LPA Business Meeting – LPA Spring Convention 5-21-16

Executive Council Members in attendance:

Cindy Bishop – Executive Director

Dr. Lacey Seymour – President

Dr. Lucinda DeGrange – President Elect, Legislative Chair / Public Education Chair

Dr. Gail Gillespie – Secretary and Continuing Education Chair

Dr. Kim Van Geffen – Director / Professional Affairs

Dr. John Fanning – Director

Dr. Darlyne Nemeth – APA Legislative Chair

Dr. Amy Henke - Director

Dr. Joe Tramontana – Immediate Past President

Dr. Carolyn Weyand - Treasurer

Dr. Michelle Moore – Early Career Psychologist / Director

Absent:

Dr. Urmi Jani – Diversity Chair

Dr. Bryan Gros – director

Dr. Michele Larzelere – Publications / Federal Advocacy Coordinator

See attached Powerpoint presentation utilized during business meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by Dr. Lacey Seymour, LPA president.

Election’s Chair - Dr. Joseph Tramontana. The immediate past president is the elections chair. Dr. Tramontana announced the 2016 LPA election results for positions on executive council beginning July 1, 2016. Dr. Julie Nelson is president-elect for 2017, Dr. Charles Burchell is treasurer, and the three director positions are awarded to Drs. Kim Van Geffen, Constance Patterson, and William “Gig”” Costelloe.

Presidents Report – Dr. Lacey Seymour. This is LPA second year with Checkmate Strategies Cindy Bishop as Executive Director. LPA has made significant improvements in a variety of areas. Our fall conference focused on redefining LPA and expanding membership to all areas of specialization. An executive board retreat is planned at the end of the summer, after the newly elected executive council members take office July 1, 2016.

Treasurer’s Report - Dr. Carolyn Weyand. Finances continue to improve. (See attached finance report).

Continuing Education Chair Report – Dr. Gail Gillespie. LPA offered CE credit for LPCs and LCSWs for the spring convention, and will continue to seek CE for these two mental health associations for future LPA workshops and conventions. The new LSBEP CE rule updates were reviewed, and a reminder was made for psychologists to keep up with the CEs earned through non-traditional means on the CE documentation form on the LPBEP website. Dr. Gillespie discussed pushing forward on an LPA speaker’s bureau which would serve two purposes – to provide a list of psychologists who are available to speak in their respective communities on issues related to psychology, as well as a list of potential speakers who are available to provide workshops for CE to mental health professionals.

APA Council of Representatives Report - Dr. Darlyne Nemeth. Dr. Nemeth announced that Dr. Tony Puente was elected APA president for 2017. Dr. Nemeth and Dr. Janet Matthews serve on the APA Advisory Committee. APAPO advocates for psychologists, and has awarded $11,000 to LPA in the form of a grant this year. Dr. Nemeth recommends supporting APAPO with an annual membership contribution. APAPO lost funding after losing a lawsuit in which APAPO fees are no longer required in membership fees with APA. As a result, APAPO lost a lot of funding. APA cannot advocate for psychologists, but APAPO’s job is to advocate for psychologists. Money now goes to APA, which is not legislatively advantageous. Dr. Nemeth had six years of service as APA Council of Representatives. Every other person on the council was funded for travel and lodging, but the COR was not. Thanks to Dr. Nemeth’s recommendation the APA now funds this position. Dr. Michelle Larzelere is seeking election for this position, and whoever is elected will be educated and informed by Dr. Nemeth regarding role and responsibility of this position. The independent review of the Hoffman Report found many problems which resulted in significant conflicts. Division 48 (Peace Psychology) and Division 19 (Military Psychology) are at odds. Seven members of the APA rehired Hoffman to review his own report. APA has lost significant membership as a result of this report.

Minority delegates do not have voting seats on the APA Council, and staged a protest at the February 2016 meeting. Dr. Nemeth is proposing a new business item 24A, and will be asking APA to lower the GRE cutoff, which will allow access to minority delegates. The LPA Katrina Project was reviewed, and Dr. Nemeth indicated that lessons were learned in that the Convention Center and EJ Hospital were not successful locations for having the workshop, and once the workshop was brought into those areas that were hard-hit, they were much more successful.

Early Career Psychologist (ECP) Report – Dr. Michelle Moore. There are seven members of this committee from around the state. ECP began a mentoring program and continues to seek mentors and mentees for this program. The committee is brainstorming how to get more ECPs involved and active in LPA. A column is published in the LPA newsletter about topics relevant to ECPs. The committee hopes to create social events for future trainees and ECPs, and is involved in organizing and orchestrating the student poster session at the current conference.

