

APA Council Update – Cindy Miller-Perrin

Council met in August. In the pipeline – resolution to support parents with disabilities. Jason Cantone is spearheading. Discrimination against parents with hearing issues with language, or visual problems caring for kids. ADA has certain definition for disabilities – based on this, parents with cancer have not been able to adopt. Resolution to better understand how psychologists can help with assessment, recommendations. Also, resolution to recommend an increase in dues - \$25 for full members, reduction in year 4,

where there is a big bump. (so would cancel each other out). Also – Involuntary Isolation of Youth, Secure Storage of Firearms, also Mis/Disinformation (sticky point is who decides it's mis or dis information).

Graduate Student Rep Update – Annie Ryder

The student breakfast last year was great. Hope to have a great turnout this year as well. Question about how to get grad students more involved. Getting onto the APA app to advertise more. Student networking event to meet with potential members. Who will be at APA. Work with program chairs to see Board Members, folks on Council, etc. People giving awards to. Advertise who is coming to the breakfast to students.

MAL Task Force Coordination & Diversity Activities – Charissa Pizarro

APA international affairs – visited state and government agencies in Tanzania– spoke about shortcomings in mental health. 150 psychologists for millions of people. Would like to do consultation or webinars (3-4). International Affairs MOU – they could also advertise all of the CEs, coffee talks, etc. for Div 37. UNICEF has a grant to do trainings with the people who perpetrated the violence, nothing for kids. Audience would be mental health workers who are working with kids who have experienced trauma.

Have been attending the DSJ meetings. Div 37 has donated one hour for presidential address. Have a meeting next Wednesday. Donation every five years. Plan to continue involvement.

Advances Update – Thomas McMahon

Biggest accomplishment – finally revised and signed contract with Springer!!!. Advances is now a book series, not a brief series. The goal is to publish 2 books a year. Can also work to get the series indexed and then can request an impact factor – need track record of 3 years. Goal now is to revise the website at Springer, have a new proposal form from Judy Jones and then we need to generate proposals. Tom will take more active role in editing with workgroup. Want to get more people involved. The suicide prevention and intervention brief came out – open access – accessed more than 100,000 times. All of other briefs were accessed b/w 2k-10K times over longer periods of time. Visibility with open access. With the Division being approved as a CE provider able to have CE session on the suicide prevention/intervention brief. Can continue to do moving forward.

BUDGET APPROVED!

MAL: Advocacy – Sonia Rubens

Last year organized ways to infuse advocacy into the work members are already doing. Developed kudo board to share what members are doing day to day. Had 2 virtual coffee hours. Apryl Alexander, how developed curriculum, how help students go state house, write letters, etc. In Sept Paula and Yo Jakson talked about how to infuse advocacy into research. If someone has an idea for the coffee hours, please let Sonia know.

FEATURED ARTICLE

Attachment in Donor-Conception: Connecting Basic and Applied Research

Elizabeth B. Lozano, PhD

Editor, *The Advocate*

Before we proceed, let me first tell you a little about myself and my background. I'm a donor-conceived person who was born via sperm donation in 1991. I'm also a trained Social/Personality Psychologist. I obtained my doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2021, and shortly after, began my position as an Assistant Professor of Psychology & Sociology at California Northstate University. In this role, I have taught various undergraduate courses, spearheaded several committees, and conducted mixed-methods research with a team of undergraduates on the topic of attachment, lie detection, and betrayal trauma in donor-conceived people.

My research takes a close look at those impacted by assisted reproduction/donor-conception and their "family" relationships. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, a donor-conceived person (DCP) is an individual born through sperm, egg, or embryo donation. It is important to note that DCP come from different family types (i.e., single parent, LGBTQIA+, heterosexual)—there is no one-size-fits-all! Some DCP may have a biological parent, such as a mother whose egg was fertilized with a donor's sperm, and/or a non-biological parent who plays a role in childrearing but is not the biological parent of the DCP. Specifically, I study the attachment dynamics of DCP—the ways in which they approach their relationships with others (e.g., the donor, parent(s), donor-siblings, etc.).

