

Division 44 Newsletter
A Newsletter of Div. 44
March 2023 Vol. 38 No. 1

Joint Statement Opposing Requests for Transgender Student Information

Transgender students in Florida at risk
Michèle M. Schlehofer, PhD

American Psychological Association Divisions 44, Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity and 27, Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) oppose a January 11, 2023 request made by the Governor's Office asking for detailed information about services that Florida colleges and universities have provided over the past five years to people with gender dysphoria. As reported by the Associated Press (2023) and additional news outlets, colleges and universities were asked by Florida State budget director, Chris Spencer, to provide information on the number of transgender students on campus, the number receiving affirmative care (including hormone treatments and surgeries), information on treatment facilities students were referred to, and a breakdown of students' ages for a five-year period, regardless of whether they were over the age of consent.

Although the survey asks that respondents keep the identities of specific students private, the survey raises privacy concerns. Given the small population of transgender and gender diverse (TGD) students coupled with specific information about treatment facilities, there may be threats to student privacy and treatment confidentiality.

The memo from the budget director did not mention the purpose for the request, but a statement from the Governor's office raises concerns: "We are committed to fully understanding the amount of public funding that is going toward such non-academic pursuits to best assess how to get our colleges and universities refocused on education and truth" (Watrobski, 2023). This is an explicit target on TGD students. Such requests can create a "chilling" effect (Levinson-Waldman, 2011), in which institutions of higher education are reluctant or refuse to support TGD students or research with TGD populations due to concerns over funding or political backlash.

TGD people already face significant barriers to and discrimination in healthcare (Kashen & Pharr, 2020; Kcomt, 2019), with the Center for American Progress (2021) reporting that nearly 50% of transgender people and 68% of transgender people of color have faced healthcare discrimination in the past year. Structural and interpersonal barriers to care are particularly concerning for those who live in rural areas in which there is a dearth of providers (Almazan et al., 2023), as well as for gender diverse people of color, who face greater levels of healthcare discrimination (Howard et al., 2019). Heightened political discourse over the rights of gender diverse people is a stressor which increases societal stigma and worsens mental health, increasing feelings of isolation and helplessness (Hatzenbuehler, 2014; Hendricks & Testa, 2012; Price et al., 2020).

Looking forward, we call on Congress to pass the Equality Act, a comprehensive piece of civil rights legislation which would prohibit discrimination against members of the LGBTQ+ community in a wide range of areas, including healthcare and higher education. Passing wide ranging non-discrimination

protections is consistent with the American Psychological Association's resolution *Opposing Discriminatory Laws, Policies, and Practices Aimed at LGBTQ+ Persons* which advocates for enacting equalizing legislation and opposing discriminatory legislation to reduce anti-LGBTQ+ stigma.

For gender diverse students, families with gender diverse students, and faculty and other higher education professionals who care for them and help teach them everyday, please take care during this difficult time. Reach out to your local organizations for support. Some suggestions for more advocacy resources and support include Equality Florida, the ACLU of Florida, or The National LGBTQ Taskforce. There are many other great organizations throughout the state of Florida and many national organizations rallying on your behalf. Division 44 and SCRA will continue to fight against institutional, medical, and political oppression and discrimination and will continue to advocate for all gender diverse students in Florida and across the nation. For clinicians and other mental health professionals, please see this link to a PDF on LGBTQ Social Justice & Advocacy: A Resource Guide for Psychologists, created by the APA Division 44 Public Policy Committee.

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Note: Thanks to the Division 44 Public Policy Committee co-chairs Kay Trotta and Kim Skerven, as well as Tina Patterson and Judd Harbin, who assisted with writing the statement, and Gary Howell, who shared input from Florida Psychological Association. The statement can be downloaded from the Division 44 News and Events Website.

Society of Clinical Psychology Statement

On behalf of the SCP Board of Directors

J. Kim Penberthy, PhD

There are a variety of beliefs and values about social issues. The Society of Clinical Psychology (SCP) takes a scientific and ethics-based approach to determining the Society's position on social issues. Recently, APA Division 44 (Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity) and APA Division 27 (Society for Community Research and Action) issued a Joint Statement Opposing Requests for Transgender Student Information. The Board of Directors of the Society of Clinical Psychology affirm our support for transgender individuals and for the statement issued by Divisions 44 and 27.

The context for SCP's support of this joint statement is related to recent events and their relevance to clinical practice and risk to vulnerable students on college campuses. Recently, healthcare information about transgender students was requested in Florida from colleges and Universities by the Florida State Budget Director, such as diagnoses of gender dysphoria, requests for gender affirming mental and medical care, etc. Such requests raise privacy concerns relevant to HIPAA and divert from our APA general ethical principles of (1) Beneficence and Nonmaleficence (General Principle A) as the collection of patient data of a targeted group without their consent may cause harm to those individuals and further barriers to care and (2) Respect for People's Rights and Dignity (General Principle E) because it is psychologists' duty to protect the rights and welfare of vulnerable communities. In concert with these ethical concerns, our stance is supported by empirical research spanning across the social and medical sciences that (1) robustly indicates that transgender individuals experience mental health problems at disproportionate rates and face numerous distinct barriers to health care service including, but not limited to, discrimination and a lack of adequately trained providers, and (2) the compounding negative impact of anti-trans legislation on transgender people's mental health. This research has also evidenced that gender-affirming care substantially reduces numerous negative outcomes. The cornerstone of clinical practice is the confidentiality that engenders the therapeutic alliance imperative for effective clinical work.

As such, the Board of the Society of Clinical Psychology (Division 12) stands with Division 44 and 27 in denouncing these state-instituted actions against transgender college students in Florida.

