

Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice

The Advocate



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jodi Quas, PhD

President

Let me begin with a much-needed thank you to all our members. Your commitment to conducting significant research, working with vulnerable children and families to improve outcomes, and advocating on behalf of at-risk children, youth, and families is incredible. We are so appreciative!

Now, turning to my column, I have a few announcements and highlights to share. First, our leadership is constantly changing with new elections and appointments annually. For those of you who haven't kept up, here is a quick rundown of new EC members (click [here](#) to learn more about our leadership, task forces, and other committees).



1. Apryl Alexander (UNC Charlotte), President Elect.
2. Elizabeth Lozano (CEO Concept Connections, California Northstate University), Member at Large: Task Force Coordinator & Diversity Activities.
3. Amy Damashek (Western Michigan University), Fellows Chair.
4. Karey O'Hara (ASU) and Colleen Sullivan (University of Southern California), co-chairs for the 2025 APA Convention.
5. Zoe Klemfuss (UC Irvine) and Quincy Miller (UC Irvine), new social media co-chairs.
6. Emma Simpson (UC Irvine), graduate student representative.
7. Jon Poquiz (Univ of Minnesota) and Katie Stone (Univ of Minnesota), co-editors of the Advocate.
8. Kristin Valentino (Notre Dame), President of the Section on Child Maltreatment.

I connected with many of these new members, plus our returning members, at the mid-winter meeting. I cannot tell you how impressed I am with their commitment to our division's mission and how wonderful it is to work with them on division-related projects. If you would like to know more about elected or appointed positions, please reach out. I'm happy to talk more about the different roles and hopefully motivate you to take that step.



Second, I attended the annual conference of the American Psychology Law Society in March in Puerto Rico. Special thanks to Quincy Miller, Zoe Klemfuss (social media co-chairs), and Emma Simpson (graduate student representative) who organized a coffee hour for Division and Section members at the conference. The turnout and networking were both fantastic. It was wonderful learning about exciting new research being conducted by our members who presented on a range of topics, including methods of overcoming disclosure reluctance in minor victims during forensic interviews and while testifying; interventions to facilitate children's and parents'

functioning in high conflict custody cases; and perceptions of child and adolescent victims, witnesses, and suspects in juvenile and criminal court. Thank you to those who came to the coffee hour and the conference! (If any of you attend other conferences and would like to hold informal networking sessions among members, please let me know. We'd love to find ways of bringing our members together if we can.)

Third, the [APA Convention](#) is coming up in August. Our program chairs have created an exciting agenda for the Division. Our theme is "*Digital youth, Safety, and Child Welfare, with an emphasis on both risks and opportunities for children and families in the digital age.*" We have a joint Division and Section presidential symposium with scholars from different disciplines discussing work relevant to this theme. We also have early and distinguished career contribution addresses; the Hobbs award recipient address; and not one but two social hours (one with the CYF and one with Division 41). We'll be sending more details on the exact times of sessions soon, but please mark your calendar to join us in Denver.

If you have other thoughts, ideas, or suggestions for improved communication, outreach, or advocacy, please contact me (jquas@uci.edu). I'd love to hear from you.

Best,

Jodi Quas, PhD

2025 President of the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice, Division 37

BIOGRAPHIES OF NEW OFFICERS

President 2025

Jodi Quas, PhD

Jodi Quas, Ph.D., is Chancellor's Fellow and Professor of Psychological Science at the University of California, Irvine. She also currently serves as President of the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (Division 37 of the APA). Her work focuses on methods of enhancing children's and adolescents' disclosure of trauma and violence, youth's eyewitness capabilities, and the consequences of maltreatment and legal involvement on high-risk youth and families. She pursues scientific research on these topics and disseminates findings to policy makers and other professionals, including law enforcement, legal professionals, educators, and medical and social service staff, all of whom benefit from knowledge concerning how best to identify, talk with, and support vulnerable youth who have experienced or witnessed violence or harm.