In addition to my scholarship on attachment in donor-conception, I recently created a startup called Conception Connection, LLC which aims to provide DCP with help when it comes to navigating their identity and managing their relationships. Although other advocacy groups (some here in the United States and others abroad) provide aid to DCP, their services are usually short-term in nature, run by volunteers, and rely heavily on the use of peer support. This can leave anyone needing professional support to seek this locally, often without guidance about whom to approach and having to meet associated costs themselves. Thus, the mission of Conception Connection is to be a global, one-stop resource center for the donor-conceived by the donor-conceived. Specifically, we aim to provide *results-driven, personalized support* for DCP. Not only do we place importance on providing evidence-based information, but we seek to ensure the holistic health and well-being of our community members (both physically and mentally).

If you would like to learn more, here is the link to the company website: <https://www.conceptionconnection.co/>

Also, if you know anyone who is donor-conceived and interested in services (one-on-one consultations) please contact Dr. Lozano at liz.b.lozano@gmail.com

For additional resources:

Arocho, R., Lozano, E. B., & Halpern, C. T. (2019). Using NSFG to estimate the number of families using donor sperm. *Fertility and Sterility*, 4, 718-723. Doi: 10.1016/j.fertnstert.2019.05.031

Lozano, E. B., Fraley, R. C., & Kramer, W. (2019). Attachment in donor conception: Curiosity, search, and contact. *Personal Relationships*, 26, 331– 344. Doi: 10.1111/pere.12273

FEATURED ARTICLE

Division 37's New Diversity Initiative

Charissa D. Pizarro, PsyD

Member at Large for Task Force and Diversity Initiatives

Ted Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W81hL4AIZGU>

In January 2024, I participated in the International Learning Partner Program (ILPP) in Tanzania, Africa. The ILPP is a program sponsored by APA's Office of International Affairs. This program allows participants to learn about the development of the field of Psychology in different parts of the world. The program is designed to facilitate international collaboration and exchange of ideas and resources. Through this program, we visited several government and state agencies, universities, neurological institutes, as well as other organizations involved with providing psychological services for trauma survivors, cancer patients, and substance abuse and alcohol treatment.

Each agency, organization, or institution of higher education presented on their services, the populations they serve, as well as shortcomings or concerns of the respective organization in the hopes that we could brainstorm ideas to troubleshoot these issues. Recurring themes were that the mental health field is short-staffed and under-served. For example, one organization director expressed his frustration with the system as he noted that perpetrators of abuse receive treatment while abuse victims do not. Please note, abuse victims tend to be women and children.

It is of note that the field of Psychology in Tanzania is in its infancy and only formally began approximately 10 years ago. Mental health professionals are either at the Bachelor's or the Master's level. Individuals who desire to pursue a doctorate degree have to study outside of Tanzania.

Tanzania has a population of 63.59 million people. More than 50% of the population in Tanzania is 18 and under. Violence against children in Tanzania is rampant. In a recent study it was found that 3 out of 10 girls (27.9%) between the ages of 13 and 24 experienced sexual vio-

lence before age 18. In the same age group 1 out of 7 boys (13.4%) experienced sexual violence prior to age 18. Rates of physical violence are higher than those of sexual abuse. Almost 75% of girls and boys in Tanzania have experienced physical violence before the age of 18. About 25% of girls and boys have experienced emotional violence. There is also a high rate of overlap where children who have experienced sexual violence have also experienced physical violence (8 out of 10 boys and girls) and emotional violence (4 in 10 girls and 1 in 2 boys). Besides the forms of violence discussed here, there are many other risk factors for trauma in Tanzania which have not been studied.

While there is increased awareness of this situation afoot, there are limited ways to address it. For example, there are only 0.06 psychiatrists and 0.01 psychologists per 100, 000 individuals to service mental health issues including trauma.

Given the lack of mental health services and service providers especially those who work with children and families who have experienced trauma, we are putting forth the following Diversity Initiative.

We will be presenting at least 4 training sessions of about 1 hour each in duration to be presented remotely. The trainings are for mental health providers who work with children and families. Each training will cover basic information about trauma and its effects across all spheres of functioning. Violence and other factors associated with trauma will also be discussed. Recordings will be available for those who cannot attend live or for future use. Individuals with expertise in trauma and the like are invited to join us in this important effort to help expand psychological services for children and families in dire need.

