



Louisiana Psychological Association

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Louisiana Psychological
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President's Column By Bryan Gros, Ph.D.



By the time you receive this newsletter, my tenure as president will have but a few days remaining. I thought long and hard about what exactly to write about in my final column. If you recall, my tag line during my time as president was "revitalization." My first idea was to talk about my experience. But, I am not one who is comfortable talking about me. I am more comfortable tooting LPA's horn. So, what I thought would be best would be to outline just what LPA and your Executive Council have done during the past twelve months

to help revitalize the organization. I am proud to tell you that it was not a "business as usual" kind of year. There were several new ideas and initiatives instituted.

Before I do that, I would first like to welcome incoming president, John Fanning. John is a dynamic and intelligent person whose vision will help keep the energy alive in LPA. As the saying goes, "You're in good hands." I also want to thank the entire EC, especially outgoing EC members, Alicia Pellegrin and Wes Brockhoeft.

Your tireless work and "stepping it up" this year made a world of difference for LPA. Of course, the EC could not have accomplished half of what we did without you all, the members, especially a number of invigorated ones who gave input, ideas, and help

keeping the fire burning. Thank you for that.

This was a year of transition. Midway through my tenure, Gail Lowe, our prior Executive Director, moved to greener pastures in her life. This was planned and by no means an indicator of discord or dissatisfaction on anyone's part. Gail has done a tremendous job and she is sorely missed. Her shoes were difficult to fill. In January, we hired a new Executive Director, David White. With a wealth of experience and ideas in the management of state associations, he hit the ground running.

Right out of the gate, LPA formed a new committee, the Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues, chaired by Robert Storer. This committee of several psychologists serves to answer and respond to members' con-

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"I am proud to tell you that it was not a 'business as usual' kind of year."

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cerns and questions and offers guidance on legal, forensic, and ethical issues. Feedback from members who have consulted with this committee has been excellent. This is just one of many new perks of your membership.

We were able to create a Diversity Delegate and Early Career Psychologist Delegate to APA. Lucinda DeGrange and Lacey Seymour were both able to attend the APA State Leadership Conference in Washington though grants LPA

was awarded though APA. Both will form committees, one to help develop programs and initiatives for LPA members from diverse ethnicities and backgrounds and one to do the same for programs related to early career psychologists. These are two areas in which LPA was sorely lacking.

This year LPA also approved a new member position designed to offer assistance and help in the coordination and dissemination of information related to disasters, such as hurri-

canes, floods, and other traumas that may affect communities or LPA members. In the past (i.e., Hurricane Katrina), some members stepped up to assist others with relocation and other concerns, but there was no designated person or group from the outset. While we hope we won't need to use this often or at all, LPA believes this is a good idea

As I continue on the EC as past-president, I will be involved as a new liaison to other professions and professional organizations. Earlier this year, I met with the Louisiana Counseling As-

"Their (MPs) continued involvement in LPA is important to us."

sociation (LPC's, LMFT's, substance abuse counselors) to discuss mending fences and ways in which we can collaborate. Not surprisingly, this meeting went very well. I will continue outreach efforts with the LCA and others such as the social work board, master's level school psychologists, etc. Related to this, LPA will be actively working on becoming CEU providers for other professions, including social work, LPC's, LMFT's, and substance abuse counselors.

LPA has also instituted a new and revamped Medical Psychology Advisory Committee, under the direction of our own Darlyne Nemeth. LPA continues to have members who have obtained the license in Medical Psychology, as well as an even larger number of individuals in training



Drs. Gros and Griffin listen to Executive Director, David White's updates on LPA's financial status.

President's column

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for the MP specialty. Their continued involvement in LPA is important to us. This committee shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Executive Council regarding issues related to medical psychology and the development of programs, activities, and initiatives within LPA to foster and enhance involvement of LPA members who are medical psychologists and those in training. The focus will differ from previous MP Advisory Committees and shall not be legislative, nor will it advocate for any board other than LSBEP regulating the practice of psychology in

Louisiana.

Holding true to a pledge, LPA has been more transparent than ever. Not long after this EC began business, we were called to task on this. A member requested information that some might consider very sensitive (financial records and grant information). I'll be honest, here. Not all EC members were initially in agreement. However, after relatively pain free EC discussion a consensus was reached and the EC released this information with blessings. We've also been much more open in soliciting member involvement and input.

Lo and behold, your feedback and suggestions spurred us into action. I do hope this continues.

Also this year, Jesse Lambert took the lead in



Dr. Jana Martin of APAIT provides input during the LPA Annual Business Meeting.

tackling issues related to the Magellan/Medicaid Behavioral Health Partnership. LPA was able to have reimbursement rates corrected through Magellan. This task force is working on other issues, including approval and reimbursement for court ordered assessments through the Magellan/Medicaid partnership. Jesse and others have done a tremendous job.