R.I.P. Mark Pope, EdD, 1952–2023

Past president of Division 44

Norleen Nosri, a friend



Dr. Mark L. Pope, 70, of University City, Missouri, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at his home. He was born April 23, 1952, to Isom LaVern Pope and Ethyle Ray Pope. He is survived by his loving husband Mario Carlos, his brothers Michael Pope (Gwen) and James Pope; Douglas (Debbie) Pope (deceased); five nieces, nephew, and 14 great nieces and nephews.

Dr. Pope served as chair of the Department of Counseling and Family Therapy from 2006–2016. He was a Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Education Sciences and Professional Programs in the College of Education. He spent more than two decades at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, beginning in 1997 and continuing until his retirement in 2018, and was widely considered to be one of the founders of and leading authors in the field of cultural diversity issues in career counseling and career development, especially gay and lesbian career development. He received several accolades in the field of mental health for his leadership, scholarship, and teaching. The role he was most proud of was one of a mentor to his students and colleagues. In 2018, the University of Missouri System presented him with the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award, the highest award that any faculty member may receive.

Dr. Pope held significant national offices in several professional associations, including as president of the National Career Development Association from 1998–1999, the American Counseling Association from 2003–2004, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues from 2010–2011. He was also a fellow of several major professional societies, including the American Counseling Association, three divisions of the American Psychological Association (Society of Counseling Psychology, Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity, and Race, and Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity), and the National Career Development Association.

Dr. Pope was an Elder of the Saint Francis River Band of Cherokees. He also served as the Director of Psychological Services for the American Indian AIDS Institute and the Native American AIDS Project in San Francisco.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, donations can be made to the following organizations: Lymphoma Research Foundation (Mantle Cell Lymphoma) or the American Cancer Society in honor of Dr. Mark Pope.

This message is on behalf of Mario Carlos.

[Photo credit: from Mark Pope's Facebook page]

I was born a gay Cherokee boy in rural southeast Missouri

President's Column 2011: Who Are We?

Mark Pope, EdD

My Cherokee grandmother said that it's always good to start a new journey with a ritual smudging and a fundamental question (I am clearer about the role of a smudging). So this morning while my husband lay sleeping soundly, I am up and writing. I tend to do that when I have something on my mind and it just won't leave. So that generally means I just need to get up and write it down.

When I was asked and agreed to put my name forward to run for president of Division 44, I was quite clear that this was the only APA division for which I would ever do that. It was because, in all of my many cultural identities, my gay one is very important, very salient to me. I have many others because I was born a gay Cherokee boy in rural southeast Missouri and have added others along the way—a large 59-year-old person with spina bifida, married (but not recognized in my state) to a Filipino male fine artist for the last 16 years, having a doctoral degree, eldest of four sons, professor, intellectual, politically progressive, and several others. Of all of these, the gay one is the identity that is so very core to who I am. I also know that would not be true for some others of similar cultures, but it is for me.

I think that it is at my core and so primary because it is the one that I had to work so hard to truly accept. When I was growing up, many if not all of the other parts of my identity were just accepted and part of who my family was. But that gay part was hidden and unspoken, and the messages all around me from my environment were that this gay piece of me was evil and wrong (from the various churches my family tried out) and sick (from television and the newspapers) and something to be made fun of and hidden (from my peer group). The discovery of our sexual nature is never an easy one for any adolescent. And my parents were good about offering their sons time to sit and talk about sex, but we only were worried about getting dark hair on our legs and if our penis would be big enough (whatever "enough" was). I learned about wet dreams from my Boy Scout manual (how did that get by the copy editors?). But I never felt it was ok to talk about masturbation, or how sex really works, or my feelings for other boys during such talks.

Then, when I was 20, I went to see my local minister. He was a young Presbyterian minister who rode the circuit and pastored the big Presbyterian church in Poplar Bluff and also drove 11 miles every Sunday to our little church in Fisk to lead our congregation. He led the youth group, too, and tried to get us to talk about sex, but I was one of the younger boys and certainly wasn't going to talk about such things if my older peers were not. He was rather progressive (or so I thought), and so I wanted to share my epiphany about my gay identity with him. Let's just say it didn't go well. But I was on a journey of discovery, and this was but one speed bump along the way.

Rarely is such a journey of discovery linear. And I won't regale you with all the other twists and turns. It does have a happy ending, though (but you already know that). I found that the core question of "who am I" is so critical to pursue, not just once and for all time, but also as a process question to be asked many times over a lifetime as a check-in, to see if you are on the right track in your life's journey. You must first find out who you are, but you must also look back, pay attention along the way, and allow an evolution.

Editor's Note: Reprinted from Volume 27, Number 3 (Fall, 2011).

To read the full article, see the [Division 44 Newsletter, Fall 2011](#), pp. 1–2.

Links to articles related to Mark Pope in the Div44 Newsletter

Presidential Address, Award, Book Reviewed

- First We Were Sane, Now We Are Legal: The Historic Position of Division 44 in LGBT Civil Rights (From Presidential Address) –[Division 44 Newsletter, Fall 2012](#), p. 14.
- AAAS Affiliate Honors Mark Pope as Educator of the Year (good photo) –[Division 44 Newsletter, Fall 2012](#), p. 34.
- Chaired Search Committee for The Founding Editor of *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* –[Division 44 Newsletter, Fall 2012](#), p. 35.
- Book Review – *Casebook for Counseling Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons and Their Families*. Sari H. Dworkin and Mark Pope (Eds.). Alexandria, VA: American Counseling Association, 2012, 368 pp. [Division 44 Newsletter, Summer 2012](#), p. 6.