President Elect 2025

Apryl Alexander, PsyD

Dr. Apryl Alexander is the Metrolina Distinguished Scholar in Health and Public Policy and Associate Professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She also is the Executive Director of the UNC Charlotte Violence Prevention Center. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the Florida Institute of Technology with concentrations in forensic psychology and child and family therapy. Dr. Alexander's research and clinical work focus on violence and victimization, human sexuality, and trauma-informed and culturally informed practice. She is an award-winning researcher, and her work has been published in several leading journals. Dr. Alexander has been interviewed by numerous media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Essence*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *NBC Nightly News*, about her research and advocacy work. Dr. Alexander is also a Fellow of the APA (Divisions 9 and 37) and the Association for the Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Abuse (ATSA). Recently, she received the 2024 Karl Heiser Presidential Award for Advocacy from the American Psychological Association (APA). She has previously served as Chair of the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI) and on the ECP Committee for the Section on Child Maltreatment for Division 37. In 2024, she received the Section on Child Maltreatment Award for Outstanding Teaching, Training, and Mentoring. Dr. Alexander will be serving as the 2025 Chair-Elect for Division 37.

Member at Large: Task Force Coordinator

Elizabeth B. Lozano, PhD

Dr. Elizabeth B. Lozano received her Ph.D. in Social/Personality at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2021. As an emerging scholar, she engages in open science practices and has a strong background in a multitude of research designs and methods. Her primary line of research on the psychology of donor-conception (i.e., assisted reproduction) is grounded in an attachment theory perspective and uses both quantitative and qualitative data/methods. Her second line of work focuses on whether adult attachment is related to the detection of deceit. Projects in this program seek to understand whether people who are anxious with respect to their attachment are better able to detect lies than others. Dr. Lozano's work has been published in numerous journals including *Attachment and Human*

Development, Personality and Individual Differences, PLoS One, and the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships. In addition to her research on attachment in donor-conception, Dr. Lozano has recently created a startup called Conception Connection, LLC (<https://www.conceptionconnection.co/>). It is a community-centered education brand that seeks to empower donor-conceived people by helping them with identity-related challenges and relationship building. In her spare time, Dr. Lozano enjoys exercising at F45, hiking, traveling, and spending time with loved ones.

Fellows Chair

Amy Damashek, PhD

Dr. Amy Damashek earned a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Missouri and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in child abuse and neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. Dr. Damashek is currently a Professor of Clinical Psychology at Western Michigan University (WMU). Dr. Damashek teaches undergraduate and graduate-level psychology courses and mentors graduate students in the Clinical Psychology doctoral program at WMU. Dr. Damashek also chairs her department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Dr. Damashek's research focuses on the prevention of child maltreatment and unintentional childhood injuries, particularly among low-income and at-risk families. Dr. Damashek also researches health disparities in infant mortality, with a focus on sleep-related deaths. Dr. Damashek is the recipient of federal funding focused on preventing unintentional child injuries in low-income and Spanish speaking families. Dr. Damashek previously served in several roles on the APA Division 37 (Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice) Board, including Early Career Member-at-Large, Secretary, and President, and was recently elected as a Fellow of the Division. Currently, Dr. Damashek is the chair of the Division 37 fellows committee.

APA Convention Co-Chairs

Karey O'Hara, PhD

Karey L. O'Hara, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University. Her research lies at the intersection of family and juvenile law, prevention science, and youth mental health. She investigates risk and protective factors that influence how youth and families adjust after stressful events that involve contact with family, juvenile, or criminal court systems, such as parental divorce and parental incarceration. Currently, her work focuses on designing, optimizing, and evaluating interventions to promote the health and well-being of youth who experience these challenging stressors. Her work is currently funded by a career development award from the National Institute of Mental Health (K01MH120321).

Colleen Sullivan, PhD

Colleen Sullivan, Ph.D. is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Southern California. Her research generally uses developmental psychology to improve investigations and outcomes when children are involved in criminal or family court proceedings. Her current research examines: 1) Investigations of child maltreatment and child interviewing, 2) the role of parent conflict when child abuse allegations are made against a parent, and 3) How to best design interventions to help children whose parents are involved in a high conflict separation/divorce. She was recently awarded a SBE Postdoctoral Fellowship: SPRF from the National Science Foundation (NSF SMA- 2404704) to conduct

postdoctoral research at the University of Southern California with Thomas Lyon, J.D., Ph.D. This research will examine children's developmental understanding of touch.

