

Louisiana Psychological Association

December, 2015

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The LPA Newsletter is the voice of the Louisiana Psychological Association.

President's Column By Lacey Seymour Ph.D.



Happy Holidays! Thanks to all those who attended our Fall Workshop earlier this month. Overall, the presentations were informative, attendee ratings were positive and it was a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues.

The Executive Council met on Saturday November 21 at the home of Dr. Kim Van Geffen. Financial matters were discussed and our new Executive Director has done a great job of increasing the revenue of the Association this past year. In addition to reviewing the Fall Workshop, potential topics for the upcoming Annual

Convention were also discussed. If there is an area that you would like to see presented at the convention in May, please let us know.

Our Continuing Education Committee is working on creating several exciting new programs, including a speakers' bureau as well as a webinar network to advertise and promote member presentations to others across the state. Please contact Dr. Gail Gillespie if you are interested in helping with the project.

Our Legislative Affairs Committee, spearheaded by Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, has been working hard on legislative policy changes

that affect children with ADHD. LPA has collaborated with the Louisiana School Psychological Association in getting the matter passed through the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Upcoming legislative issues were discussed and our membership will be briefed on any issues that affect the practice of psychology that may arise during this upcoming session. Stay tuned for more information regarding LPA PAC fundraisers.

"Dr. Van Geffen and I attended the LSBEP Long Range Planning meeting on November 19 in Baton Rouge. LPA was able to provide input to the proposed CE revision designed to assist with clarifying and simplifying how credit can be earned."

whelming success. The workshops will

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continue for several weeks. Volunteers are needed to assist in conducting the weekly workshops in the New Orleans area. Please contact Dr. Nemeth for more information.

Dr. Van Geffen and I attended the LSBEP Long Range Planning meeting on November 19 in Baton Rouge. LPA was able to provide input to the proposed CE revision designed to assist with clarifying and simplifying how credit can be earned. The Board also agreed to begin the discussion process on how LSBEP and LPA

Dr. Darylne Nemeth reported that the Hurricane Katrina workshops were an over-



President's Column...Continued from p. 1.

can work together to participate in upcoming LSBEP elections.

Membership renewals have been sent out so please be on the lookout. If you feel as if LPA has been of benefit to you, please let your colleagues know. There is power in numbers and we are working hard to increase our membership. The Executive Council is also working on an LPA manual that will detail committee descriptions. We encourage all members to get involved. As always, thank you for your commitment to the Louisiana Psychological Association. Ψ



EC members met at the home of Dr. Kim Van Geffen on November 12, 2015. The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2016.

The Louisiana Psychological Association welcomes the following new members:

Full Members

Dr. Richard Blocker

Dr. Sarah Gray

Dr. Rebecca Rothbaum

Dr. David Weibel

Student Members

Ms. Timberlin Chatman

Mr. Joshua Lieberman Ms. Aline Ponthieux



Living in a World of Diverse Religions

Statement of Board of Directors

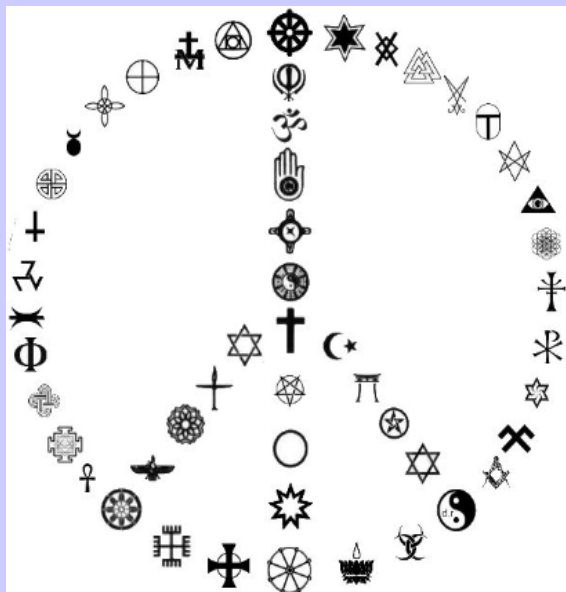
American Psychological Association

December 10, 2015

Since the founding of our nation, religious liberty has been at the heart of the American vision of democratic freedom. Within the framework of the U.S. Constitution, the right to practice one's religion is recognized and upheld. Moreover, due to the mandated separation of church and state, religion cannot be enforced or controlled by the U.S. government.