If anyone is interested in participating as a presenter or in any other capacity, please reach out to Division 37's Member at Large for Task Force and Diversity Initiatives, Charissa D. Pizarro, PsyD at Dr.Charissa.Pizarro@gmail.com

References

Obasi, A. Seekles, M., Boshe, J., Dow, D., Mmbaga, B., Ngakongwa, F., & et al. (2022). Adolescent mental health research in Tanzania: A study protocol for priority setting exercise and the development of an interinstitutional capacity strengthening program. *BMJ*, 12 (2). doi: [10.1136/bmjopen-2021-054163](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2021-054163)

Violence Against Children in Tanzania. https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/expert_consultations/data_research/vac_tanzania.pdf

COUNCIL OF REPS REPORT

Cindy Miller-Perrin, Ph.D.
REPRESENTATIVE TO APA COUNCIL

APA's Council of Representatives held a hybrid meeting Feb. 23-24, with most representatives attending the in-person session, which convened in Washington, D.C. Below is a Council summary of four important policy decisions that impact children and families in particular, along with two additional decisions impacting the general APA membership.

Calling for an End to Involuntary Individual Isolation in Incarcerated Youth

The Council passed a resolution calling for ending the placement of youths in isolation in juvenile justice settings, except for emergencies, and then only for a maximum of a 4-hour period. "Solitary confinement should never be used for punishment or disciplinary purposes, or for the protection of property," states the resolution. "The separation of youths from others must never be a substitute for adequate staffing numbers, staff training, and supervisory and/or administrative support." The resolution passed 154-2, with 1 abstention.

This resolution calls for implementing alternative, evidence-based strategies for managing behavior and promoting positive development. It emphasizes the importance of mental health support for youth subjected to isolation. The measure includes a recommendation that federal agencies and/or state youth justice authorities keep accurate track of and publicly report the frequency, prevalence, duration, conditions and rationales for various forms of individual confinement.

Secure Firearms Storage

The Council approved, by a vote of 157-6, a resolution aimed at promoting secure firearm storage practices. This resolution underscores the critical role of psychologists and health care providers in preventing suicides by advocating for secure firearm storage and safety strategies.

The measure emphasizes the effectiveness of actions such as temporary removal of access to firearms during mental health crises, highlighting research indicating that such steps can prevent suicides by creating time and distance between individuals and lethal means.

The resolution also advocates for increased funding at federal, state and local levels to support initiatives aimed at preventing suicides through secure firearms storage. And it calls on psychologists, health care professionals, policymakers and the public to support efforts to implement evidence-based strategies to prevent suicides and promote mental health and safety.

Policy Statement on Evidence-Based Inclusive Care for Transgender, Gender Diverse and Nonbinary Individuals

The Council passed, by a vote of 153-9, with 1 abstention, a policy statement affirming evidence-based care for transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary children, adolescents and adults. The policy affirms APA's support for access to evidence-based clinical care for transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary children, adolescents and adults. It notes that recent legislative attempts to obstruct access to psychological and medical interventions for such individuals puts them at risk of depression, anxiety and other negative mental health outcomes.

The policy statement also addresses how misinformation can distort the characterization of gender dysphoria and gender-affirming care, leading to stigmatization, marginalization and lack of access to psychological and medical care for this population. It also highlights APA's support for insurance providers to include coverage that addresses the health care needs of this population

Parents with Disabilities

Recognizing the biases and challenges often encountered by parents with disabilities, the Council adopted a resolution to support parents with disabilities. The policy statement calls upon psychology and policymakers to support increased psychological research, intervention, advocacy and policy development aimed at informing and shaping decisions related to parents with disabilities, and to reduce disparities and biases faced by this population. The resolution passed 158-1.

Combating Misinformation and Promoting Psychological Science Literacy

The Council adopted a resolution on combating misinformation and promoting psychological science literacy. The resolution recognizes that misinformation leads to mistrust and can pose a threat to public health. It states that "to fully understand the impact of misinformation, it is necessary to understand the psychological factors that drive people to believe and share it, the levers of manipulation used by its creators, and the network effects induced by today's media and political landscape that impact its spread."

The policy commits APA to disseminate psychological science to address misinformation and to promote psychological science literacy. It passed 151-3.