Co-Editors, The Advocate

Jonathan Poquiz, PhD

Jonathan (Jon) Poquiz (he/him) is a licensed psychologist and assistant professor at the Eli Coleman Institute for Sexual and Gender Health within the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School. He is also a co-medical director of the Comprehensive Gender Care Program of M Health Fairview. Dr. Poquiz specializes in providing affirming assessment, therapy, and support for gender diverse youth and young adults. He brings extensive experience working with gender diverse youth in outpatient and medical settings, frequently collaborating with providers in healthcare and in the community to address social and structural factors impacting the overall health and well-being of this population. His research broadly focuses on working towards health equity for gender diverse youth and young adults, with particular focus on improving access to affirming healthcare and fostering community and resilience. He serves as co-editor of *The Advocate* for Div 37.

Katie J. Stone, PhD

Katie J. Stone is a licensed psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Clinical Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She received her Ph.D. in clinical child psychology from the University of Kansas. Dr. Stone specializes in early childhood mental health care, with a specific emphasis on trauma, toxic stress, and resiliency. In line with a systems-based framework, her research and clinical work focus on the influence of interpersonal trauma and caregiver disruptions on neurodevelopment and self-regulation during early childhood. Her program of research is centered on understanding pathways of risk and resilience for adversity-exposed children. She serves as co-editor of *The Advocate* for Div 37.

President, Section on Child Maltreatment

Kristin Valentino, PhD

Kristin Valentino, Ph.D. is a Professor of Psychology and the Director of the William J. Shaw Center for Children and Families at the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Valentino is also a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Valentino's program of research addresses how adversity affects child development with a focus on the caregiving behaviors that may promote risk and/or resilience among maltreating families. She evaluates how interventions may be designed to improve caregiving and, in turn, to improve developmental outcomes for maltreated children. Guiding her research is a developmental psychopathology perspective which emphasizes the interface between normal and atypical development and employs a multiple-levels-of-analysis approach towards the study of child development and child psychopathology. Dr. Valentino is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. She also serves as an Associate Editor for the journal *Child Maltreatment* and as a member of the National Institute of Health's Psychosocial Development, Risk, and Prevention Study Section.

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Cindy Miller-Perrin, PhD

Representative to APA Council

APA's Council of Representatives held a hybrid meeting February 21-22, 2025, with most representatives attending the in-person session, which convened in Washington, D.C. Below is a Council summary of important policy decisions that impact children and families, in particular, along with additional decisions impacting the general APA membership.

APA's Continued Commitment to Justice, Human Rights, Fairness and Dignity

Acknowledging concern raised by recent national policy changes, the Council voted (156-4 with 1 abstention) to adopt a statement reaffirming APA's commitment to justice, human rights, fairness, and dignity for all, recognizing these values as central to psychology.

The statement recognizes that research shows that discrimination and systemic barriers contribute to health disparities and harm mental health among marginalized populations. It also notes that psychologists are integral to addressing systemic inequities and creating inclusive systems and that "psychologists engaged in these efforts are at the forefront of combating disparities and advocating for historically disadvantaged racial and ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities."

It also calls on legislators to support programs promoting fairness and inclusion; to promote culturally responsive mental health services; to prioritize grants and research initiatives that focus on addressing mental health disparities faced by underserved and marginalized communities; to safeguard the role of psychology in public policy; and increase public awareness and education on inclusivity in psychology.

Protecting Psychological Test Data

The Council passed (150-14 with 1 abstention) a resolution calling for securing psychological test data. Such data includes tests used in psychological assessments, evaluations in child custody disputes and competency to stand trial, identification of educational disabilities or qualification for educational programs, fitness for duty and presurgical evaluations.

"The focus of this resolution is to establish policy on APA's position and role in protecting the validity of psychological testing so that public safety is upheld and access to services for marginalized communities is bolstered," the resolution states. It was developed to address legal proceedings in which psychologists have been pressured to divulge test materials and data, at times contrary to the policies of APA and state laws that protect test security.

Calling for Stronger Privacy Protections for Neural and Cognitive Data

Recognizing the increasing use of devices that collect and analyze personal biometric data, the Council adopted a policy aimed at safeguarding the privacy of people's neural and cognitive data. The *Resolution on the Protection of Neural and Cognitive Data*, which was approved unanimously, addresses the need for ethical collection, storage and use of data gathered from direct-to-consumer software and wearable devices. These technologies, ranging from smartwatches to virtual reality systems and eye gaze technology, are capable of collecting biometric and neurophysiological data that can provide insights into an individual's mental state, cognitive processes, and even attitudes and thoughts

sensitive nature of such data, which could be used as markers for mental health diagnoses or workplace performance.