Recent acts of terror and violence perpetrated by extremists using the name of religion have shaken our world and our sense of security. At times throughout history, religious extremism -- in the form of factions of religious groups that misuse their faith to support violence in the name of their religion -- has been faced by all of the world's major religions and has led to massive chaos and suffering.

During the past decade, violent extremists claiming to act in the name of Islam have raised fears and created confusion about Islam and the teachings of the Qur'an. In the United States, some individuals and groups have attempted to conflate all of Islam with extremist violence by disseminating misinformation and distortions about Islam and American Muslims. This has led to a rise of individual and systemic discrimination against American Muslims and those perceived to be Muslims often with heritage from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. This oppression can be seen in enactment of discriminatory policies, and most recently, the refusal of many countries' governments in Europe and some federal and state officials in the United States to accept Syrian refugees who are seeking safe harbor (see <http://interfaithalliance.org/americanmuslimfaq>).



In particular, American psychologists are challenged to acknowledge the impact of the post-9/11 climate of fear, bias and discrimination facing our Muslim colleagues, students, clients and communities. We have witnessed hate crimes and other acts of violence perpetrated against Muslims and those mistakenly identified as Muslim (e.g., Sikhs). In line with our long tradition of bringing psychological science and expertise to bear on prejudice, bias and discrimination, it is time to support our Muslim colleagues, counter misinformation and sweeping generalizations (Diversity of Muslims in the U. S.), and address fear by supporting resilience and nurturing connection and community.

Psychology, which comprises our knowledge of human behavior and our commitment to benefit society and im-



Living in a World of Diverse Religions...Continued from p. 3.

prove people's lives, can offer several constructive responses to violent extremism and the fear of more violence.

First, we understand trauma response. Second, we know how to foster individual and community resilience (APA, 2011; Kilmer et al, 2010). Third, we understand how fear can split communities, distort perceptions, confound decision making and increase bias and discrimination (Fischhoff, 2011). Fourth, we have a wealth of multicultural scholars who can contribute to the discourse on religious and cultural identities and practices to promote understanding and acceptance. The American Psychological Association (APA) has taken a leadership role in opposing discrimination based on, or derived from, religion or spirituality and in encouraging commensurate consideration of religion and spirituality as diversity variables, as delineated in the association's policy adopted in 2007.



APA's vision statement sets forth the association's commitment to global partnerships that promote the application of "psychological knowledge and methods to facilitate the resolution of personal, societal and global challenges in diverse, multicultural and international contexts." We understand the adverse, and often tragic, impact of stereotyping, implicit bias and prejudice. We know that marginalized communities who are perceived as potentially violent or dangerous actually endure the most violence from within not without. We offer support and assistance to individuals and communities who are suffering. We must empathize, sympathize and offer solutions to counter fear-based decisions and actions among our communities, and advocate for those who are marginalized and experiencing oppression.

To quote Martin Luther King, Jr., *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