Legislative Committee Report – Dr. Lucinda DeGrange. Kevin Hayes is the LPA lobbyist, and Ms. Bishop is also very active in many matters relative to LPA. LPA – with the assistance of Dr. DeGrange - successfully worked with the Department. of Education and the BESE board in order to get a bill passed in which the diagnosis of ADHD by licensed psychologists is accepted as a diagnosis in order to classify a student with Other Health Impairments in Louisiana Bulletin 1508. Louisiana was one of the only states in which a psychologist’s diagnosis was not accepted for this classification. LPA is very active with the Mental Health Forum - a group that meets prior to legislative meetings to discuss bills that are coming up that affect the mental health field. Last year LPA co-hosted the event, and invited the Louisiana School Psychology Association to join with them in this annual meeting. LPA has also been very active with Bayou Health plans transition. Magellan was the mental health company contracted to provide mental health benefits to those with Medicaid coverage, and now each of the five Bayou Health plans is their own entity, requiring a separate application for each plan in order to be a provider. Reimbursement rates for psychological testing continue to be very low. Dr. DeGrange encouraged psychologists sign up as a Medicaid provider in order to have a voice in making changes. There is a risk that is run of psychologists being written out of programs due to their absence. LPA is invited to be part of various task forces with the mental health forum. One is an art therapist task force, which is looking at whether or not art therapists can be licensed to practice independently and to make diagnoses. Thus far, the consensus is that this is not supported. The current law allows art therapists to diagnose certain conditions. LPA is also an active member of the School Specialist committee under LSBEP and several other committees and task forces shaping behavioral health policy in the state of Louisiana. The purpose of the passing of this bill was to allow school psychologists with a Specialist Degree (Master’s plus 30 hours) to practice independently in schools. Nichols and LSU Shreveport have specialist programs in Louisiana. The reason for the need for this independent license is that there is a significant shortage of school psychologists in the schools to evaluate for special education classification. Another change that was made was that school psychologists with specialist degrees are now allowed to bill Medicaid. Until now, only LPCs and LCSWs could bill Medicaid.

Membership Report – Dr. Bryan Gros. There are 124 active members who renewed for 2016 and 36 have been recruited this calendar year. $35,975 in membership dues has been collected this fiscal year. There are 674 prospective members in the data base that Dr. Gros encouraged members to reach out to. LPA has 160 current members total, including seven corporate members. 66 members have yet to renew.

Professional Affairs Report – Dr. Kim VanGeffen. Dr. VanGeffen recommended members to give to the Political Action Committee (PAC). The Professional Affairs Chair serves as LPAs liaison to the LSBEP. This role entails attending the LSBEP monthly public hour, the annual long range planning meeting, and being involved on various task forces. In this role, the chair oversees activities of LPA members who serve on various Louisiana state boards and commissions and also represent LPA in positions within the APA. The chair informs the executive council and membership of issues being addressed by LSBEP and of decisions made by the LSBEP, and what is being planned for the year. LSBEP turned to LPA to get input such as providing our recommendations for the new CE rules. The recommendations that LPA made to LSBEP have all been adopted. There is an ongoing conflict between the two organizations regarding how the LSBEP elections process works, and LPA has backed out of this situation. LSBEP was considering adopting the APA ethics code, versus ASPPB code of professional conduct. LPA reviewed both documents in detail and believed APA code was superior and LSBEP adopted that recommendation. There is often request from media for input and Dr. VanGeffen is often asking for others who can be resources for the media.

Public Affairs / Public Education Report – Dr. Lucinda DeGrange. For the past two years there has been an official LPA Day at the state capital. For the first time this year LPA had a table at the capital and received recognition in the House and Senate chambers. LPA also met with several lawmakers to discuss policy issues. Representative Colombo was the one who announced LPA Day.

Publications Report – Dr. Michele Larzelere. LPA is replacing the newsletter with a blog on the LPA website. Among the various reasons for this decision was a decreased feedback from LPA members about the newsletter.

Federal Advocacy Coordinator Report – The state leadership conference was attended by Drs. Seymour, DeGrange, Larzelere, and Jani, along with executive director Cindy Bishop and her assistant Earl Michael for advocacy training. Everyone agreed that there was a lot of helpful info gathered from this conference. Currently mental health reform in congress is in a holding pattern. Coming soon will be the APAPO TEAM Initiative - Training and Engaging with Advocacy Mentors (see attached for details). Bills being monitored by LPA were as follows:

* Currently mental health reform legislation before Congress is in a “holding pattern”.  The Senate legislation we promoted during SLC was combined with an opioid abuse bill and moved through the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee in a bipartisan fashion
* BUT Senators from both sides of the aisle may attach controversial gun-related provisions to the legislation, which will kill the bill.
* The original lead sponsors, Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA), are pushing for taking up a “clean” mental health bill to prevent such provisions from derailing the legislation.
* Rep. Tim Murphy’s (R-PA, psychologist), bill the “Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act” (H.R. 2646) will probably not be brought before committee this year, effectively killing the measure.  Reasons for this stem from a lack of bipartisan support on the committee for the bill, and cost of the measure with a rumored price tag of $10 billion.  (Slight chance it might be heard before committee in June.)

New Business – Dr. Julie Nelson indicated that last year a motion was passed for LPA to have a strategic planning effort on which Drs. Nelson and William “Gig” Costelloe are working. The motion was for Drs. Nelson and Costelloe to continue to develop strategic planning information and continue to collect organizational diagnostic data for that strategic plan. They would gather valid and reliable data about LPA functioning, including information about members and nonmembers, as well as members whose membership has expired or lapsed. They would gather data on “brand” and relational variables about LPA in order to provide an evidence-based foundation for the strategic plan. Permission and support was asked from LPA members allowing them to move forward and to continue to develop and collect data for the purpose of strategic planning. This motion passed unanimously and without objection. There was a motion made last year to reinstall the Southern Psychologist - a state psychology journal. Dr. Bill McGown would like to chair and create a committee to research possible options for restarting this publication. Past archives of the Southern Psychologist are in Hill Memorial at LSU. The motion was made and passed to research methods to restart this journal.

Executive Director Cindy Bishop inducted and swore in Dr. Lucinda DeGrange as the new LPA president, whose role begins July 1, 2016.

LPA business meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.