The resolution reaffirms people's right to mental privacy, including protection against uninformed collection and potential misuse of biometric and neural information. It also calls for the development of comprehensive mental privacy legislation.

Council Policy Manual: Revisions to Doctoral and Master's Degrees

The Council passed two motions to approve revisions to policies to better align APA's efforts to support and integrate master's degree psychology professionals into the profession. These revisions aim to protect the title "psychologist" and who can use it (doctoral-trained professionals) while creating opportunities for master's-trained psychology professionals to provide psychological services.

The Council voted 133-24 with 5 abstentions to accept revisions to "Doctorate as the Minimum Entry into the Professional Practice of Psychology" (2006) and voted 126-34 with 7 abstentions to accept revisions to "Policy on Challenges to the Doctoral Standard for Psychology" (2002).

Advancing Population Health and Health Equity

The Council unanimously adopted as APA policy a statement elevating APA's ongoing work to advance population health and health equity. The policy statement, entitled "Advancing Evidence-Based Prevention Across the Lifespan," acknowledges the social determinants of health and urges support for prevention and early intervention, as well as training and research in health promotion and the promotion of community-based and community-led programs. It also calls on payors to allow reimbursement of health care practitioners for addressing social and structural determinants of health and implementing interventions to advance population health.

Guidelines Adopted on PTSD, Measurement-Based Care and Practice in Health Care Delivery Systems

The Council adopted three sets of guidelines:

- The Council voted 142-12 with 4 abstentions to adopt revised *Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Adults*, with an expiration date of December 2035. The guideline addresses the efficacy of treatments, as well as the comparative effectiveness of approaches for treatment of PTSD and complex PTSD in adults. It is an update to the original clinical practice guideline for PTSD in adults issued in 2017.
- The Council unanimously adopted the first ever *Professional Practice Guidelines on Measurement-Based Care*. These guidelines aim to educate psychologists on competencies for conducting measurement-based care, "a clinical process in which data are used to monitor treatment progress and processes to enhance communication and inform treatment planning during the provision of psychological intervention." MBS is an evidence-based practice that has been shown to improve symptom outcomes and reduce treatment dropout.
- The Council unanimously adopted revised *Guidelines for Psychological Practice in Health Care Delivery Systems*, with an expiration date of December 2035. These guidelines note the expanding role of psychologists as an integral part of interdisciplinary teams in health care systems in the U.S. and offer recommendations on how to practice psychology in evolving health care delivery systems.

Watch the APA Video: [We are psychologists. We create meaningful change.](#)

FEATURED ARTICLE

Emma Simpson, MA

Student Board Member

Since its founding in 1986, the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) has been at the forefront of advancing professional efforts to prevent and address child maltreatment. With the mission to support professionals from all fields involved in child welfare, APSAC provides cutting-edge resources, training, and advocacy to enhance the well-being of maltreated children and their families. The organization operates with a unique multidisciplinary focus, bringing together professionals from a variety of fields such as social work, medicine, law and education. Collaborative efforts support the goals and mission of APSAC – to improve society’s response to the abuse and neglect of its children.

APSAC is a leader in the training and education of child abuse professionals, emphasizing the advancement of evidence-based and research informed practice. In 2023 alone, APSAC hosted over 7,500 registrants worldwide for 48 sponsored trainings and delivered over 100 hours of continuing education. APSAC also recognizes the need for high quality research in the field of child abuse and neglect, as it can have an impact on the quality of children’s lives. *Child Maltreatment*, the official journal of the organization, publishes research from a variety of disciplines and every aspect of child maltreatment: prevention, intervention, and treatment.

In 2023, the organization also celebrated its 30th Annual Colloquium, offering nearly 100 sessions tailored to child maltreatment researchers and practitioners at all levels. The colloquium is a cornerstone event for professionals across disciplines, featuring expert plenary speakers and a wide range of sessions designed to enhance their knowledge and skills. Through its ongoing work, APSAC continues to make a profound impact, not only in the U.S. but globally, offering vital support to professionals and leading efforts to protect the most vulnerable children in society.