References

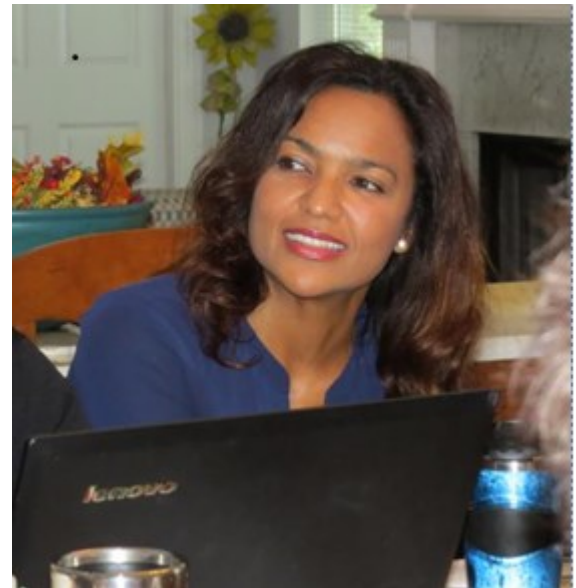
Fischhoff, B. (2011). Communicating the risks of terrorism (and anything else). *American Psychologist*, 66, 520-531.

Kilmer, R.P., Gil-Rivas, V., Tedeschi, R.G., & Calhoun, L.G. (2010). *Helping Families and Communities Recover from Disaster: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina and its Aftermath*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.



Drs. Lucinda DeGrange and Michelle Moore discuss legislative matters .

President-elect, Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, participates in discussion during the November meeting .



Ms. Cindy Bishop briefs EC members about the operational status of the organization .



Report of the Professional Affairs Committee by Kim VanGeffen, PhD

LPA President, Lacey Seymour, and I recently attended the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) Long Range Planning Meeting on 11/19/2015. This annual meeting provides a way for the licensing board to present information on issues which they will be addressing during the coming year. Following are some of the highlights of this meeting. The Board announced that there are two nominees for the upcoming election for LSBEP: Drs. Amy Henke and Leah Crouch. The Board is currently seeking a psychologist for the position of Complaints Coordinator. They have received applications from three Louisiana psychologists: Drs. Jill Hayes, Erica Meyers, and Christopher Garner. There was discussion of the fact that many psy-

chologists do not have an understanding of the process by which complaints to the licensing board are handled. As a result, the Board may present a workshop on the complaints process at the spring LPA convention.

There was much discussion on the new Continuing Professional Development rule, including some aspects of this rule

“The Board indicated that these rule changes will be disseminated to psychologists for comment.”

which will need modification. Some of these modifications will clarify and eliminate discrepancies in the rule. Other modifications will make improvements to the new rule. Some of the changes which were discussed included differences in how credit is awarded for activities such as peer consultation groups and practice outcome monitoring.

There was also discussion of adding the auditing of a transcribed graduate level course as a means of obtaining CPD credit. In addition, there will be clarification of how credit is awarded to psychologists who prepare and deliver professional workshops. The Board indicated that these rule changes will be disseminated to psychologists for comment. The current Rule for

Continuing Professional Development is in effect until these modifications are formally adopted.

Other topics addressed in the meeting included the jurisprudence examination, the addition of the 2010 APA Ethics Code to the Louisiana Professional and Occupational Standards for Psychologists and the standards for telepsychology. ♡





Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee

by Lucinda DeGrange, PhD.

As many of you are aware the state is transitioning the handling of Medicaid claims from Magellain to the Bayou Health Plans: Aetna Better Health, Amerigroup RealSolutions, Ameri-Health Caritas, Louisiana Healthcare Connections and United Healthcare on 12/1/15. As a clinician if you are interested in being a Medicaid provider you can sign up with one Bayou Health Plan company or more than one. In an effort to help our members with the decision to become a provider and if so which company or companies to go with, as your legislative chair I have requested reimbursement information from each of the Bayou Health Plan companies. We have gotten actual numbers from one company; Amerigroup and I thank Amerigroup for their efforts to be transparent. While Amerigroup is the only company that provided actual numbers all the other companies I was able to talk with stated that they would pay at least the state Medicaid rate. I was able to get the state Medicaid rate from a state agency. The state rate is the same rate that Amerigroup quoted me for the two commonly used codes listed below. The state Medicaid rates are listed alongside the state Medicare rates for commonly used codes for therapy and assessment.