Although LPA may be one of the last state associations to do so, the EC finally approved a jump into the 21st century with the use of Facebook. LPA now posts up-

dates to meetings and other issues related to the field of mental and behavioral health. As intended, it can also be used for "social networking." Something also new from

"Holding true to a pledge, LPA has been more transparent than ever."

LPA this year is e-clips, weekly short e-mail newsletters sponsored by LPA that include information and links related to psychology and behavioral health. This is also new perk of your membership.

In another leap to modern times, LPA has recently made a



President-elect John Fanning listens to discussion during the LPA Annual Business Meeting.

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move to electronic voting. After a kink or two, this will be seamless in future elections. As chair of nominations and elections, I'll be sure of it.

LPA is also now working on a new and improved website. This will replace our old website, which some, includ-

of glitches. Our servers have been responsive as we minimize these.

LPA has also been much more active in its communications with our licensing board this year. We continue to send a liaison to LSBEP meetings and offer ideas and input. LPA was able to solicit

feedback.

Also this year, LPA is offering input on LSBEP long range planning sessions. We also now have a representative on the school psychologists work group / committee of LSBEP. This group is exploring the inclusion of master's level Board of Education School Psychologists in LSBEP. Our involvement with LSBEP has been very positive.

Legislatively, LPA has been more proactive than usual. We participated in the study commission on the regulation of BAs. After intense negotiations, communication with the BAs, Senator Morrell, and LSBEP, and feedback from LPA members, LPA took a stance against and helped prevent a merged board with LSBEP, which would have diluted our own board with non-psychologists. Many thanks to our legislative team of Alicia Pellegrin, Bob Storer, our lobbyist, Kevin Hayes, and Lacey Seymour for their tireless work. And

"Legislatively, LPA has been more proactive than usual."

thanks to those who offered input

LPA will continue to diligently work for you in as many areas as possible. Your EC has been very active. Could we have done more? As always, yes. What I do hope is that the EC has made some important changes and put new ideas into motion that will bear more fruit in the not too distant future. You can bet that the EC and I, as "past-president", will work hard to make this happen.

Thank you.



LPA Members participate in discussion during the Annual Business Meeting.

ing me, have called archaic. Be on the lookout for a more user-friendly, modern, and aesthetically pleasing site in the next couple of months. Our new list serve, which offers a bit more flexibility in its management, has had a small number

input from all of you on proposed continuing education rule changes. You spoke and LSBEP listened. LSBEP indicated they were grateful for our comments and many of the proposed changes were omitted or amended in response to your



Notes From Your Spring Conference! By John Fanning, PhD, President-Elect and Conference Chair



A number of years ago, writer David Lipsky was allowed to spend a year at West Point to gather material for a book, *Absolutely American*. The book was serialized in (of all places) *Rolling Stone*. Lipsky's articles described the multitudinous demands cadets had to meet, including academics, military skills, and physical fitness tests. If a cadet got snagged on a skills test or didn't clear a fitness test, the instructors would tell him (or her), "This is a developmental opportunity."

I thought of that

phrase frequently during the planning of our Spring Convention, which involved numerous snags, revisions, changes of plans, and spur-of-the-moment complications. Some of this is part of any event planning, of course. In this case, the process was further complicated by Gail Lowe's departure and the process of getting established with our new executive management firm, Reisman-White. Conceptually, there was some disagreement regarding whether to try something quite different, or to follow our standard format closely. One presentation track or two? The Spring Convention is important not only for continuing education and networking opportunities, but is also important to LPA financially. Eventually we settled on a two-day event, since Satur-

days have usually had lower attendance, and two tracks. We made arrangements with the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge, then had a major potential problem when the hotel discovered that it had significantly overbooked the facility. Fortunately, they were able to resolve this problem.

The convention began on the morning of May 30 with an address by Dr. Jana Martin of the APA Insurance Trust (APAIT). She described both the multiple challenges our profession faces, and

her confidence that we, as a profession, can meet and surmount these challenges. After her opening presentation talks were presented in simultaneous tracks. Dr. Michelle Moore and Kate Cuno presented on the use of mindfulness-based treatment in school settings. Dr. Mike Chafetz presented research on the problem of exaggeration or feigning of cognitive symptomatology in disability assessments, and conceptual approaches for assessing this.

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists held a discussion of developments and issues during a luncheon



Dr. Jesse Lambert accepts the Early Career Psychologist Award.

"This is a developmental opportunity.' I thought of that phrase frequently during the planning of our Spring Convention."



