7/11/15 - LPA E.C. NOTES

In attendance:

Dr. Lacey Seymour – President

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

Dr. Joseph Tramontana – Former President

Dr. Gail Gillespie – Secretary and Continuing Education Chair

Dr. Darlyne Nemeth – Council of Representatives

Dr. Kim Van Geffen – Director / Professional Affairs

Dr. John F – Director

Dr. Bryan Gros – Director / Membership Chair

Dr. Michelle Moore – Director / Early Career Psychologists

Absent – Dr. Carolyn Weyands (Treasurer) and Dr. Michele Lazarlere – Publications / Federal Advocacy Coordinator (out of town)

Cindy Bishop – Executive Director, Earl Willis – assistant

9:00 – Call to order by Lacey Seymour - President

Approval of minutes – Kelley Pears will be asked to email notes from former meeting.

Motion for approval for EC to meet every other month and to set dates, which are 9/12 and 11/21 and 1/9 and 3/19 and 5/21 and June conference. Bryan emailed dates to EC

Continuing Ed. Committee – Dr. Gail Gillespie

Fall workshop is November 7, tentatively in east Baton Rouge, but no deposit yet. Looking for something more inexpensive, possibly through LSU. Review and brief discussion of spring conference evaluations. Noted was attendees’ desire for three-hour workshops. Dr. Moore discussed next year having one-hour paper presentations by students. Dr. Gillespie suggested that the fall workshop have workshops that draw both academicians and those in private practice, and an ethics workshop was also suggested. Dr. Gillespie to soon get together the C.E. committee to meet and discuss possible workshop ideas.

Treasurers report – by Cindy Bishop

Balance of LPA checking account is down to $9300.21 after conference fees were paid. Considering base budget is $4000 per month for E.D. and lobbyist, LPA needs more funds / funding. $8200 came from sponsors for conference, and $10,760 came from registration fees. Conference expenses were high, and much of it was for food. Suggestion was made to consider “lunch on your own” next time. A drug company told Ms. Bishop that they can’t provide sponsorship, but can join at a corporate level. Ms. Bishop created different levels for $5500 down to $2500 Gold to bronze for corporate memberships. She wanted one more level for 1500. Ms. Bishoop asked Dr. Nemeth about cards from drug company sponsors, to then also ask them to join in the future, and they can be marketed on our website. Other ideas were discussed regarding how to increase our funds such as breaking the state up in different parts, and hold small workshops throughout the state. Dr. Seymour suggested a projected budget and Ms. Bishop said they had one, part of which included $50,000 in dues. Dr. Fanning recommended doing CE within groups like CCAPS. Dr. Seymour recommended holding workshops for parents, and Dr. DeGrange recommended we could market this to schools and pediatricians offices. Ms. Bishop has a meeting on Friday to talk about an emergency grant from APA. Dr. Seymour recommended having the spring conference at a larger space so that more sponsors can be invited. Dr. Moore recommended holding the fall conference somewhere that won’t cost LPA anything, and the CE committee will look into this by August 1. Dr. Tramontana formerly sent the E.C. the agenda from the MPA conference - three-hour workshops and one-hour student paper presentations.

Dr. Darlyne Nemeth – Council of Representatives:

APA’s Hoffman Report is true – APA did collude with Bush administration on torture. All aspects of APA government were involved, Steve Benke was fired. He reportedly helped to relax the ethics codes to allow for the types of interrogations that occurred. We can expect a clean sweep and lawsuits, and must make it clear to public that LPA has nothing to do with this. Today it became public. We received the report and will learn from it. We don’t know what will happen with APA now. APA presidential candidate Dr. Jessica McDaniel donated $50,000 to APA, and is already on the board. All 10 on the APA board knew this and all colluded and denied it all. Dr. Nemeth said APA needs an outsider running for president, and recommended Dr. Tony Puente. Dr. DeGrange indicated we don’t know who was involved, and Dr. Nemeth said all members of board were involved. Dr. Nemeth indicated that she wants LPA to endorse Dr. Puente. Dr. Gros asked what does endorsement involve and how do we endorse. Dr. Nemeth said the endorsement is sent to Dr. Puente, and Dr. Nemeth would say LPAs endorsement at the council meeting. All state associations will be endorsing someone and there are five candidates. It happens before first week in August. Dr. Nemeth recommended that the president of LPA should make a statement about LPA not being involved and Dr. Seymour indicated that she would do this before it hits the local media news. Ms. Bishop knows a P.R. specialist and will ask her how to move forward. Dr. Moore also indicated that she knows someone at Times Picayune and WWL. Ms. Bishop said she will ask listserv of state associations what they are doing regarding the report. Dr. Nemeth made a motion to get a press release out relative to the Hoffman Report and that LPA has no involvement. All were in favor.