Reimbursement Rates:

Code 90837

Individual Psychotherapy 60 minutes

\$79.02 Medicaid rate

\$126.79 Medicare rate

Code 96101


Psychological testing, interpretation and report by a psychologist

\$48.67 Medicaid rate

\$ 81.14 Medicare rate

The Medicare rates have been included

since Medicare is the base of which all the rates, private and Medicaid is determined. In a meeting on 11/20/15 with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert, DHH Assistant Secretary and Medical Director for the Office of Behavioral Health Dr. Rochell Dunham and two others from Ms. Kliebert's administration, the concern over the low Medicaid reimbursement rates was discussed. LPA's executive director Cindy Bishop, LPA President Lacey Seymore, Ph.D. and myself were told that if psychologist are not satisfied with the rates being offered they should negotiate better rates individually. Additionally, we were told that the companies need a critical number of psychologist and if the companies do not have enough they will need to negotiate better terms with providers individually.

If you would like more information or have comments you do not wish to share on the listserv please do not hesitate to contact me directly lucindadegrange@yahoo.com or my cell 504-460-7151. 



Drs. Amy Henke, Urmi Jani, and Carolyn Weyand participate in November's EC Meeting.



Report of Louisiana's APA Council Representative by Darlyne Nemeth, PhD, MP

On November 1, 2015, we learned of Dr. Tony Puente's election to the position of APA President-Elect. He will take office in 2017. The 2016 President of APA will be Dr. Susan McDaniel. The current APA President is Dr. Barry Anton.

As many of you are aware, Dr. Puente's election is a step forward for APA. It is also a very good thing for Louisiana psychology. Both Dr. Janet Matthews and I served on Dr. Puente's election committee. Others on the committee were Drs. Daniel Allen, Gerry Goldstein, Teresa LaFramboise, and Karen Postal. During his campaign, Dr. Puente tried to visit as many states as possible in order to bring his campaign slogan, "An APA for All," to us. He conducted an LPA PAC workshop at Dr. Kim VanGeffen's home, during which many Katrina stories were shared. It was this impetus that propelled me to develop the Katrina 10 Wellness Workshops.

To date, we have had 3 Workshops. The first Workshop was on 8/15/15 to Train the Trainers at the New Orleans Healing Center.

The second Workshop was conducted on 8/29/15 at the Evangelical Missionary Baptist Church on Willow Street in Uptown New Orleans. The third Workshop was conducted on 11/21/15 at the Trinity Lutheran Community Center in the Lower 9th Ward. We owe a special thanks to Dr. Gail Gillespie for arranging the Trainers' Workshop at the Healing Center, to Dr. Beverly Stubblefield and her husband, Bert Kemp, for providing lunch to the Trainers, and to Dr. Chin-Chin Ho for arranging the 11/21/15 Workshop. It is my understanding that 6 follow-up 2 hour sessions will be planned by Dr. Chin-Chin Ho for the benefit of those who attended the 11/21/15 Workshop. Those psychologists who live in New Orleans and who were trained in these intervention techniques at the 8/15/15 Workshop, will be asked to facilitate these group intervention sessions. Lastly, I am very grateful to my Clinical Assistant, Julia Hussey, B.S., for all the work that she did to prepare for these events.

The 11/21/15 Workshop was very moving. Attendance was robust. We were able to break

down into 3 individual groups from the group as a whole experience. And many individuals shared heart-wrenching experiences of their Katrina survival, as well as their post-Katrina lives, which have been so altered by this 8/29/05 event. Many have become very isolated and lonely. For some this was the first community event they attended since Katrina. Some spoke of having received no help since Katrina and now living on blocks with no neighbors. Others indicated that they did receive help from the Red Cross; however, no mental health intervention was reported. This was also the case with the Willow Street 8/29/15 group.

It was interesting to note that, during the Willow Street Workshop, we could hear the sirens announcing President Clinton's visit to a family that lived in Uptown. Yet, the pastor of the church stated that no mental health services were ever received in the last 10 years. He did not understand why this family was receiving this visit. This fact, along with other similar facts, were discussed in this Workshop.