Notes from Your Spring Conference...continued from page 5

presentation. This was followed by a three-hour presentation by Dr. Sherry Desselle, "Providing Culturally Competent Therapy with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning Clients." This included material on a historical background of issues, discussion of the effects of stigmatization, and intervention techniques, as well as APA practice guidelines.

On Thursday morning, we received

word that our invited speaker for the afternoon session had encountered air travel problems, and would not be presenting at the convention. Anticipating the possibility of having a speaker no-show, I had brought a flash drive with a two-hour presentation on the cognitive disorders in DSM-V and recent developments in dementia research, with a handout, and presented on this topic. Dr. Julie Nelson sug-

gested a panel discussion for the remaining hour on contemporary career issues in psychology. A number of attendees served on the panel, and a very active discussion ensued.

Among the themes brought up were the relative isolation of many psychologists from their peers (particularly those in solo private practice), reimbursement issues, needs for younger psychologists to learn business and practice issues which were never taught in graduate school, and the need for us to connect both with the public and with our peers in the profession. A number of attendees and panelists stressed that much of the public--and even people in other professions with whom we work (including legislators)--simply do not have any clear idea of our

Dr. Kelly Pears provided a workshop on prolonged exposure therapy for PTSD (along with Dr. Leslie Drew)



"(Kelley Parker) said a memorandum of understanding with the BAs would have to be developed (re: cost sharing)."

training level, what we do, or ways that our skills can be brought to bear to solve problems. One of the original goals of the convention committee was to develop opportunities for just this type of discussion and interaction, and I found the comments of attendees and panelists to be very pertinent to our future course as a profession.

Following the afternoon presentations,



Dr. Joe Tramontana accepts the Distinguished Psychologist Award (from Dr. John Fanning).

Photo courtesy of The Psychology Times



Notes from Your Spring Conference...continued from page 6

the annual LPA business meeting was held. Dr. Joe Tramontana was announced as the winner of this year's Distinguished Psychologist award, and Dr. Jesse Lambert was the winner of the Early Career Psychologist award. Congratulations to both of them! Unlike some recent years, there were no major contentious issues to be addressed in the business meeting. There was action on a bylaws measure aimed at streamlining some administrative processes.

A Casino Night fundraiser for our PAC had to be cancelled, but the EC is already working on a fund-

Dr. Gros discussed prevention of bullying.



raising event for next time, which I think will be a lot of fun.

Friday morning's agenda began with an opening presentation on the political process of developing legislation to address the needs of autistic children by Sen. J. P. Morrell, who played a pivotal role in the recent and difficult legislation of state regulation of applied behavior analysts. Sen. Morrell told the attendees that he has a particular interest in this issue, since his own child has a mild autistic-spectrum disorder. Friday morning's talks included a presentation by Dr. Bryan Gros (president of LPA) on manifestations, methods, and psychological sequelae of bullying in schools and the community, with discussion of strategies to prevent bullying and to help victims, parents, teachers, and adminis-

trators. Dr. Kelley Pears and Dr. Leslie Drew gave a very authoritative presentation on the use of prolonged exposure therapy with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Their work is with combat veterans in the VA system, and they have a great deal of experience in this area.

Friday morning's schedule also featured the 2nd Annual Symposium for Students, prepared by Dr. Tramontana, Dr. Beverly Stubblefield, Dr. Darla Burnett, and Dr. Darlyne Nemeth. Presenters talked about critical skill areas in their practices, and on preparation, application, and interviewing skills for students, interns, and postdoctoral fellows. This was followed immediately by a student poster session, coinciding with a lunch provided for attendees. The posters presented were quite good, and the awarded funds were divid-

“...the issue of reimbursement disparities (between medical and non-medical psychologists) for the same service has been resolved.”

ed among all of the presenters.

The afternoon sessions were remarkably diverse. Dr. Susan Andrews gave an excellent presentation on research involving music and the brain, and the application of music and soundwork in a variety of settings. I dare say it will almost certainly be the only presentation at any state psychological convention this year which includes Ozzy Osbourne singing "Crazy Train." Dr. Carolyn Weyand discussed contemporary topics in psychoanalytic psychotherapy conceptualization and practice, based on the psychoanalytic schools of classic psychoanalysis, ego psychology, attachment theory, and self psychology. Dr. Wey-



Notes from Your Spring Conference...continued from page 7



Audience participation during the workshop given by Dr. Susan Andrews (pictured).

and was also a panelist in a discussion of the assessment of dangerousness in clinical practice, along with Dr. Bob Storer, Dr. Lambert, and Dr. Rachel Stokes. This workshop involved case presentation, discussion of ethical issues, and common factors

in recent school shootings.