For upcoming trainings and events please visit our [Events Calendar](#)

DIVISION 37 ELECTIONS

Paula Fite, PhD

Past President

Dear Division 37 Members,

It is both an honor and a pleasure to introduce the exceptional individuals running for board positions that will take effect January 2026. This slate of candidates represents a group of dedicated individuals who are eager to serve and contribute to the continued success of our Division. Below, you will find a brief biography of each candidate running for various positions. We are truly grateful for their time, commitment, and consideration in stepping forward to serve our Division.

In the coming months, members will receive a link via email from APA to cast their votes. We encourage you to participate and support the candidates of your choice.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me directly at pfite@ku.edu.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT ELECT

Christy L. Olezeski, PhD



Christy L. Olezeski (she/her) is a child and adolescent clinical psychologist and Associate Professor in the departments of Psychiatry, Pediatrics and the Child Study Center at the Yale School of Medicine. She is also the co-founder and director of the Yale Pediatric Gender Program, an interdisciplinary program serving transgender and gender diverse individuals 3-25 and their families throughout the state of Connecticut and in 7 outside states. Along with providing comprehensive clinical care for transgender and gender diverse youth, Dr. Olezeski engages in mentorship, education and research, and is passionate about advocating for the rights of transgender youth, and the liberation of all individuals. Dr. Olezeski has been fortunate to mentor learners in the departments of Psychiatry, Divinity School, School of Public Health and the Child Study Center. She

was the recipient of the Outstanding Supervisor Award and Chairman's Award in the Department of Psychiatry in 2022 and was awarded the Community Partnership Award from the Connecticut Psychological Association in 2024. Dr. Olezeski served as the Division 37 Early Career Member at Large from 2017-2019 and is presently the Division Secretary (2023-2025). Dr. Olezeski is committed to the mission of Division 37 and is looking forward to continuing to uphold the Division values and ensure evidence-based advocacy, policies and services for children and families.

Yo Jackson, PhD, ABPP



Yo Jackson is a board-certified, clinical child psychologist, a professor in the Psychology Department in the Clinical Child Psychology Program, and is the Associate Director of the Child Maltreatment Solutions Network at Penn State. Her research focuses on the development of models of the process of resilience for youth exposed to trauma with a specific focus on youth exposed to child maltreatment and the intergenerational transmission of trauma. Her work includes observational and physiological techniques in addition to survey measures in longitudinal and prospective research approaches. She also works on the development of assessment for trauma as well as the assessment of emotion regulation and cognitive functioning for youth and families exposed to adversity. She also conducts research on multicultural issues for ethnic minority

youth. In addition to her many publications, conference presentations and invited talks, she has served as clinic director as well as a teacher of courses on child psychology, developmental psychopathology, advanced child and family assessment, diversity issues in clinical psychology, and supervision of clinical practicum.

Dr. Jackson is currently an associate editor for the *American Psychologist* and she also serves as a consulting editor for several other journals including *Evidence-based Practice in Child and Adolescent Mental Health*. Her research has been funded by several RO1 grants from the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIH) and she has served as a member on several study sections for NIH. She is the PI of a T32 training grant focused on training scholars in child maltreatment science and she is the project director for a P50 Center grant for Penn State's Transitional Center for Child Maltreatment Studies. She has testified before Congress in support for the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act and is the author of numerous public policy briefs on child health and well-being.

CANDIDATE FOR APA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Cindy L. Miller-Perrin, PhD



Cindy L. Miller-Perrin has been an active member of APA for 32 years, 24 years of which she has previously served on the executive boards of Division 37 and the Section on Child Maltreatment in various roles such as President of both the division and section. Currently she is finishing her final year of a 3-year term as Representative to the APA Council. She also served as Co-Chair of the Interdivisional Task Force on Physical Punishment of Children, helping to generate the Resolution on Physical Punishment of Children adopted by Council in February 2019. She is a Fellow of APA and served in APA governance as a Member and Chairperson of the Committee on Division/APA Relations (CODAPAR) and the Fellows Committee. She is a clinical psychologist and

Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Pepperdine University. She has authored or coauthored numerous journal articles and five books including *Violence and Maltreatment in Intimate Relationships* (with R. Perrin & C. Renzetti, 2018, 2021), *Family Violence Across the Lifespan* (with O. Barnett & R. Perrin, 1997, 2005, 2011), *Child Maltreatment* (with R. Perrin, 1999, 2007, 2013), *Child Sexual Abuse: Sharing the Responsibility* (with S. Wurtele, 1992), and *Faith from a Positive Psychology Perspective* (with E. Mancuso, 2015). She serves on the Editorial Boards of a number of professional publications, including *Advances in Child and Family Policy and Practice*. Throughout her career, she has been

active in advocating for policy change to improve the lives of children, youth, and families. She has enjoyed bringing her strong administrative and leadership skills to both the Division and APA, and would be honored to serve a second term as Council Representative for Division 37.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE: ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

Carlo Panlilio, PhD



Policies that ignore scientific evidence are being introduced that may negatively impact children and families. Rather than remain a quiet bystander, I aim to advance advocacy efforts that promote the well-being of children and families. It is with this goal in mind that I humbly be considered for the Division 37 Member-at-Large for Advocacy position. I have enjoyed being part of Division 37 for several years, starting as a graduate student, and finding a society of like-minded professionals who care about the children and families we serve. If elected as Member-at-Large for Advocacy, I will continue to push for the use of scientific evidence to inform policy and practice decisions that affect children and families. For example, my research focuses on understanding the

developmental and learning processes that mediate early maltreatment experiences and later academic outcomes, which then informs the iterative development of trauma-informed pedagogical approaches in classrooms. This translational aspect of my work attempts to bridge the use of empirical evidence as change mechanisms that can potentially yield evidence-informed, trauma-informed practices in schools and communities. In addition, if elected to this position, I would like to broaden and strengthen our relationships with APA Divisions and other professional societies with similar interests in promoting the well-being of children and families. This includes, for example, outreach to researchers, practitioners, and policy makers across different professional organizations to establish a unified voice and policy agenda that can promote the well-being of children and families. I believe that there is strength in numbers and if we are to continue to serve our children and families, we will need a critical mass to help promote evidence-informed policy and practice decisions.

John L. Cooley, PhD



It is an honor to be considered for the Member-at-Large: Advocacy position on the Board of the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice. I am the Irving and Rose Fien Endowed Assistant Professor in the School Psychology Program at the University of Florida (UF), where I direct the Positive Youth Development Lab. I am also a Licensed Psychologist, hold the Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology through the PSYPACT Commission, and am a Faculty Affiliate in the UF Prevention & Intervention Network *for* Youth, Families, Schools, and Communities.

I was the Division 37 Program Co-Chair for the 2024 APA Convention; it was a very rewarding experience to work with such a great group of individuals, and I would be excited to continue my service to the Division in the years ahead through the Member-at-Large: Advocacy position. One of the central questions guiding my work is *“How can we expand families’ access to evidence-based mental health services and resources?”* There is a well-documented gap between the number of youth who need services and those who are able to access them. And as rates of mental health concerns among children and adolescents—and levels of stress among parents—continue to rise, the

work of Division 37 and its members is more important than ever. If elected to this position, I plan to explore new avenues to translate psychological knowledge in ways that directly benefit youth and families. I will also work to build collaborative advocacy initiatives to promote health equity with underserved and vulnerable populations. Lastly, I am interested in developing opportunities for our members to directly engage with parents/caregivers and learn from their lived experiences with service delivery and public policies.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE: EARLY CAREER PSYCHOLOGISTS

Monica Barreto, PhD



Monica Barreto, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist and the Clinical Director of Behavioral Health at Nemours Children's Health, Primary Care in Central Florida. She completed her residency and fellowship in pediatric psychology at the Yale Child Study Center at Yale University. Dr. Barreto specializes in supporting children and families from underserved cultural and linguistic backgrounds. With her expertise in developing brief interventions and programs within medical settings, she is committed to increasing access to mental health care and reducing barriers for children and families.

Dr. Barreto is actively engaged in the Central Florida community, collaborating with universities, schools, and after-care programs to raise awareness about youth's psychological needs and reduce stigma. Her initiatives include creating externship opportunities for graduate students in partnership with local universities in social work, mental health counseling, and psychology and providing training opportunities for post-doctoral psychology fellows and medical residents in the primary care setting.