**Mark Pope, EdD, Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus,
Department of Education Sciences and Professional Programs, UMSL College of Education,
Saint Louis, Missouri**



[Photo: [UMSL College of Education Faculty/Staff Directory](#)]

Mark Pope received his Doctor of Education in Counseling and Educational Psychology from the University of San Francisco. He also earned two academic degrees (A.B. in Political Science and

Sociology and M.Ed. in Counseling and Personnel Services) from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Pope holds certifications as a National Certified Counselor, Master Career Counselor, National Certified Career Counselor, Certified Career Counselor, Master Addictions Counselor, and Approved Clinical Supervisor. He is also licensed in Missouri as a professional counselor and psychologist and in Illinois as a clinical psychologist. Dr. Pope was appointed to the highest and most prestigious academic rank in the UM System - Curators' Distinguished Professor.

Dr. Pope's primary area of interest and research is in multicultural career counseling, especially gay/lesbian, Native American, and Asian career development issues. He has written on the history and development of professional counseling in general and career counseling in particular in the USA and other countries, violence in the schools, and Native American traditional healing. He has published 16 books, over 45 chapters in books, 45 articles in professional journals, and over 135 presentations at international, national, regional, and state professional conferences. His expertise in teaching includes career counseling, psychological assessment, multicultural counseling, substance abuse counseling, the practice of counseling, and the history of counseling.

Dr. Pope has held significant national offices in several professional associations, including the American Counseling Association (2003–2004 President), National Career Development Association (1998–1999 President), and Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues (2010–2011 President). Also, he has served as the Editor of *The Career Development Quarterly*, Senior Associate Editor for both the *Journal of Counseling & Development* and *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, Advisory Editor for the *Journal of Asia Pacific Counseling*, Advisory Editor for the *Malaysian Online Journal of Counseling*, and has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Counseling & Development*, *The Career Development Quarterly*, *Counseling: Giornale Italiano di Ricerca e Applicazioni*, *Journal of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling*, and *The Family Journal*. He served as a consultant to Apple Computers, AT&T, United States Internal Revenue Service, United States Healthcare Financing Administration, Telekom Malaysia, and several other corporations and government agencies. He also lectured throughout Asia including Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, and China and was the Founding Editor of an international career development newsletter, *Global Career Resources*.

He is a Fellow of the American Counseling Association, National Career Development Association, American Psychological Association, Society of Counseling Psychology (APA Division 17), Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity (APA Division 44), and Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity, and Race (APA Division 45) and is a Life Member of the American Counseling Association, Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, and Chi Sigma Iota (national counseling honorary). Dr. Pope has also received a number of prestigious awards, such as the Eminent Career Award, the highest award in the field of career counseling and development.

Dr. Pope is an Elder of the Saint Francis River Band of Cherokees. He also served as the Director of Psychological Services for the American Indian AIDS Institute and the Native American AIDS Project in San Francisco.

Editor's Note: From UMSL College of Education Faculty/Staff Directory

My Eulogy for Charles Silverstein

He died knowing and feeling the kind of eulogies that are now being given

Harold Kooden, PhD



Charles Silverstein, PhD –
*Photo by Jackson
Hill/Southern Lights (New
Orleans)*

There have been so many beautiful and well-deserved tributes to Chuck, as he was known to many of us. There are very detailed obituaries in the *New York Times*, *Gay City News*, and elsewhere that adequately document his professional, academic and literary works and awards. They are all very accurate in showing his national and global influence in establishing what is the foundation for much of what is now accepted as acceptable theory in our field. There is no need to reproduce them here. What follows is what I would have said at a memorial service for our loved friend and colleague, Charles Silverstein.

I want to tell you about Chuck from another perspective from having known him since the late sixties where we both worked at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx. At that time, he was seen as the tall, slender and handsome non-gay man-about-town who was going on another skiing vacation. We lost contact so I could hardly believe it when in the early 1970s I heard about his now being an out gay man. We reconnected immediately. He was active in the Gay Activist Alliance's Saturday night dances at the Firehouse in New York City's SOHO neighborhood. He didn't dance but loved being there and absorbing the atmosphere. He treasured an important moment there when he started a conversation with an older Black woman who also watched from the sidelines as he did. When he asked why she was there, she told him that she brought her teenage son there as he was "that way" and though he was too young to have sex, she felt he should know his community. That conversation had a lasting impact on him as Chuck had struggled for years with his sexuality and tried to live a non-gay lifestyle. For him, this was a concrete example of how the liberation movement could have such a far reaching effect and helped give him a direction to his activism.

He used his professional knowledge to create two significant organizations in New York City – Identity House, and later, the Institute for Human Identity. He and I reconnected at that time when he was director of Identity House, a peer counseling service. Unfortunately, we disagreed on how I was to be brought in as clinical director. His authoritarian stance caused the first and only conflict we had –

though it did last for a couple of years. While he never lost his authoritativeness, it greatly softened over the years.

It was no surprise that he later got involved with a newly formed activist organization, the National Gay Task Force. It was his theoretical position paper that was successfully used in their 1973 fight with the American Psychiatric Association about removing “Homosexuality” as a diagnostic category of mental illness. In this brilliant essay, he applied his academic knowledge, his keen intellect and his sense of humor to skewer the psychiatric diagnostic system. While all the recent obituaries reference the importance of this paper, they missed a significant point that Chuck made with ironic humor. In order to show how many psychiatric diagnoses were reinforcements of prevalent societal thinking and not of scientifically researched empirical evidence, Chuck referred to “Drapetomania,” a psychiatric diagnosis given to slaves who had a compulsion to run away from their masters. He successfully showed this parallelism so that, after taking a vote, the APA no longer considered being a homosexual a sign of mental illness. The ramifications of this made it so much easier when we did the same thing in 1974 with the American Psychological Association.