Our lobbyist, C. Kevin Hayes concluded the convention by updating members on issues and bills in the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

This year's convention was well-attended, with about sixty psychologists, postdocs, and students participating. We had presentations from practitioners in both the public and private sectors, and from academically-based psychologists. All of the presentations I

postdocs who presented their research in the poster session. I would also like to express individual thanks to Dr. Nelson (for improvising the career discussion forum) and to Dr Chafetz for letting us use his laptop for two Power Point presen-



LPA lobbyist, Kevin Hayes, provides a legislative update prior to the conference's final presentation.



Panelists of the Assessment of Dangerousness Workshop listen to Dr. Storer (not shown).

heard were quite good, and I was particularly heartened at the degree of attendee participation in discussion in the sessions. I would like to thank all of our presenters and panelists, everyone who attended and participated in the convention, and the students and

tations. In addition, I would like to thank David White, his assistant Amber Nicholson (who was our primary contact person in the entire convention process), and the staff of the Crowne Plaza.

Legislation Matters By Alicia Pellegrin, Ph.D.

This is my last newsletter article as your legislative chair. I was honored that you elected me to this position and the sense of responsibility that accompanied the role was never far from my awareness.

I must first say that this job is not one that is done alone, and I certainly cannot take all of the credit for our accomplishments. Not only did I have the support of our extremely talented lobbyist, Kevin Hayes, I also had the support of our two Presidents, Drs. Griffin and Gros who allowed me the flexibility to do what was necessary. In addition, I have to thank the legislative committee, particularly Drs. Storer and Griffin, who were always willing to give me their honest opinions or go the Capitol with very little notice. In addition, Dr. Jesse Lambert was always ready to make a call or set up a meeting regarding the issues pertaining to Magellan, Medicaid, and the Office of Juvenile Justice. His work on our behalf has been nothing short of remarkable.

We accomplished some things of which I am very proud, including our very first legislative initiative in years, changing language in the Children's Code that now allows psychologists to PEC children. We also began the LPA Political Action Committee and for the first time in a long time have a fund that we can use for political advocacy and lobbying. We have made some real progress in making our association and profession known to legislators and have promoted our "brand" by beginning to educate them about the unique skill set that we have. While I do not pretend that these accomplishments are more than simply "baby steps," I am proud that we have laid the founda-

tion for future progress on all of these fronts.

This past session saw the passage of the BA bill, which has been thoroughly discussed and analyzed in this space as well as on the member list serv. I will not revisit it here except to say that while we know that the bill is not perfect, when faced with a situation in which we knew that a bill granting autonomy to the BAs was going to pass, we kept our focus on maintaining the current governance of psychology. While there are some who are critical of our efforts and they certainly have a right to their opinions, there were strong forces both in the legislature and in the public arena that made this issue a tricky one. However, I believe without a doubt that given the bill that could have potentially passed, we succeeded in doing our due diligence.

While I will no longer serve as chair, I will remain involved with the PAC and would be honored to remain on the legislative committee as a nonvoting member if the new Chair will have me. Please continue to support the PAC as we continue to play an even greater role in politics and policy making. Your contributions are extremely important. Look for some fun PAC fund raising events that have been discussed on the listserv and get ready to put your groove on. I will if you will!!

I know that your next EC, headed ably by Dr. John Fanning, will be a dynamic one which will continue to advocate for you. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve LPA and I look forward to many years of growth and progress of our organization.

Contributions to the LPA PAC can be made by mail:

Reisman and White; C/O David White; PO Box 1448;
Cedar Park TX; 78630

or through the website

<http://www.louisianapsychologist.org/>





From the Elections Committee

Phillip T. Griffin Ph.D., ABPP

LPA Members,

The election results are at last final and can be announced:



President-elect.....JOSEPH TRAMONTANA

Secretary.....JESSE LAMBERT

Director.....SHERRY DESELLE

Director.....LUCINDA DEGRANGE

Congratulation all! This is my last official act on the LPA Executive Council since my involvement as Past-President ends June 30. The EC evolved considerably from the year I was President-Elect to this past year. I can honestly say that it became fun again and I looked forward to the meetings.

Joseph Tramontana will be great leader for our association and we have also brought into the fold three new, dynamic young psychologists. This was a very good year.



Campus Psi Chi Updates

The Louisiana Tech University Chapter of the Psi Chi International Honor Society and the Psychology Society helped organize and participated in the first Louisiana Tech University Campus Walk for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, which was held Saturday, May 11, 2013. This campus walk was designed to help bring awareness to suicide prevention, to remember those who took their lives, and to honor first responders for their efforts. Additionally, several community organizations were represented to inform the public about resources available for suicide prevention. The event was an overall success, and it helped Louisiana Tech University Psi Chi and Psychology Society members to have an experience that was enjoyable and educational. The goal is for the Campus Walk to become a yearly event to help further support suicide awareness and prevention on campus.