Dr. Barreto is dedicated to advocating for children and families across various treatment settings. Her interest in Division 37 arises from a desire to improve access to care, combat stigma in underserved communities, and enhance representation among early career psychologists. As a Spanish-speaking Latina, she emphasizes the importance of diversity in leadership within psychology. She strives to promote growth and positive change in representation, policy, and support for the optimal development of children and youth.

Shaquanna Brown, PhD



I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University as well as a Research Scientist at the Center for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine at The Miriam Hospital and on the COBRE Center for Stress, Trauma, and Resilience (STAR). I earned my PhD in Clinical Child Psychology from the University of Kansas in 2019. I completed my predoctoral internship at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, a 1-year postdoctoral clinical fellowship at the University of Michigan, and a 2-year T32 postdoctoral research fellowship at Brown University. My research, which aims to better understand the mechanisms of risk and resilience associated with early life adversity, is

currently supported by a Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (K08) from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

It would be an honor to serve as Division 37's member-at-large for early career professionals. Recently, Dr. John Cooley and I served as your Div 37 Program Co-Chairs for the 2022-2024 term. During that time, we assisted with the ECP Committee's efforts to collaborate with the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT), which included a virtual Student Research Symposium held in May 2024. If elected member-at-large for early career professionals, my goal would be to build on our existing relationships with ABCT and other APA divisions that share our commitment to children and families, while also extending our reach by seeking opportunities to establish new partnerships. Importantly, I am about halfway through my early career years. I believe this is the perfect time for me to reflect on the resources, training, and networking opportunities that have helped shape my personal and professional identity and advance my career as well as those that I wish I had access to as a backdrop for enriching the Division's relevance to early care professionals.

Thank you for considering me for the Division 37 member-at-large for early career professionals position.

Sarah Cleary, PhD



Sarah Cleary, Ph.D., is a Child & Adolescent Outpatient Psychologist at Denver Health Medical Center and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She completed her doctorate in Counseling Psychology at the University of Denver in 2016. She completed her predoctoral psychology internship and postdoctoral fellowship at Dartmouth Medical School, where she was able to focus on working with children and families who have experienced trauma. She is a certified therapist in TF-CBT, as well as a certified therapist and In-House Trainer in Alternatives for Families: A Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (AF-CBT). She is passionate about fostering peer support and mentorship amongst psychologists. Sarah hopes to help give voice to other ECPs within the division, while using her own experiences of what has been helpful and less helpful during this time period to create positive change for others.

Jacob B. W. Holzman, PhD



Jacob B. W. Holzman is Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine as well as a Licensed Psychologist at Children's Hospital Colorado. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in clinical child psychology from Northern Illinois University and his bachelor's degrees in psychology and sociology from the University of Iowa. He completed his predoctoral internship at Dell Children's Medical Center / University of Texas at Austin and postdoctoral fellowship at Children's Hospital Colorado. Dr. Holzman directs the REACH Families program at CU Anschutz which focused on transforming mental health services in **Real-world** settings to improve their **Effectiveness** and **Accessibility** for **CH**ildren and **Families**. His current research focuses on

evaluating who benefits the most from parenting programs adapted to be accessible. In particular, this project examines how transdiagnostic parental factors (e.g., executive functioning, emotion regulation) and social determinants of health may intersect to shape responses to accessible parenting programs. It is designed to partner with parents who do not benefit from brief, telehealth parenting programs and identify adaptations needed to achieve their intended benefits. This work is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the Avielle Initiative. Dr. Holzman also has built several community partnerships, including a local Head Start program, that focus on translating evidence-based mental health interventions to communities across Colorado through principles of community-based participatory research as well as dissemination and implementation science.

As an early career professional, I am excited to build more connections with colleagues who are also invested in addressing disparities in mental health care while building better services that can be accessed by all families. I hope to continue working with similarly passionate people in Division 37 and help early career professionals find ways to continue making their career meaningful. It would be an honor to serve in this position.