We know of the global impact that his books, *The Joy of Gay Sex* and *The New Joy of Gay Sex*, had on our community. Its genesis had many sources. One had to do with surprising information that his clients shared with him that opened his eyes. He also had his own experience from his own lack of knowledge for many years. It was this realization of the vast amount of information that needed to be shared that helped propel him to take on this incredible task to produce this work. These two volumes are an indication of how much he wanted his community to grow as also was his creation of the *Journal of Homosexuality*.

Knowledge was to be shared and this was reflected in his personal life as well. He began having a “Gay Pride Morning Brunch” on the day of the march until we all got older so that the brunch had to be moved to the day before the march since our energy became more limited. These brunches and countless parties were always so special since all his contacts were invited. It was not only psychologists but activist psychiatrists and social workers as well as his neighbors. He also developed sex therapy programs and included the teachers and co-leaders as guests. What was so delightful about these events was the knowledge that there were always going to be interesting people there that you wanted to talk with. He loved bringing all these people together though he did not have much time to talk – he was too busy getting the food out. He did all the excellent cooking (including many delicious desserts which he could not eat because of his diabetes!). We could always count on a performance of his “theatrical group” for which he usually wrote the script (with help). It was atrocious humor and usually in bad taste, which he loved. It was hysterical to watch unbelievably bad performances, which only heightened our amusement – especially when he went in drag.

Luckily, he had the space for all these gatherings. His apartment was filled with the many artifacts from his annual world-wide travels and reflected his excellent taste of local art from around the world. He was the only person I know whose suitcase upon departure was already half-filled with bubblewrap. Many of his travel companions were close friends with whom he maintained friendships until his death. He was a man who was clearly loved by many friends. Unfortunately, he outlived Will, the love of his life, who died from complications of AIDS.

His friends, colleagues, former students and supervisees were an integral part of his life. It was always a pleasure to be at his dinner parties – again, he did all the cooking. He had true joy in bringing friends together. Though he loved throwing these big parties, he could also enjoy intimate evenings with friends. I had many dinners with just him and my husband, John.

In closing, I want you to know that while he had received many awards over the years, it was the recent ones given in recognition of his global influence that were his most treasured ones. He could finally take in what he was being recognized for. In a sense, he died knowing and feeling the kind of eulogies that are now being given.

Chuck was a loved man from those who knew him personally and from those who benefitted from his wisdom, dedication and love for our community.

R.I.P Charles Silverstein, PhD

He was truly a pioneer and will be missed

Sorry to hear this sad news about Charles Silverstein. He was a pathbreaking figure and fought hard for gay rights with mental health from the very beginning of the movement. I had the pleasure of working with him on projects and he epitomized the activist psychologist. I was pleased that Jack and I could include his own account of early LGB psychology history in a book on activism and psychology years ago. He leaves the world a better place, may he rest in power.

–Judith Glassgold, PsyD

Chuck was a giant in our field, on whose shoulders so many subsequent generations stand.

–Douglas C. Haldeman, PhD.

I am saddened to learn of Charles Silverstein's recent passing. While I did not know him personally, I had the opportunity to review his book, *The Initial Psychotherapy Interview: A Gay Man Seeks Treatment*, for the Division's newsletter. “What I appreciate about this book is Silverstein's willingness to so openly acknowledge his own clinical errors. Many of us are likely to see ourselves in his retelling of the session, with the inevitable awkward silences, equivocations, and personal insecurities that we all experience as therapists. Silverstein resists the narcissistic temptation to be viewed as the all-knowing therapist and instead allows himself to be seen as he really is: 'vulnerable, unsure, brash, and even self-important.' He was truly a pioneer and will be missed.”

–Tyger Latham, PsyD

He was a central figure in the APA decision to remove homosexuality from the DSM-II (as shown in the documentary, CURED)--and that was just one of his many accomplishments over the years.

His Wikipedia page is [here](#).

Charles helped many; he will be missed by many; may he rest in peace

–Jack Drescher, MD

–*Editor's note:* Additional resources for information about Charles Silverstein:

- Oral history interviews – <https://oralhistory.rutgers.edu/alphabetical-index/interviewees/2099-silverstein-charles>; <https://theoutwordsarchive.org/interview/silverstein-charles/>
- Archives – <https://archives.nypl.org/mss/26970>

Charles Silverstein noted in previous issues of the *Newsletter*

Awards, Articles, Books Reviewed, Resignation as Division 44 President

Charles Silverstein was noted in several previous issues of the Division 44 *Newsletter*:

- **Silverstein Wins Gold Medal Award for Practice**

The 2011 prestigious American Psychological Foundation Gold Medal Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Practice of Psychology will be given to Charles Silverstein, PhD. This award recognizes a distinguished career and enduring contribution to advancing the professional practice of psychology through a demonstrable effect on patterns of service delivery in the profession. He is the first openly gay recipient of any of the four Gold Medal Awards.

–*Division44 Newsletter, Summer 2011*, p. 19.

- **Origin of the “Ten Percent” Estimate in the 1970s** by Charles Silverstein –*Division44 Newsletter, Fall 2011*, pp. 15–16.

- **Events in New York City Leading to the Deletion of Homosexuality as a Mental Disorder by the American Psychiatric Association** by Charles Silverstein

–*Division44 Newsletter, Spring 2011*, pp. 13–15.

- **Silverstein Resigns as President**

Charles Silverstein, President-elect of Division 44, has announced his resignation because of health problems typical for persons of his cohort—the pioneers of LGBT psychology.