We were thrice blessed at the 8/29/15 Workshop with the presence of Drs. Judy Kuriansky, Tommy Davis, and Wismick Jean-Charles, who is a Haitian Catholic Priest. Dr. Tommy Davis, who is also a well-respected gospel singer, recorded a song for the Workshop titled, "You Are Still Loved." Dr. Davis also recorded a RILEE Relaxation Exercise for all present. Both at the 8/29/15 and 11/21/15 Workshops, these were used and all attendees were given CDs to enjoy at home.

Support for these Workshops was raised from many sources including, but not limited to, the American Psychological Association, the Baton Rouge Area Society of Psychologists, and many private individuals. Although LPA did endorse these Workshops, no expenses were incurred by LPA. Furthermore, all Trainers donated their time and expertise. Any



Report of Louisiana's APA Council Representative ...Continued from p. 8.



additional expenses, beyond that which were raised by me, were incurred by me. I consider this to be my community service and my contribution to LPA. Lastly, LPA received a tremendous amount of publicity via this good-will experience.

Of course, the Hoffman Report has clearly become a central issue at APA. Division 19, the Society for Military Psychology, was very offended by this report, which they consider to

be extremely one-sided. Members of the Society for Military Psychology have written a rebuttal, which is currently being considered and reviewed by the Council of Representatives (COR), the Board of Directors (BoD), and Dr. Tony Puente. I am reading this report this week, and will be on conference calls about it later in the week.

Lastly, I have managed to put forth a proposal to COR regarding eliminating the use of

cut-off GRE scores for consideration for admission to doctoral programs.

The use of the GRE is fine, but having a clear statement that if a student scores below "X," that student's application will not be considered is unacceptable. I think this negatively impacts minority and otherwise disadvantaged candidates. I have stood strongly against this

misuse of GRE scores. I believe that this may come up for a vote in the Council Meeting in February 2016. Please know that if you have any questions or concerns, I am open to addressing them and/or to bringing them to Council. Ψ

LPA – 2015: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Executive Council Meetings:

January 24th

April 11th

May 16th

July 11th

September 12th

November 21st

- January 24, 2015 – Received \$11,000 APA Organizational Grant
- February 2015 – Received \$7,000 APA Legislative Grant from 2014
- March 14-17 SLC Meeting in Washington DC
- April 4 – LP PAC Fundraiser New Orleans
- April - Legislative Session
- April 17 Co-hosted Behavioral Health Forum Baton Rouge
- May – Legislative Session
- June – Legislative Session
- June 12-13, 2015 Annual Conference
- August 15th – LPA Train the Trainer Workshop
- August 29th – Hurricane Katrina Workshop
- September 2015- Received \$10,000 APA Emergency Grant
- November 7, 2015— Fall Workshop
- November 21, 2015— Hurricane Katrina Wellness Workshop



Continuing Education Committee Report by Gail Gillespie, PhD

During the November 2015 meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the new rules for continuing professional development were discussed. The LSBEP is in the process of revising details of the rules – some of which remain ambiguous. They will request comments from licensed psychologists about forthcoming updates, and will eventually issue the updated rules which will not go into effect until the new rule is adopted. The most recent rule for continued professional development went into effect in 2014, which greatly broadened the manner in which psychologists can earn continuing education. The LSBEP recently posted

a new form on their website which psychologists should be using to document their continuing education activities. This form – titled CPD Verification - can be found on the LSBEP website under the “Licenses” tab, under “Forms,” then at the bottom of that page under “Renewals.”

of interest. Our psychologists have many talents and expertise that could be of benefit in our communities, and a great marketing tool for your practice or facility. This list of speaker services will be posted on our website for public access, and advertised through social media as an LPA service. An example of one way this

“...consider being part of the (LPA) Speakers Bureau – an LPA service which benefits both psychologists and the community...”