Dr. Nemeth motioned that LPA endorses Dr. Tony Puente, whose only involvement through APA was in working on CPT codes. Dr. Van Geffen and Dr. Tramontana voted yes, Drs. DeGrange and Moore opposed, and all others present abstained (Drs. Gros, Fanning, Seymour, and Gillespie). Dr. Nemeth implored the E.C. to endorse him, saying if we don’t support him it will be extremely difficult. He’s the only candidate who hasn’t had any significant governance involvement with APA. All others have had association within the APA. Dr. Gros asked that we wait 96 hours to get more information before we take a vote, which would be Wednesday at noon. On the ballot would be Dr. Puente as primary and Dr. Daniel as secondary. Dr. Gros would send this to the EC through Simply Voting, to be voted on by Wednesday.

Diversity committee – Dr. Lucinda DeGrange. New diversity chair will be Urmi Jani, Psy.D. Has a private practice with the Cognitive Behavior Center and professor at Xavier.

Early Career Psychologists - Dr. Michelle Moore: Happy with poster session, want to add paper sessions next year, and more to attend, and more to do things at the convention. ECP will also start a mentoring program. Next meeting in 2 weeks and will be seeking mentors and mentees.

Elections committee – Dr. Bryan Gros: Will be turned over to Dr. Tramontana as ex president. Elections went smoothly, had 75% of LPA who voted, and all the candidates for the executive council “won”, as there were no opponents. Drs. Amy Henke and John Fanning are directors, Dr. Gillespie secretary, and Dr. DeGrange president elect. Dr. Pears and Dr. Zeanah are officially off the E.C. Dr. Bishop asked all incoming members to send head shots and CV.

An announcement of the results to the LPA is needed. Dr. Gros will continue to manage Simply Voting and elections chair can be in charge of soliciting nominations. Discussed was needing a timeline in the future to prompt voting notice. Dr. Gillespie suggested putting reminders in the LPA Google calendar to prompt timeliness. Gail Lowe, previous E.D., used to call elections chair and remind. Bylaws specify how it is to be done.

Ethics: Dr. Lee Matthews is absent. Dr. Bob Storer used to write a column. We need something out in newsletter about contacting Dr. Matthews if there are legal and ethical issues. Neither he nor Dr. Urmi are formally invited to the E.C. meetings; however, they can be emailed to ask if they have anything to report prior to EC meetings.

Legislative committee – Dr. Lucinda DeGrange. Dr. Seymour had talked about bringing up the diagnosis of ADHD in schools by psychologists. They talked with Wayne Stewart, Ph.D., and attorney, about this issue. Dr. DeGrange broached the topic with Kevin (LPA lobbyist) and is setting up a meeting with Kevin and Wayne to discuss further. She also contacted Nancy Bevin with BESE Board to ask if LPA could enter into formal talks with LA Department of 1Education about psychologists diagnosing ADHD in schools. She said she’d talk with DHH first. At the least we could meet and clarify our position. Also to have a conversation with John White, superintendant of schools. Someone mentioned that Kelly Ray, Ph.D., former president, also made an attempt with the BESE board on this issue, to no avail. Dr. DeGrange mentioned that all states but Louisiana are able to diagnose ADHD in the schools by licensed psychologists. Drs. Seymour, DeGrange, and Gillespie would collaborate on formulating a letter.

SB 113 passed without elections as part of the bill. Dr. Gros said the latest is that LSBEP passed an emergency rules, they would continue to conduct elections and forward results to LPA, who would forward the full results to the board. This is a new rule. In the past it has always been the top two vote-getters. Dr. Fanning said their rule has the force of law. In the law it says LPA shall report the results of the elections. There is no interpretation of who conducts the election. LSBEP initially said they would do the election and report results. LPA wanted to report results. LSBEP agreed, but their interpretation is that LPA reports all votes. Dr. DeGrange believes that LPA should do the whole election process. Dr. Gros said we can do that, the law states LPA shall report the results; however, if we try to do this LSBEP would pull out the letter from LPA saying that we wanted out of the election process. Why did we choose to get out before? So we can campaign. Another reason is that LPA pays for the election, which is very costly. Dr. Fanning said LSBEP wanted one of us to pull out, they were putting lots of resources, and held three different elections. Dr. Tramontana was at state leadership conference, 13 states at a table, he took a poll, only one other state was doing the elections and they were trying to get out of it.