–*Division44 Newsletter, Fall 2009*, p. 2 –*Div44 Newsletter Fall 2009*, p. 2

–*Editor’s note*: Since there was no current president-elect (after Charles Silverstein resigned the position) and President-elect Mark Pope did not choose to begin his term as president until the normal rotation at the 2011 APA Convention, President Bonnie Strickland continued to serve until the next Business Meeting in August, 2011. Past-President Randy Georgemiller also agreed to remain in that position for an additional year so that the “presidential trio” could continue to function as in the past.

- **Books by Silverstein reviewed:**

The Initial Psychotherapy Interview: A Gay Man Seeks Treatment. Charles Silverstein (Ed.). Burlington, MA: Elsevier, 2011, 321 pp.

–*Division44 Newsletter Spring 2011*, p. 5.

For the Ferryman: A Personal History. Charles Silverstein. New York, NY: Chelsea Station Editions, 2011, 340 pp. (two reviews)

–*Division44 Newsletter Spring 2012*, pp 10–11.

Charles Silverstein Lifetime Achievement Award in Social Justice

New award created during Silverstein's lifetime

Institute for Human Identity (IHI) announced that the [Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies \(ABCT\)](#) will honor IHI’s founder Dr. Charles Silverstein, PhD, with the establishment of the Charles Silverstein Lifetime Achievement Award in Social Justice later this fall. ABCT cited Silverstein’s significant contributions in combatting pathologization of LGBTQ+-identified people as integral to its decision to establish the new award in his name.

“We feel privileged to have the opportunity to honor Dr. Silverstein and his decades long contributions to our field,” remarked ABCT President Dr. Laura Seligman, PhD. “His words 50 years ago set in

motion a process that engaged us in the important work of self-reflection. The lessons we learned from Dr. Silverstein are ones we try to heed to this day.”

Silverstein, 87, was part of a group of psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health professionals who, in 1973, persuaded the American Psychiatric Association to remove homosexuality as a mental disorder from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, the premier diagnostic manual for mental health professionals in the U.S. Following this landmark advocacy, IHI opened its doors to its first clients later that same year and became the nation’s first provider of LGBTQ+-affirming psychotherapy. In addition to Silverstein’s activism, he has also published seminal works of non-fiction about his lived experience as a gay man, including *For the Ferryman*, which is being re-released this month by LGBTQ+ publisher ReQueered Tales Los Angeles.

ABCT will present its high honor to Silverstein at an awards ceremony in November 2022.

“This is obviously the greatest honor I have received in my career and especially so coming from the premier behaviorist organization in the world.”

–IHI Founder Charles Silverstein, PhD

Annual Division 44 Mid-Winter Meeting Report

Summary of what we did and my reflections

Christina Patterson, PhD, Division 44 President

I wanted to take a moment to provide an update from the annual Midwinter Meeting. For those that do not know, per division policies and procedures, (P&P) the Executive Board meets a minimum of twice per year. We meet once at convention and once in January, also known as the Midwinter Meeting (MWM). This year, I held the MWM in Las Vegas, NV – my home and backyard – on January 27 & 28, 2023. We had an intense two days together.

Here is a summary of what we did and my reflections:

- Met with APA EDI office to discuss APA’s efforts to continue building equity and justice within the association and discussed how Division 44 can continue building equity and justice within our own home.
- Those that were attending in-person attended a 3-hour Diversity-Equity-Inclusion (DEI) training focusing on liberation psychology.
- Reviewed de-identified aggregate data about APA convention submissions. Discussed recent difficulties with submissions initially being sent for review with identifying information and how APA mis-stepped during this process.
- Grappled with white supremacy culture and how it continues to show up in Division 44. In recent years, the MWM has become a source of tension and stress as the leadership team has often experienced some rupture due to racism, sexism, and/or other -isms that show up. This year, we experienced that again. My own take is that we handled it with better care this year than previous years. I think we’ve done a lot of work to improve in this area. Having said that, we need to do better. People were harmed. I’ve been engaging in a lot of reflection on how I responded during and after the meeting. I have been

appreciative of the feedback my colleagues have given me as the President so that I can do better. I've also given feedback to others. My hope is that we continue to call out and work to dismantle white supremacy culture in all its forms within our division.

- We will be submitting a proposed change in bylaws regarding our Nominations Committee to distribute power and increase the diversity of voices nominating future leaders within Division 44. Membership will be asked to vote on this proposal later this year. Pending bylaws changes, we also approved a change in the P&P regarding the nominations committee. If the bylaw changes are approved, I'll provide an update on the policy and procedure change.
- We approved a change in P&P regarding the parity rule for elected positions. Previously, certain elected positions (e.g., President, Secretary) had a gender parity rule where one year the nominees were male/nonbinary identified and the following year the nominees were female/nonbinary identified. We made a change to this parity rule. Now, one year the nominees are BIPOC folks of any gender, one year the nominees are women, trans, and nonbinary folks of any race/ethnicity, and one year the nominees are open to any racial/ethnic and/or gender identity. Our hope is that by centering historically excluded identities, we will be more intentional about seeking and supporting more diverse leadership.
- We approved a change in P&P regarding the APA Convention Program Coordinator and Suite Coordinator positions. Previously, we had one Program Coordinator and one Suite Coordinator. The Program Coordinator would focus on convention programming and mentor the Suite Coordinator. The Suite Coordinator would focus on suite programming and then move into the Program Coordinator role the following year. Now, we have a Senior Program Coordinator, a Junior Program Coordinator, a Senior Suite Coordinator, and a Junior Suite Coordinator. The Senior positions are the leaders in coordinating their respective roles with the responsibility of mentoring the Junior positions into becoming the Senior positions the following year. Our hope is that by increasing the number of folks and separating the positions, our coordinators will feel less burden, more support, and have a more diverse body of voices in the planning process.
- I appointed a working group to review our current bylaws and P&P manual with a focus on equity and inclusion. The working group will meet regularly over the next three months and develop recommendations for the executive board to consider at the next board meeting in April. The goal will be to create recommendations that focus on enhancing DEI efforts within the Division. Following the April board meeting, I will provide additional updates.