The LPA is beginning a Speakers Bureau in which our members offer their services to our surrounding communities by offering presentations on various topics

could work is as follows: You have a prepared presentation about ADHD diagnosis and treatment. A school counselor accesses our website, sees that we


have a Speakers Bureau, and contacts you to come present at their school’s PTA meeting. If interested, submit your curriculum vita, the topic(s) about which you are available to speak, and



a brief summary of the content of your presentation to the LPA C.E. chair for review and approval. Please consider being part of this Speakers Bureau – an LPA service which benefits both psychologists and the community, and is a win-win for all involved.

“In other news....”

LPA is seeking a psychologist or psychology graduate student who may be interested in working with the Public Education Committee to enhance our website and social media presence. This individual would work with LPA’s current webmaster, and would be in charge of keeping the website current with local, regional, and national news and legislation in the psychology community, as well as expanding our presence on Facebook and other social media outlets. Ideally, this person would already have some working knowledge and experience in these areas. If interested, please contact Gail Gillespie.

GailGillespie13@gmail.com. 



EC members discuss continuing education rules during the November meeting .



Early Career Psychologists' Corner: Being a Mentee by Michelle B. Moore, PsyD

For the mentoring program that LPA has developed, a mentee is defined as an individual who is in the early stages of their career (first seven years), an individual who has a provisional license, or someone still in school who is working towards a degree in psychology. At each stage of development, there is something to be learned from those more experienced. Established psychologists can offer guidance and wisdom on areas of professional and personal growth. Maybe you are trying to decide what you would like to do long-term, i.e. teach, provide treatment or evaluations, conduct re-

search, publish, etc., or you have established your long-term goals and need to find out how to effectively get to your destination. A mentor can help you to enhance your career while building confidence in your abilities.

Personally, I have found my mentors to be incredibly helpful in advancing my career and helping me to navigate the early stages of my career. My mentors have expertise in areas that never crossed my mind as possibilities. They have made suggestions to build my CV to work toward promotion. Since I began working with them, I have found more balance in my

life and make decisions based on my long-term goals.

If you are interested in becoming a mentee, please contact Dr. Michelle Moore, michellebmoore@gmail.com. I will send you more information about the mentoring program that LPA has created, as well as a brief set of questions to complete to learn more about you in order to ensure that we find a good fit between mentor and mentee. [ψ](#)



The purpose of the Early Career Psychologist (ECP) Committee is to provide a supportive network to ECPs who are just beginning their careers as well as to create stronger relationships between newly licensed psychologists and veteran psychologists who can share their wisdom and expertise. The committee also hopes to address and resolve any unique issues, both professionally and personally, that arise for ECPs and to advocate for ECPs when necessary. The current committee consists of myself and Drs. Lacey Seymour, Anne Ciccone, Melissa Dufrene, Fernando Pastrana, Jacquelyn Braud and Ashley Jefferson. If you are interested in joining the ECP Committee, please send an email to michellebmoore@gmail.com.



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**Advancing
psychology as a
science, profession,
and as a means of
promoting health,
education, and
human welfare**

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LPA At Work For You:



Your LPA membership supports the profession of psychology by:

- Establishing and maintaining high standards of competence, training and ethical conduct.
- Safeguarding the interest of the profession and the public.
- Working with the many state agencies and regulatory boards, including the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Insurance.
- Representing psychologists' interest with managed care and insurance companies, and health plans about the importance of employee mental health benefits.
- Representing psychology in the State Capitol and being the unified voice on issues affecting psychology.
- Representing you on governance and policy decisions with in the American Psychological Association.
- Safeguarding the freedom of scientific inquiry, teaching and professional practice.

Benefits of Membership

- Annual Convention
- Discount Continuing Education Rate
- Developing Academic Committee
- Developing Diversity Committee
- Early Career Psychologist Program
- Fall Conference
- Forensic Consultation
- Networking Opportunities
- Legislative Advocacy
- Online Referral Service
- Online Membership Directory
- Member Listserv
- Special Interest Groups
- Website