- Submitted by Felicia Burse



Report of the Professional Affairs Committee by Kim VanGeffen, PhD



I have continued to represent LPA at the Public Hour of the monthly meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Professional Examiners (LSBEP). I also attended the LSBEP Long Range Planning meeting in June, 2013. At the Long Range Planning Meeting, the Board created a Task Force to address the issue of Provisional Licensure. LSBEP is currently exploring the means to allow individuals who have completed their doctoral requirements (including internship) to obtain a Provisional License while the one year of post doctoral supervised practice is occurring. This movement has

the support of APA. Other states have already enacted legislation allowing psychologists to obtain Provisional Licensure. LPA has also been interested in this topic. The Task Force met on June 7, 2013 and consists of Dr. Darla Burnett of LSBEP, Dr. George Hebert, Dr. Julie Larrieu, Dr. Chris Garner and myself. The Task Force reviewed the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards guidelines for Provisional Licensure, as well as the requirements which have been developed by several other states. The Task Force will continue to develop guidelines which will be disseminated to Louisiana psychologists for comment.

At the Long Range Planning meeting, LSBEP also created a Task Force to examine the issue of the School Psychology specialist. This Task Force will be headed by Dr. Rita Culross of LSBEP.

LPA's Executive Director, David White, will represent LPA on this Task Force, which will hold its first meeting on June 28, 2013.

Louisiana psychologists should be aware of several new rules which LSBEP will be publishing in the July edition of the Louisiana Register (www.doa.la.gov/osr/reg/register.htm). These include the new rules for continuing education. The new rules will increase the biennial requirement from 30 hours to 40 hours but will considerably

broaden the opportunities for psychologists to continue their professional development. The July edition of the Louisiana Register will also contain proposed rules for temporary licensure in psychology as well as a requirement that Louisiana psychologists provide LSBEP with a current email address. One advantage of having current and accurate email addresses for psychologists is that LPA would be able to conduct the election for LSBEP in a more economical manner. Psychologists are asked to review all of these proposed rules and provide comment to LSBEP.

“...self directed learning, peer consultation, practice outcome monitoring, graduate level teaching, publications and conference/workshop presentations and attendance will all be allowed in the future for psychologists to fulfill the CE requirement.”



Dr. Leslie Drew provided a workshop on prolonged exposure therapy for PTSD (along with Dr Kelly Pears, not shown)



Letter to the Membership By the Executive Council

Dear LPA member,

A Letter To The Editor was published in the most recent issue of The Psychology Times (June 4, 2013, Vol 4, no.10) criticizing LPA's handling of negotiations regarding Senate Bill 134. If signed by the governor, this bill will create a practice act and separate board for BA (behavior analyst) practitioners. The new board's initial resources (funding and staff time) will come from the psychology board with the expectation that all expenditures and reimbursement for staff time will eventually come from their own revenue sources and the psychology board will be reimbursed. The letter asserted that the original proposal was for a merger of the BAs and the psychology board and that LPA's "single" objection to the bill was having BA representatives on the psychology board. It was asked, "Did they mistakenly believe that master level BAs would be given authority to vote on issues pertaining to the licensure and regulation of psychology?" The author, in his opinion, indicated that LPA 'acted alone' and seemed "pleased" to derail such a bill. The author also opined that LPA "[gave] away part of psychology" and did not consult with the psychology board in its process nor did LPA consult or get information from psychologists who are not members of LPA. The letter also noted concerns with dual licensure/ "double jeopardy" and psychologists possibly facing an increase in licensure fees to cover needed funds for the BA board. As this letter contains a number of inaccuracies, we would like to outline the historical process of LPA's handling of negotiations regarding SB 134 in order to set the record straight.

Firstly, it is important to note that the author of the letter to the editor is not a member of LPA, but previously has been. The author has been a past LSBEP member, but was not during this process. The author of the letter was not involved in the many discussions within LPA, the LPA Executive Council, LPA's discussions with the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, or the communications between LPA and Senator Morrell, the author of SB 134. These discussions were quite extensive, and the focus of them changed frequently based on changes in circumstances.

Our information is that in 2012, the psychology board (LSBEP) crafted a proposed bill that would place the regulation of behavior analysts as an advisory committee under LSBEP. LPA was then contacted by LSBEP, shown this draft, and asked for input. We offered initial support of this draft. This draft bill was presented to the BAs and Senator JP Morrell. It was soundly rejected and the message was clear to LPA and LSBEP that in its current form, this bill would not pass.