This is, of course, a brief summary. I believe in transparency and being open about the work and process being done behind the scenes; however, it is difficult to capture all of the moving parts. Please do not hesitate to respond with any questions or concerns or reach out to me directly if you would prefer to talk more privately.

Bisexual Committee Awards

Applications Due March 30, 2023

Eleanor (El) McCabe, Ph.D.



Hello from the BIC! Our committee is small these days and we are actively recruiting for a communications officer and regular members. We have already chosen the presenters for the annual BIC symposium, so we will be focusing on the Bisexual Foundation Award soon. Please send a resume to Eleanor (El) McCabe at emccabe@buffalo.edu if you are interested in joining our committee!

The Bisexual Issues Committee is soliciting applications for its annual awards:

- 1) The Bisexual Foundation Award: up to \$1000 for graduate student research advancing bisexual psychology
- 2) A \$500 student travel award for the 2023 APA convention

Send materials to emccabe@buffalo.edu to apply. Please forward through your networks! The deadline is **March 30, 2023** for both awards.

From the Newsletter 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 & 35 Years Ago

Review some select Division 44 Newsletter articles from the past 35 years

Spring 2013

John Gonsiorek, PhD, named founding editor of *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. He is a Past-President of Division 44 and has published widely. “My vision for the journal involves not only making it the premier publication on all psychological aspects of sexual orientation and gender diversity, but also to have it serve as a training ground for the next generation of scholars and practitioners in these areas.”

The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns established a joint Task Force with Division 44 to develop guidelines for psychological practice with transgender clients. Co-Chairs

for the Task Force are Drs. Anneliese Singh and Lore M. Dickey, and the other members are Drs. Walter O. Bockting, Sand Chang, Kelly Ducheny, Laura Edwards-Leeper, Randal D. Ehrbar, Max Fuhrmann, Michael L. Hendricks, and Ellen Magalhaes.

Ekta M. Kumar and Mixalis Poulakis reported on their study regarding individuals who identify as South Asians and as part of the LGBT population. This study illuminated the difficulties that South Asian gay men face. It provided clinicians with a more detailed and informed view of the experiences of this population and it has a variety of implications for mental health providers and advocacy efforts.

Div. 44 will be co-sponsoring, along with APA's Office on Continuing Education in Psychology, a CE workshop on Intersectionality in Psychological Practice at the upcoming annual convention in Honolulu entitled "LGBT People of Color and Spirituality: Tools for Psychological Practice." This workshop has been selected to be part of APA President Bersoff's Presidential Initiative programming.

Spring 2008

President Ruth E. Fassinger reported on the mid-winter meeting that was expanded to include not only the elected officers but also chairs from every committee and task force in the Division to do some long-range strategic planning for the Division, aided by Sandy Shullman.

Dr. Richard A. Rodriguez, Member-at-Large of Division 44, died unexpectedly on January 12. The Executive Committee voted to name the Multicultural Travel Award in his honor. Division 51 established two scholarships to future National Psychotherapy with Men conferences to individuals who exemplify Richard's spirit and work. Alliant University also established the Richard A. Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship.

Luke Moissinac profiled Dr. Joshua Gamson, who received a Placek Award in 1995 to study lesbians and gay men on television talk shows. This research resulted in a book that won several awards and was selected by the Science Committee to inspire other researchers on GLBT issues.

A special section of the *Newsletter* was organized by Randall D. Ehrbar who invited authors to write a first-hand account of their experiences providing services to the LGBT community.

The new Division 44 Announce-Only Listserv is now available for sending out information of importance, including the *Newsletter*, to all members.

Spring 2003

James S. Fitzgerald, President, reported that the Executive Committee met in conjunction with the Third National Multicultural Summit and Conference in Los Angeles.

The Division leadership has been busy responding to journal articles concerning sexual reorientation therapy.

Becky J. Liddle, Editor, noted that this special issue of the *Newsletter* has three articles related to conversion therapy—"Religiously Based Conversion Therapy: The Need to Belong," by Michael Schroeder and Ariel Shidlo; "APA's Policy on Conversion Therapy: A Brief History," by Douglas C. Haldeman; and "We're Approaching This too Narrowly: The Need for a Broader-Based Therapy for Conflicted, Same-sex Attracted Clients," by A. Lee Beckstead.

Robin Buhrke reported on the Competencies Conference 2002 that Division 44 co-sponsored. The goal is to develop a set of core and specialized competencies for the training of the next generation of psychologists. She worked with the Individual and Cultural Diversity group.

Spring 1998

President Christine Browning reported on a joint meeting during the mid-winter meeting with the Division 45 leadership to share about our identities and to identify the possibilities for coalition and collaboration. This meeting affirmed both divisions are committed to be welcoming and relevant for gay, lesbian, and bisexual members from all ethnic groups.

Linda Garnets facilitated a daylong retreat to reflect upon the future directions of the Division and its organizational structure. Christine Browning noted that one powerful moment was when each of us described what the Division means to us; the two words that everyone used were: family and home.