Dues Adjustment

That Council approved a \$25 reduction in the dues at year four through six of the dues ramp-up (\$149 to \$124) and a \$27 increase in the APA base member dues rate (\$247 to \$274).

ECP COLUMN

Cynthia E. Brown, PhD

Member at Large for Early Career Psychologists

It is a truth universally acknowledged that ECPs love finding ways to support the next generation of scholars, particularly when it comes to disseminating research. It is also a truth universally acknowledged that disseminating research can sometimes be a costly endeavor for trainees.

I am therefore thrilled to share a student- and ECP-led opportunity for trainees to disseminate their research: The Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) Student Research Symposium – now in collaboration with Division 37! This is a **virtual, free** symposium to showcase student research in psychology. Proposals on a wide range of topics in psychology will be considered. Attendees will have opportunities to present virtual posters, data blitzes, and paper presentations. There will also be opportunities to attend professional development panels (e.g., getting into graduate school, careers in psychology) and to earn research awards.

If you mentor undergraduate students, post-baccs, and/or graduate students, please encourage your trainees to apply! Independent research projects, honors theses, and McNair Scholars projects would be a great fit. Abstracts are due **March 31st**. **Students do not need to be members of ABCT or Div 37 to apply** – but we hope that attendees will explore these amazing organizations as their potential professional “homes” for years to come!



The ABCT Student SIG is proud to announce...

THE 2ND ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

...now in partnership with APA's Div 37!

This year's new and improved program includes...

- More student presentations
- Student research awards
- Panels of faculty and graduate students on
 - How to get into graduate school
 - Career paths in psychology
 - Finding your "niche" as a researcher, professional, and person
- A phenomenal keynote speaker!

Where: VIRTUAL

When: Friday, May 31, 2024

Cost: FREE

Abstracts are due March 31, 2024 by 11:59PM

Presenters & attendees do NOT need to be members of ABCT, APA, the Student SIG,
or Div 37 to participate!

To learn more, submit an abstract, and register visit the Student SIG's
website:

<https://abctstudent.wixsite.com/abct-student-special/general-9>

Questions? Please email abctstudent@gmail.com

DIVISION 37 ELECTIONS

Stephanie D. Block, PhD

Past Present

It is my great pleasure to announce our five division member nominees who are running for positions starting in January 2025. Please take a moment to find out more about each of these candidates for President-Elect and Member-at-Large Diversity. 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 stephanie_block@uml.edu.

Candidate for President-Elect

Apryl Alexander, Psy.D., ATSA-F

Metrolina Distinguished Scholar of Health & Public Policy
Associate Professor, [Department of Public Health Sciences](#)
Director, [UNC Charlotte Violence Prevention Center](#)

Note: Running unopposed



First and foremost, I am honored to be nominated for Division 37 President. I am the Metrolina Distinguished Scholar in Health and Public Policy and an Associate Professor at UNC Charlotte. I am also an APA Fellow who has contributed to the Division as a former co-chair of the ECP Committee for the Section on Child Maltreatment (2020-2022). Much of my scholarship has centered on systems-involved youth, particularly focusing on the sequela of childhood poly-victimization. This research has inspired my legislative advocacy and community organizing work to create better systems and policies for youth.

As a Fellow of the Division, I have witnessed the countless ways members of our division have applied psychological science to further social change, eliminate barriers to essential services, and change policy to create a more equitable and just society. As the 2023 Chair of the APA Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI), I heavily

relied on the subject matter expertise within Division 37 to inform APA policy regarding children and families.

As President, I plan to center the current work of Division 37 members on human rights. I want to continue to support important initiatives that the Division has undertaken, such as the Coffee and Call to Action event, in which I've previously been able to participate. I look forward to ensuring Division 37 remains a hub for students, researchers, practitioners, and legal scholars to share, showcase, and disseminate their transformative research and policy work for the public good.