Subsequently, a BA study commission was formed, led by Senator Morrell and Catherine Morrell, to determine recommendations regarding regulation of BAs. This study commission included a representative from LPA who was both a psychologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). The author of the letter to the editor to the Psychology Times was not a member of or directly involved in this study commission. This group held vigorous discussions on the regulation of BAs for the better part of a year. With the support of the BAs and a highly vocal group of parents of autistic children, Senator Morrell pressed hard from the outset for an eventual separate and autonomous board for the BAs. Politics were involved. LSBEP also had representatives on this commission and contrary to the letter to Psychology Times, LPA was in frequent communication with LSBEP both during and following this process.

It was crystal clear to those involved in the commission discussions that a final vote would not support BAs being regulated by LSBEP as an advisory committee. It was less clear if participants



Letter to the Membership ...continued from p. 12

were willing to vote in favor of a merged board with psychology. Subsequently and with limited voting options, LPA voted for a merged board, but the final outcome was an overwhelming recommendation for the BAs to merge with and be regulated by the LPC board. LPA offered a dissenting opinion. The goal was eventual self-regulation by the BAs.

However, the BAs and the LPC board were unable to come to a mutually agreeable arrangement and this plan was abandoned. We were informed not long afterwards that LSBEP offered a merger with the BAs in which BAs would have two seats on the psychology board, not as advisory committee members, but as full members of the LSBEP. However, the draft legislation for this merger had no provisions or language regarding voting restrictions for BA's which was the source of some concern for us. LPA consulted with LSBEP, our lobbyist, and others and inquired specifically about the issue of voting rights for BA members of the LSBEP. LPA communicated frequently with LSBEP, including individual phone calls and phone conferences. We made LSBEP quite aware of our concerns and while LSBEP acknowledged, it was a valid concern and that they hoped to restrict voting privileges through rule making, LPA could not be given complete assurance that BAs, as full board members, would be prohibited from voting on all issues pertaining to psychology.

In addition to frequent communication with LSBEP, there were additional and on-going discussions among Legislative Committee members, Executive Council members, with our lobbyist, and eventually we sought input from LPA members via the LPA listserv. Through experience, LPA was aware that the provisions and details of bills can change in very important ways, often in the blink of an eye. In the end, the executive committee decided that the potential risk outweighed the potential benefit and decided we could not support the merger where BAs had two seats on LSBEP with no restrictions in the actual bill itself. As can be seen, LPA did not act alone or in a vacuum.

We also want to clear up any concerns that may have been raised about dual licensure. This is a non-issue. BCBA is a national certification [Board Certified Behavior Analyst]. This is one prerequisite to become a licensed behavior analyst under SB 134. As it already is in our practice act, if a psychologist has appropriate education and training as determined by OUR board, a BCBA or license by the BA board is not required to practice "behavior analysis." To be clear, dual licensure is not required for psychologists to practice "behavior analysis" or say that you practice as such; a psychology license suffices. Additionally, psychologists who have obtained the BCBA certification would certainly be allowed to call themselves "Board Certified Behavior Analysts," and practice "behavior analysis" without being regulated by a BA board. Nothing in the bill restricts this. Again, the practice of "behavior analysis" remains in our practice act. LPA successfully (and without objection) lobbied for an exemption in SB 134 for psychologists to continue to practice behavior analysis, and to call it as such. This is stated explicitly in SB 134: "An individual licensed to practice psychology within the state, so long as the applied behavior analysis services provided by the licensed psychologist are within the licensed psychologist's education, training and expertise. This includes individuals acting under the extended authority and direction of licensed psychologists." Again, the BA board will have no regulatory authority over a psychologist's practice of behavior analysis. Of course, psychologists 'can' obtain dual licensure at their leisure, just as they can with other professions in the field of behavioral health (i.e., a licensed psychologist can also be a licensed LPC; a medical psychologist licensed by the medical board can also choose to be licensed by LSBEP).



Letter to the Membership ...continued from p. 13

LPA does not believe we have "given away part of psychology." The political reality is that the BAs were going to obtain licensure and be regulated. Senator Morrell was adamant on that point and legislative leaders made it very clear to our lobbyist that with Senator Morrell's backing, the bill would pass. It was made known to LPA that all other parties, including LSBEP, were supportive of the eventual independent practice and regulation of BAs. It was made abundantly clear that the BAs would not be under the supervision of the LSBEP unless they had two full members on the board. This was political fact. The only politically feasible option was to work with others to come up with the best outcome attainable. With input from LPA members, we did this. LPA believes that a BA board working very closely with the psychology board (as opposed to having two BAs as full LSBEP board members) presents the best opportunity to do so. This was conveyed to all parties involved. While we were not "pleased," did not like the political process, and wished that matters were different, this was the reality with which we were faced. Note: the current version of SB 134 allows specifically for LSBEP to appoint one ex-officio non-voting member to sit on the BA board.