Eryan Lin reported on the formation of the Chinese Society for the Study of Sexual Minorities. Zhong Cong and Jin Wu reported that the first open debate on depathologizing homosexuality took place last fall through a publication of a series of articles in *Zhejiang Mental Health Information*. The debate was triggered by a paper on a historical perspective on homosexuality as a diagnostic entity by Dr. Douglas Kimmel, of which copies of the Chinese translation were distributed in a medical professional conference in China.

May, 1993

John Gonsiorek, President, wrote about being asked to testify in a hearing seeking an injunction against Colorado's Amendment 2. After a surreal experience of 5 hours of preparation with the legal team and 3 hours of testimony, news came that the court was persuaded to grant an injunction.

Armand Cerbone identified the members of the Task Force of Professional Practice Standards for Lesbian and Gay Clients. In addition to Cerbone, they are: Kris Hancock, Catherine Acuff, Terry Gock, Doug Haldeman, Jeffery Rehm, and Ariel Shidlo.

Barbara Slater is in the process of collecting and archiving memories of Adrienne Smith.

Homosexuality: Research Implications for Public Policy, edited by John Gonsiorek and James Weinrich, was reviewed by Kristin A. Hancock. She noted, "It is one of the most useful publications I own."

April, 1988

Laura S. Brown, President, urged members to vote in favor of the by-laws changes that would make the Ethnic Minority Concerns Task Force a standing committee as a way of saying that our commitment to anti-racism is an essential element of how we also confront homophobia and heterosexism. As AIDS becomes more of an issue in minority communities, sensitive and non-oppressive alliances will be more essential for all for our survival.

Bill Bailey, of the APA Office of Legislative Affairs, and Clinton Anderson, of the Public Interest Directorate, reported that APA had approved a budget of \$160,000 for an Office on AIDS. Also, at the February meeting, APA Council voted to condemn harassment, violence, and crime motivated by prejudice based upon race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or physical condition.

Carol Becker reviewed the book *Long Time Passing: The Lives of Older Lesbians*, by Marcy Adelman. She noted that it is a hand extended by old lesbians to their community—a community that was virtually non-existent when they were living closeted lives during their younger years.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Portfolio – 2022 Report

Mission and Activities

Ron Schlittler

Mission: The mission of the APA Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Portfolio (SOGD) is to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge on gender identity and sexual orientation to benefit society and improve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people's lives.

Structure and Staffing: The SOGD Portfolio is part of the American Psychological Association's Public Interest Directorate (PI) and part of the PI's Human Rights Team, which includes the Race, Ethnicity, and Culture Portfolio and the Women's Portfolio. Staff for 2022 are Clinton W. Anderson, PhD, PI Deputy Chief, and Director of the SOGD; Andrea McDonald, MEd Director, Safe and Supportive Schools Project; and Ron Schlittler, Assistant Director.

APA Policy Analysis, Development and Advocacy: The CSOGD provides staff support to APA Advocacy Office and works with members on advocacy strategy and training. This includes (1) working with the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity to develop internal and external policy and to support the review and adoption processes for policy resolutions and guidelines, (2) working with the Advocacy Office staff to support lobbying efforts and outreach to experts to assist in developing positions on issues and to disseminate calls to action to SOGD networks, (3) providing technical assistance to state psychological associations on the state level, (4) working with the Office of General Counsel to develop amicus briefs, and (5) supporting global advocacy on policies within psychology organizations and public and NGO policy setting bodies.

Primary Areas of Activity:

- Work with content expert consultation groups and the Office of General Counsel to monitor court cases related to transgender and gender nonbinary people in anticipation of potential APA amicus briefs.
- Staff a task force to produce a report on Differences of Sex Development, or people with intersex characteristics.
- Staff task force charged to revise and update the Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People.
- Work with the Division 44 Public Policy Committee and the Advocacy Office on a collaborative strategy for web-based support for state psychology organizations and APA members through the year on state level legislation related to sexual orientation and gender diverse people. As anticipated, issues include SOCE and GICE bans, "Religious Freedom" or "Conscience Clause" bills, and an unprecedented number of anti-trans bills, including efforts to criminalize gender appropriate affirmative care for minors and banning trans girls from girls' sports (as of October 13, 2022, the ACLU reported 155 anti-trans bills in 2022, up from 131 in 2021).
 - Organized and moderated a panel discussion for the George Washington University's LGBT Policy & Practice Graduate Certificate Program on the impacts on clinicians and clients of the anti-trans legislative efforts.
 - Contributed to the organization of a Convention Main Stage event titled The Psychological Impact of Anti-Trans Legislation.

- Monitor international LGBTI policy issues and apprised the APA International Affairs Office and the APA United Nations Team as needed.

Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity: The SOGD staff provides support to the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity, the mission of which is to:

- Study and evaluate on an ongoing basis how the issues and concerns of sexual orientation and gender diverse (e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer [LGBTQ]) psychologists can best be dealt with.
- Encourage objective and unbiased research in areas relevant to sexual orientation and gender diverse (e.g., LGBTQ) adults and youths and the social impact of such research.
- Examine the consequences of inaccurate information and stereotypes about sexual orientation and gender diverse (e.g., LGBTQ) adults and youth in clinical practice.
- Develop educational materials for distribution to psychologists and others.
- Make recommendations regarding the integration of these issues into the APA's activities to further the cause of human rights of sexual orientation and gender diverse (e.g., LGBTQ) individuals and communities.
- Members included Daniel Ryu, PsyD (2020–2022); Kathryn Wagner, PhD (2020–2022); Anjali Alimchandani, PhD, MPP (2021–2023); Brandon Hoeflein, PhD (2021–2023), Taymy Josefa Caso, PhD (2022–2024) and Elizabeth Aranda, PhD (2022–2024 [resigned for personal reasons in June]).