Dr. Van Geffen said now that there’s a new executive director of LSBEP who needs to be approach to see if he’s open for discussion on this topic. Dr. Gros wants this on the agenda to talk about this. Marc Zimmerman is filling the vacated position. Dr. Zimmerman told Dr. DeGrange we should be able to have access to emails – it’s public information. Dr. Culross and Kelley (LSBEP E.D.) had a problem with it. Ms. Biship reported that Greg Gormanous (new LSBEP E.D.) said he’s not joining LPA. He feels FTC…. It’s a ruse by federation of state boards to get all in association off the boards. This is being used to throw associations off boards. He won’t join for that purpose. Kelly is gone but consults with Dr. Gormanous until December 2015. Ms. Bishop has a call to Barker Dearman about Dr. Culross’ vacancy and the vacancy about Comaty not being confirmed. He is researching the law about vacancies. Kelly emailed Dr. Seymour specifically that she’d be consulting, and handling the legislative and rules processes for the board.

Professional Affairs – Kim Van Geffen: She has difficulty getting adequate notice of when the LSBEP meetings are, but she will continue going.

Membership – Bryan Gros: 178 total full members as of July 2015; in July 2014 also 178 members. Full members in 2014 was 134, this year 164. Fewer associates and affiliates. Bryan said some of his responsibility because he didn’t send out to all students at LSU where he teaches 350 students. He usually gets 10-15 to join. Last year 18 new members, this year 56 new members. Renewals is 122. 70% renewal rate. We lost a lot of student affiliates, who tend to not rejoin unless in state graduate school. Last year 0 corporate, this year 6. We haven’t done corporate memberships since fall of 2009.

Executive Director’s Report – Cindy Bishop. We need to engage people to become involved. Dr. Lisa Settles recommended to create forums online. Ms. Bishop is against the LPA listserv, and more for forums. LPA sends out a newsletter. Dr. Moore reminded all that there is a strategic plan being presented today from Dr. Julie Nelson. Dr. Van Geffen recommended recognition of who is newly licensed, maybe give them a discount to the workshops. Maybe they will join. There was mention of previous membership cards begun by former E.D., David White, but Ms Bishop indicated they were too costly for our budget at the moment. Convention committee can look at how to invite new licensees, and Ms. Bishop recommended LPA being present when they do their orals. This has been recently forbidden, but once the new E.D. is in place, it can be suggested again. Ms. Bishop reported that past president, Dr. Phil Griffin wrote a very nice email saying how good the conference was.

Public affairs – Dr. Lucinda DeGrange: Communicating with Dr. Nemeth about Katrina workshops, contacting media. Ms. Bishop reminded that she told Rick Gallo we are giving him Senator of the year from LPA. We want to do something for someone in the House, and there was also recommendation for something to be done for someone on the education committee.

Elections – Dr. Bryan Gros: – How will they fill position on Comaty not being appointed? Dr. Gros understands LSBEP made an emergency rule to send results of most recent election to governor. LPA disagreed, Dr. Seymour sent a letter to Kelly saying they need to send results of previous election, and LSBEP denied thee results. They made a decision as a board out of the public eye, which breaks open meeting law. Ms. Bishop says that’s contradictory, for any public meeting you must have a space for comment. Dr. Gros had sent letter to LSBEP allowing public comment and board said that’s correct. Dr. Seymour said we need to take strong position to board. Dr. Gros said we sent a letter to Barker Dearman- director of boards and commissions - of the results of the former election, and Kelley said we sent wrong results. Mr. Dearman is researching how to fill the position. They have two lists – 2014 and 2015. Ms. Bishop said she wants to meet with Kathy Klibert, DHH secretary, to say we have a problem. It was on tape that Dr. Rita Culross said no public comments until end of meeting, then LSBEP voted to send all election results to governor. After the vote, they asked for comments. In the law it says public comments are to be before vote. Greg Gormanous (incoming E.D. for LSBEP) gave Dr. Tramontana his card, saying feel free to call any time. Ms. Bishop called Dr. Gormanous before his appointment to LSBEP, then Kelly sent a letter to Dr. Seymour saying Ms Bishop’s contacting him was inappropriate. Dr. Gros sent a letter to board stating this.

Drs. Julie Nelson and Gig Costelloe entered into the LPA E.C. meeting at 11:30 AM to present results of the strategic planning committee think tank. Dr. Van Geffen was their contact to LPA. Objective was to create new ideas about who we are as an organization. Also in the think tank were Drs. Bill McGown, Kathy Robins, and Susan Tucker - from all over state, reps from all specialties. The group assumed the LPA mission statement was what it was, brand is important, and outcome variables was # of members, satisfaction of members, and brand recognition

Discovered lots of challenges. Lots of data, more than they could process. Worked on brand – what a psychologist is. Recommending we continue this effort. Developed bones for plan to continue to develop a common identity. When organization is missing umbrella identity it fragments. Continue to support working on this. Subgroups exist. Worked with experts to create a brand. May need some experts in media to get the brand right. People are optimistic, want strong need for organized psychology. Brand needs a facilitator or it won’t work. LPA has spread out people. Geography pulls people into regional groups. What happened in group was high participation, highly and fully engaged when needs and feelings were addressed, and subtle things were brought to conscious level and it made it very productive.