We want to be clear on another issue, funding for the BAs. In a face-to-face meeting, during an LPA Executive Council meeting, representatives from LSBEP indicated to LPA that the BAs would be responsible for all costs, including start-up monies.

LPA represents its members. We hope that all current LPA members will continue their membership, and encourage non-member colleagues to join LPA to increase the representation of all of psychology within our organization. LPA sought input from current members, and those who gave input overwhelmingly opposed a merged board. LPA utilizes a democratic process, but non-members have limited opportunity to participate.

Again, we want to thank you for your previous input on this issue.

Most sincerely,

The Louisiana Psychological Association Executive Council

From the Continuing Education Committee

Paula Zeanah Ph.D.

It is fair to say that the Spring Convention was a great success! Though attendance was relatively small, the presentations were informative, professional, and of high quality, and the participant discussions were lively. If you didn't attend, you

missed a very good program! We have a lot of dedicated, skilled, and energetic psychologists here in Louisiana, but in our busy day to day world, it's often difficult to find out what's happening with our colleagues, and what's going on in Lou-

isiana psychology. LPA's semi-annual conventions provide two opportunities to share our experiences and expertise, purposes and perspectives, and greet each other and grow as professionals. Given the opportunities and chal-



lenges for psychology

**From the Continuing Education Committee... Continued from p. 14.**

education, research, and practice posed by the rapid changes in health care, it is critically important that we are informed about what's happening locally and nationally, and that we have up to date, relevant information to inform practice. We need to support and encourage our young psychologists, still in training, to participate in state level professional activities. The conventions provide an important venue for such experiences. Plus, the conven-

tions really are a lot of fun!

Many of you are aware that there are significant changes in continuing education (CE) licensing requirements which will allow for a greater variety of activities to count for the CE credit (check with the LSBEP for the new rules; they have not been posted as of this commentary). This is good news in many ways, but I want to encourage all of the psychologists in our state to continue to attend our state conventions.

Plans are underway now for the fall convention—we will have Save the Date information available in the next few weeks!

Also be on the lookout for the CE webinars coordinated by Julie Nelson, PhD and hosted by LPA. These are usually short sessions on topics presented by experts within our state. Feedback has been positive on these as well—high quality, timely, interesting.

In sum, continuing education is an excellent

way to be involved in the growth and development of psychology in Louisiana. You can present, you can attend, and you can be actively involved in developing strong educational experiences. I hope to continue to meet more of you and that you will take advantage of the educational opportunities LPA provides—this is your organization, make it work for you. If you have suggestions, ideas, or questions, please contact me at pzeanah@tulane.edu

Winning Convention Poster Presentations: Abstracts**The Relationship Between Gender and Attitudes Toward Same Sex Marriage and the LGBT Community**

Simpson, D.P., Tracy, J.M., Lajaunie, S., Middleton, J., Niles, R., Harris, L., & Ford, A.

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between gender and attitudes toward same sex marriage and the LGBT community. This project is part of a larger study examining attitudes toward the LGBT community in relation to gender, ethnicity, and religiosity. Previous research in this area has been inconclusive concerning the role that gender plays in LGBT attitudes. Brown & Henriquez (2008) found gender not to be a direct predictor of attitudes toward gays and lesbians. Woodford (2012) found gender to be marginally associated with LGBT attitudes. In contrast, Holland, Matthews, & Schott (2013) found that being female was associated with higher levels of tolerance toward the LGBT community. The goal of this study was to add to the literature and to shine more light on the role that gender plays in these attitudes. Results from the present study indicate that gender plays an important role in the attitudes that a person holds toward the LGBT community. Overall, females showed more positive attitudes toward same sex marriage, lesbians, gay men, and transgender individuals. Interestingly, both males and females exhibited more negative attitudes toward gay men and less negative attitudes toward lesbians. This research may have important clinical and social implications for how the acceptance and affirmation of the LGBT community is approached in a college aged population based on gender.

**Winning Convention Poster Presentations: Abstracts...**

Continued from p. 15

Malingering-by-proxy: case examples as evidence for its inclusion in the definitions of child abuse**Dufrene, M., & Chafetz, M.**

Our research seeks to provide evidence that directing or pressuring one's child to exaggerate or feign symptoms in order to obtain financial assistance for the parent, malingering-by-proxy (MBP), is a form of abuse and should be treated as such by protective agencies. Currently, the Louisiana Department of Social Services definitions of abuse specifically exclude symptom exaggeration for financial gain in their definitions of abuse. This is troublesome when considering that the same negative outcomes can occur whether the behavior occurs to fulfill a psychological or financial need of the parent. Utilizing masked archived records of the first author, the present study follows three cases that are described in terms of the evidence for or against MBP as well as overall functioning. These cases highlight the negative impact of MBP upon childhood development and the argument is made for its inclusion within the definitions of abuse.