Candidates for Member at Large - Task Force and Diversity Initiatives

Thomas J Gross, Ph.D., NCSP

Associate Professor, Psychology, [Western Kentucky University](#)



I am an associate professor of psychology at Western Kentucky University (WKU). My research focuses on using evidence-based assessment to guide decision-making to improve social and academic outcomes for underserved learners. To accomplish this, I draw on my experiences from in-home services, K-12 schools, psychiatric hospitals, evaluation of family programs, and interventions for HBCU STEM students. As the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) chair for the WKU College of Education and Behavior Sciences, I have focused on using evidence-informed models to improve inclusive recruitment and retention practices. As DEI chair for the Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools, I have lead efforts to examine the Kentucky School Mental Health Toolkit for inclusive and equitable practices.

Serving as the Division 37 Member at Large for Task Force and Diversity Initiatives would allow me to extend my commitment to and better serve diverse children and families by promoting innovations from division members and the field as a whole. I was the APA Convention chair for 2020 and 2021. I worked across APA divisions to advocate for our scholars, which resulted in expanding the Division 37 footprint, even when faced with pandemic limitations. I

will use the knowledge and skills gained from this to advance our DREAM and task forces' efforts, connect related efforts across divisions, and engage members and other stakeholders. I see this position as an opportunity to advocate for effective, intersecting practices and policies to improve the lives of all children and families.

Elizabeth B. Lozano, Ph.D.

CEO / Founder, [Conception Connection, LLC](#)

Assistant Professor of Psychology & Sociology, [California Northstate University College of Health Sciences](#)



Have you ever felt like your voice wasn't heard among others in the crowd? You undoubtedly have. Such a feeling is only amplified when you're an underrepresented individual. The unfortunate reality is that when people feel like they don't fit in, they're not likely to stick around. Sadly, these are the often the voices that have the most to say. I know firsthand how this feels as a first-generation faculty member who self-identifies as a Latina Jewish woman.

As a trained Social/Personality psychologist, I understand the importance of, and hold immense value in, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB). True diversity extends beyond attributes such as gender, age, and race/ethnicity to include diversity of background, personality, values, interests, beliefs, ideologies, skills, and perspectives. I am committed to inclusivity in each of these areas, but more specifically, inclusivity of the whole person in each of their unique combinations of identity, experiences, and attributes. This commitment extends to my approach to teaching, mentoring strategies, program of research, and service.

For instance, my scholarship incorporates diversity. I am an early career researcher who studies donor-conceived people (DCP), an underrepresented group of individuals. In addition to this work, I'm the CEO/Founder of a startup called Conception Connection. We are a community-centered education brand that seeks to support DCP from all family backgrounds (i.e. heterosexual, single-parent, LGBTQ+) with identity-related challenges and relationship building. Overall, I look forward to actively taking part in diversity initiatives and remaining fully committed to fostering inclusion through my service as your Division 37 Member-at-Large.

Merranda Romero Marin, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist, NM 1123

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Professor, Human Development & Family Science

New Mexico State University



I would like to be considered for the position of Member at Large: Task Force and Diversity Initiatives. I believe my organizational skills combined with previous experience would be a good fit for what this position entails.

I am currently a Licensed Psychologist in the state of New Mexico as well as a Professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Science at New Mexico State University. I have familiarity with the American Psychological Association (APA), as I have served on APA's Membership Board, and most recently my term as Chair of Membership Board ended on December 31, 2023. Furthermore, I was Program Chair for Division 45, Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity, and Race for the 2017 National Conference in Washington, DC.

Throughout my career, I have successfully worked with others toward meeting shared goals. I would like to get more involved with Division 37 because I believe in the important work of the division to advance and apply psychological knowledge to advocacy, social justice service delivery and public policies affecting children, youth, and families in a diverse and inclusive society. Much of my academic work has concentrated on advocating for reduction in mental health stigma and fostering healthy families. I would welcome the opportunity to learn from colleagues who are experienced in policy work that can directly impact an array of children and families.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (Div. 37 of the American Psychological Association; formerly Div. 37: Child, Youth and Family Services) is committed 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. The society advances research, education, training, and practice through a multidisciplinary and culturally informed perspective. The society is interested in supporting culturally informed, evidence-based practice that promotes health equity with underserved and vulnerable populations.

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Please join us on the [Div. 37 Email List \(apadivisions.org\)](https://apadivisions.org) to communicate with other Division members about upcoming meetings, funding opportunities, research, practice and policy relating to children, youth and families. To subscribe please follow the above link for instructions.

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