Bill McGown is considering beginning to again produce The Southern Psychologist – it can be produced with little $. He is committed to this and has joined academic scientists group. Getting articles and student input will be easy. We want this group in LPA. Dr. Costelloe maybe doing an I.O. group. Possible program development group from Susan Tucker’s input. Dr. Costelloe said the think tank did this to help LPA, then the individuals in it took on the role to implement the ideas. This is important for the EC to acknowledge, there isn’t an easy structure for people to be involved (with LPA). It was recommended to create subgroups to align with members and potential members. Make use of natural connections that already exist, versus coming from LPA structure. For instance, Tiffany Stewart who just got honored for being woman of excellence by legislative caucus, lets get someone like that to do a group – health psychology – she does apps. Has an entrepreneur business. Why don’t we have special interest groups? Writers, inventors who are psychologists. Mental health is moving toward health psychology. Diversity group. All interest groups should be a pull at the graduate student level. VA psychologists. Spin off groups, EC should think of a way to create these and how to support this and move it forward. These groups could be linking pins to the strategic planning committee. Continue the work on identity and core. Julie said give certain people free memberships and ask them to be the leader of the group and lead these virtually a few or 3 times a year. Hoping it would be positive that these would continue membership. Dr. Seymour asked Dr. Nelson to write down the names of the people and their roles so we can reach out. Academic scientific group is already created but haven’t come up with their agenda. They are to help LPA to help link with academic scientist group. This can be a way to get the academics involved in the fall conference. Subgroups would create their agendas and present it to LPA. Dr. Costello said the big umbrella of psychology is difficult to identify because everyone has their own specialization. Mutual support group is what may be wanted.

Dr. Gros said there are special interest groups in other state organizations. This fits with our saying that we want forums. Dr. Moore said start with a small number of groups, have one contact person, send it to listserv, then begin to get together. Let them say what they want out of the groups. Dr. Nelson said pilot it for the next year and see how it goes. Dr. Nelson has hosted Web-ex online academy but can’t host all subgroups. Dr. Seymour said we need some general working model about minimal structure, how often to meet, how to report back to LPA. Drs. Nelson and Costelloe will formulate this idea. Dr. Nemeth made a motion to adopt the plan and move forward to implement and all were in favor.

New Business:

Dr. Lacey Seymour - Unlicensed professionals providing mental health services – people keep popping up offering “mental health” services. Sophisticated Women – providing services to children and they are not licensed in any mental health field. Paid $4000 to be on the cover of a local business magazine. Dr. Seymour called her to ask under what license she is operating and she didn’t have a response. Checked website and FB page and she is still advertising, also chiropractors. Dr. DeGrange said the chiropractor bill didn’t pass in the legislature, but they are still advertising working with mental health problems. Dr. Seymour recommended psychologists need to step up as the most trained mental health professionals. Ms. Bishop recommended that LPA writes the chiropractic board saying what the chiropractor is doing, copy her, then if they do nothing, Ms. Bishop can go to attorney general. Chiropractors are not policing their industry. Dr. Nemeth agreed you have to do a paper trail before attorney general gets involved. Dr. Gros agreed we have to get ourselves branded and educate the public. Dr. Seymour recommended again public workshops to our communities, and Dr. Nelson recommended a media group. Market to public, get involved in public service announcements, shine bright – versus finding a way to keep the competition down. Dr. Gros said we need a strategic approach, and Dr. Nelson said they will put it in the strategic plan. She suggested possibly getting Dr. Susan Dardard involved again, who has media relations. Dr. Seymour indicated she is not a member of LPA.

Dr. Nelson will ask if she’s willing to again become involved.

Dr. Seymour - Amending Bulletin 1508 – When psychologists diagnose ADHD it has to go back to a pediatrician who has to diagnose it before it’s acknowledged. This issue needs to be talked about for the next legislative session. Cindy said there is a sped committee meeting in a few weeks, and we need to have something in writing to them. Every other state accepts psychologist diagnosis – all except Louisiana. Dr. DeGrange contacted the legal arm of APA. They were surprised. Go to BESE. In 2009 Kelly Ray tried to do this but got nowhere.

Katrina Workshops – Dr. Darlyne Nemeth. Workshop is totally organized, Darlyne wants to raise more money. Will do a revision of 2006 workshop. Tommy Davis is coming in to do the relaxation exercises. Lots of people have endorsed these workshops. APA emailed her saying this is what they consider to be an amazing contribution to the community. Everyone will get a binder, which is the biggest expense. Dr. Nelson asked if she could get forwarded the email Dr. Nemeth got from APA so she could put it in the next paper.

12:20 Meeting was adjourned