Using the TOVA to Better Understand the Attentional Problems with Children Diagnosed with Asperger's Disorder**Gremillion, A.L., Nemeth, D.G., Songy, C.M., & Hamilton, J.R.**

Objective: Gremillion, et al. (2011) found that including the Gilliam Asperger's Disorder Scale (GADS) quotient score in a comprehensive evaluation was very helpful in clarifying the diagnosis of Asperger's Disorder. As these children often have attentional and executive function difficulties, a more in-depth neurocognitive profile was needed. This paper will explore the value of using the GADS Cognitive Patterns Subtest to better understand the attentional and executive functions of Asperger's children.

Procedures: Ten children diagnosed with Asperger's Disorder were selected for this study. Comparisons were made between their Test of Variables of Attention (TOVA) scores, the GADS Cognitive Patterns Scores offered by their parents and their Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function (BRIEF-PRS) Parent Rating Scores.

Results: Of the four variables on the TOVA, the Impulsivity Total Standard Score was the most highly correlated with the GADS Cognitive Pattern Score and the Metacognition Index on the BRIEF-PRS.

Conclusions: As parents reports are only part of a comprehensive evaluation, it is important to look for objective scientifically valid data to confirm/disconfirm their concerns. Furthermore, it is likely that these children's impulsive behaviors are interfering with learning.



Winning Convention Poster Presentations: Abstracts...

Continued from p. 16

Can An 11 year old Seizure Disorder Patient Also Be Suffering From a Sleep Disorder?

Songy, C.M., Nemeth, D.G., Gremillion, A.L., & Hamilton, J.R.

Objective: The purpose of this presentation is to explore the relationship between a seizure disorder and a sleep disorder in a single case study.

Participant: An 11 year old Caucasian female previously diagnosed with a seizure disorder was referred for a comprehensive neuropsychoevaluational evaluation by her pediatric neurologist. Of concern to the neurologist was the child's lack of Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep. Two previous electroencephalograms (EEGs) were conducted with positive results.

Procedures: The following procedures were utilized in this evaluation: Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth Edition (WISC-IV), Woodcock Johnson, Third Edition, Form A (WJ-III-A), Illinois Test of Psycholinguistic Abilities, Third Edition (ITPA-3), Halstead-Reitan Neuropsychological Battery– Older Children (HRNB-OC), Gilliam Asperger's Disorder Scale (GADS), Childhood Anxiety Scale (CAS), Children's Depression Inventory (CDI), Child Personality Questionnaire (CPQ), and Projective Drawings. Attention was measured with The Trail Making Test, Parts A and B, and the Test of Variables of Attention (TOVA). The latter was especially relevant as an extreme Attention Performance Index (API) can be suggestive of sleep disorders. The TOVA consisted of the following variables: Omission, Commission, Response Time, and Variability.

Results: Results of the TOVA revealed an API of -12.14 which was indicative of either narcolepsy or a sleep disorder. Furthermore, significantly deviant results were found in all 4 Quarters of the TOVA, with Omission (Inattention) errors and Variability (Consistency) errors being the most problematic. This child made an extreme amount of Omission errors, which was suggestive of underlying neurological difficulties. Results of neuropsychological testing revealed a total Neuropsychological Deficit Scale (NDS) Score of 49, which was suggestive of a moderate degree of brain-behavior dysfunction, with positive Level of Performance and Right-Left Differences Total Scores. This child's score on Dysphasia and Related Variables was Within Normal Limits (WNL).

Conclusions: This child's teachers perceive her to be "slow to respond," but as having normal abilities, rather than as being neurocognitively impaired. It is likely that their perceptions are based on her pleasant, cooperative demeanor. Therefore, she is often passed over. There does not appear to be an understanding of her REM Sleep Difficulties and their consequent effect on her overall school performance. As psychostimulant medication is contra-indicated, she will be re-referred to her pediatric neurologist for medication management for her sleep disorder. As NuVigil, which is the treatment of choice for age 17 and older, is not Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved for use in her age group, this problem presents a significant challenge. Clinically significant findings will be highlighted in this presentation.



In the News...

On June 28, 2013, Governor Jindal announced the appointments of Drs. Jessica Brown and Phillip Griffin to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Dr. Brown will serve a one year appointment and received the second most votes in the special election conducted by LPA. Dr. Griffin will serve five years and received the most votes in the regular election. Dr Griffin is past president of LPA.

The Louisiana Psychological Association welcomes the following new members:

Full Members:

Joslyn McCoy, PhD
Beverly Stubblefield, PhD

Student Members:

Paula Johnson, BS
Mallory McCann, BS
John Tracy, MA



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