Primary Areas of Activity:

- Staffed a virtual spring meeting held April 19 and fall meeting held October 1, and bimonthly virtual meetings.

International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet): APA is a member of IPsyNet, the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Issues. IPsyNet is a network of international psychology organizations that work to increase psychological knowledge about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people, to apply psychological knowledge in clinical practice with and research about LGBTI people, and to increase the capacity of psychology organizations and LGBTI advocates to use psychological knowledge in public education and policy initiatives. Primary areas of IPsyNet activity include (1) fostering and supporting LGBTI programming at major international psychology congresses, and (2) working to support favorable policies and to oppose unfavorable policies for LGBTI people globally. APA has two representatives to IPsyNet, Nadine Nakamura (2021-2023) and Khashayar Farhadi Langroudi, PsyD (2022-2024). An Oversight Group for APA's participation in IPsyNet includes representatives from BAPPI (Daniel Dodgen, PhD, 1/21 – 12/22), CSOGD (Anjali Alimchandani, PhD, MPP, 2021-2023), APAGS (Allison Gregg), CIRP (Julie Koch, PhD), Division 44 (Brian Davis, PhD), and Division 52 (Darla Diakonova-Curtis). There is one regional member, the InterAmerican Society of Psychology and 26 national member organizations of IPsyNet with 22 organizations active to varying degrees.

Primary Areas of Activity:

- Support bi-monthly calls of IPsyNet Representatives.
- Support the work of three IPsyNet Committees:
 - Policy Committee: Dissemination and implementation of the IPsyNet Statement & Commitment about psychology, affirmative care, and human rights issues as they pertain to

LGBTI people that was introduced at the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) 2018. There are currently two regional and 43 national endorsing psychology organizations globally. It is currently available in 13 languages: Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Chinese (traditional), English, French, German, Hungarian, isiZulu, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Kept all language version PDFs updated with logos and names of all new endorsees.

- This year a key priority related to this document was a 5-year policy review. Each of the Oversight Group member groups reviewed and unanimously recommended APA re-endorse the document for another 5 years. The Executive Leadership Team unanimously approved re-endorsing in September.
- Maintain and update the IPsyNet branded “microsite” housed on the APA web platform.

Capacity Building Assistance for School-Based HIV/STD Prevention: The Safe and Supportive Schools Project (SSSP) promotes safe and supportive environments to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among adolescents. The SSSP was funded in 2018 under a 5-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Adolescent and School Health (CDC/DASH), which in September 2021 was extended by an additional year. The cooperative agreement is designed to build capacity of 28 local education agencies (LEAs) nationally, also funded by CDC/DASH. To build capacity, SSSP delivers customized training, technical assistance, and consultation to LEAs and collaborate with four other DASH funded non-governmental organizations.

Project and supplemental funding available only to existing project partners has allowed APA to create and update resources that support capacity building professional development and technical assistance including recently completed work on student resilience, a checklist to assess racial disparities in education, and a 5-part Classroom Management resource, all located on the project’s new resource page. Efforts are currently underway to significantly update the APA Respect Online Workshop, including new sections for classroom teachers and school administrators. Also, in the final stages of development, are resources on Motivation, Thinking and Learning, Social-Emotional Learning, Mental Health Primers, and The Science of Persuasion.

Technical Assistance, Consultations, and Resources Dissemination: The SOGD provides technical assistance, consultations, and resources to APA affiliated state psychology associations and responds to inquiries from members and the public for information and resources. Activities during this reporting period included:

- Maintaining a collaborative partnership with the Division 44 Public Policy Committee and the Advocacy Office to systematically provide technical assistance to state psychology associations to advocate effectively for or against state legislation.
- Maintain liaison relationships with APA divisions and affiliated state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations with an interest in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues, and relations with the ethnic minority psychology associations.
- Provide links to APA’s LGBT resources on request.

Media Relations, Publications, and Communications: The SOGD responds to media requests for information and interviews; facilitates the development and dissemination of APA reports, recommendations, resolutions, and guidelines; contributes to Public Interest Directorate reports, newsletters, and social media initiatives; and maintains the office website.

- Respond to reporters on LGBT topics – most inquiries focus on sexual orientation change

efforts and transgender issues.

- Continue to promote new SOGD webpage content periodically.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Portfolio Activities and Priorities for 2023

- Transformation and Strategic Alignment
 - Public Interest Directorate priorities:
 - Bias, Stigma, and Discrimination work specifically focused on systemic racism
 - Health equity
 - Leadership development
- Human Rights
 - As part of the Public Interest Human Rights Team (which includes the Race, Ethnicity, and Culture Portfolio and the Woman's Portfolio) participate in work to implement the recommendations of the Final Report of the APA Task Force on Human Rights: Moving Human Rights to the Forefront of Psychology
- Amicus Briefs
 - Change Efforts
 - Transgender Discrimination
- CDC funded Safe and Supportive Schools Project (SOGD component relates to GSAs and training school personnel)
- Guideline, Resolutions & Reports
 - Presidential Trans Women of Color (TWOC) Anti-Violence Task Force
 - TGNC Guidelines Revisions Task Force
 - Differences of Sex Development Task Force
- Support the work of the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity
- Maintain and promote Resources for Grassroots and State-Level Advocacy on LGBTQ+ Issues, an online state legislative issues tool for APA members and STPAs in collaboration with the Advocacy Office and the Division 44 Public Policy Committee
- Provide the Secretariat for the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet), including potential for new funding