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

Austen McGuire, PhD



It is with great enthusiasm that I seek election for the Secretary position in Division 37. I am currently a second-year postdoctoral fellow at the Medical University of South Carolina's National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center. I received my Ph.D. in Clinical Child Psychology from the University of Kansas. My research aims to improve the field's understanding of the mechanisms that link adversity exposure (e.g., maltreatment, car accidents, death of a close individual) to youth wellbeing, with a focus on youth and families involved in the child welfare system and who live below the federal poverty threshold. My research also leverages evidence-based practices for the assessment of exposure to adverse events and seeks to improve service delivery for vulnerable populations exposed to adversity. In my clinical work, I provide evidence-based, trauma-focused services to youth, adults, and families exposed to adversity.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve as Secretary for Division 37 and further contribute to Division 37's mission to improve advocacy, service delivery, and policy for youth and families using evidence-based knowledge. In my role as Secretary, I look forward to ensuring there is accurate and efficient record keeping among Division 37's officers, Executive Board, and committees. This also includes ensuring appropriate communication and distribution of these records to members of Division 37, such as through sharing updates on Division activities and initiatives discussed during the midwinter and convention meetings. I have served in several leadership positions at my home institutions and in professional organizations, such as through my service as the Student Board Communications Officer for Division 37's Section on Child Maltreatment. I look forward to bringing these experiences to this new role. Thank you all for considering me for Secretary of Division 37.

Helen Milojevic, PhD



Helen Milojevic is a research scientist at the Duke University Center for Child and Family Policy. Previously she completed a NICHD postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Developmental Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Milojevic received a Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Behavior, with specializations in Developmental Psychology and Quantitative Methods, from the University of California, Irvine and a B.S. in Human Development from the University of California, Davis. Dr. Milojevic's research focuses broadly on child and family well-being, with an emphasis on the primary

and tertiary prevention of child maltreatment and adversity. In the earlier stages of her career, she took a basic science approach to understanding the sequelae of child maltreatment on children's emotional functioning and long-term well-being. As an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center she translated her basic science expertise to the application of prevention; specifically, implementation, evaluation, and quality improvement of early prevention and parenting programs. This work included field trials of intervention effectiveness, continuous quality improvement projects, and secondary data analysis projects that require large aggregation of outcomes from multiple administrative data systems. Within this work, she utilized mixed methods and longitudinal designs to examine specific mechanisms within the home visiting curriculum that promote child well-being and health and how to improve enrollment and retention in these services. Currently, as a research scientist at Duke University, Dr. Milojevic is a co-investigator on an R37 NIH-funded randomized controlled trial of Community Navigation, a community-based parenting intervention delivered prenatally, and at 12-, 24-, and 36-months. Within Community Navigation, trained navigators conduct annual assessments with parents during which they assess family needs and connect families with relevant community resources and supports. Dr. Milojevic has been actively involved on the board of Division 37's Section on Child Maltreatment and would welcome the opportunity to serve the broader Division 37 community.

CALL FOR FELLOWS APPLICATIONS

Become a Fellow of Division 37!

Division members who have earned their PhD, who have at least 5-years of post-PhD experience, and who have made “unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in the field of psychology” are eligible to apply for Fellow status in the Division. Per [APA’s Fellows page](#): “Fellow status is an honor bestowed upon APA members who have shown evidence of **unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in the field of psychology**. Fellow status requires that a person's work has had a **national impact** on the field of psychology beyond a local, state or regional level.” Additionally, applicants must have **at least 5 years of experience since earning their doctoral degree** and have been a member of the APA and the nominating division for at least one year. Thus, Fellow status is typically granted to individuals who are **mid-career** (i.e., post-tenure) and beyond. Individuals who do not have fellowship status in another APA Division can apply for fellowship status in the Fall. Individuals who already have fellow status in another APA Division can apply for fellowship status in Division 37 in the Spring.

Currently, we are accepting applications for those who are already an APA Fellow in another division.

If you have already been elected to fellow status in another APA Division, and would like to become an Division 37 fellow, email your CV and a one-page personal statement summarizing your contributions to child and family research, policy, or practice to the Chair of the Fellows Committee – Amy.Damashek@wmich.edu. Please use the header “fellows application.” The deadline for consideration is **June 1st**.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the current Fellows Committee Chair, Amy Damashek, at Amy.Damashek@wmich.edu.

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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.

JOIN THE LISTSERV

Please join us on the Div. 37 Email List (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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