Advocacy for the Practice of Psychology
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Dallas, Texas
The APA Practice Organization

APA

APA Practice Directorate

APA Science Directorate

APA Education Directorate

APA Public Interest Directorate

The Practice Directorate

APA Practice Organization

AAP

PLAN
Purpose –

To do more and different kinds of advocacy than the IRS permits APA -- due to its 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

• Statutorily defined lobbying
• Advocacy on behalf of professional interests
• Electioneering
  • Political giving
  • Candidate endorsement
The mission of the APAPO is to advance, protect and defend the professional practice of psychology.
APA Members, Fellows, & Life Status Members 2008

Licensed Practitioners, 68,000, 76%
Non-Licensed, 22,000, 24%
Total = 90,000
Primary Work Setting
PA Payers & Life Status Practitioners

- Independent Practice (Individual & Group), 62%
- Medical - Hospital or Clinical (non-psychiatric hospital) and Nursing Home, 12%
- Federal or State Government, 11%
- Academic Teaching or Research, 8%
- Public or Private School, 3%
- Business/Industry, 1%
- Univ. or College Counseling Center, 4%

APAGS Practice-Oriented Members

Other Graduate Students, 18,700, 53%

Practice-Oriented Graduate Students, 16,600, 47%

Total = 35,300
APA 2009 Final Allocated Budget
– Expense (in Millions)

- Education, $9.8
- Public Interest, $8.3
- Science, $7.8
- Practice C(3), $9.4
- Other, $80
- APAPO $6M
- APA $115.6M
PRACTICE STRATEGIC ISSUES

- Practice Economics
- Healthcare Reform
- Training for the Marketplace
- Changing Demographics
- Self Care
PRACTICE STRATEGIC ISSUES

- Integrated Healthcare
- Scope of Practice
- Technology
- Communication Challenges
Practice Directorate’s Integrated Strategy

- Legislative
- Legal & Regulatory
- Marketplace
- Public Education
Scope of Practice

The scope of psychological practice is limited by existing statues (e.g., RxP, hospital practice, federal definition of physician in Medicare) that deny access to appropriate psychological care.

Infringement on scope by subdoctoral groups, i.e. re: psychological testing, etc.
Practice Economics

- A variety of environmental factors are at play: particularly persistent and dramatic reduction in reimbursement rates; escalating cost structures; abusive practices by some managed care companies; accountability to purchasers, payers, and consumers; increasing focus on outcomes, pay-for-performance, provider tiering
Healthcare Reform

- What will reform look like?
- What will be the role for psychologists in an evolving healthcare system?
- What will our legislative strategy be?
Integrated Healthcare

- Lack of appreciation of and financing for prevention and early intervention increases costs and worsens patient outcomes for the long term

- The lack of integration of psychologists into primary and other healthcare settings leads to an underutilization of psychological services and suboptimal patient outcomes
Training for the Marketplace

- Gaps in existing graduate training programs challenge new practitioners in their ability to adapt to changes in the marketplace and the evolving needs of their patients/clients
- Opportunities outside of healthcare delivery systems
Technology

The rapid pace of technological change will impact the ability of professionals to manage their practices

- Electronic records capability
- HIT
- Service delivery modalities
Communication Challenges

“Information overload” and new modes of communications could reduce the efficacy of APAPO membership communications

Need for active communication from and to our constituents
PracticeUpdate E-Newsletter Now Available

The sixteenth issue of PracticeUpdate, a biweekly electronic newsletter from the APA Practice Organization, is now available.

Sign up now if you haven’t yet registered for APAPractice.org.

If you’ve already registered, login and locate the “E-Newsletter” link in the Tools menu on the left side of the page.

Important Issues in Supervision

Serving in the role of supervisor can be complicated, with a host of related issues that are important to address. Login and learn about helpful resources for developing your knowledge base in supervision.

Do’s and Don’ts in Marketing Your Practice

Marketing your professional services requires a basic understanding of approaches that produce good results, and those that don’t. Login and gauge whether you’re taking the right steps.

DSM Diagnosis "Crosswalk" Tool

Under HIPAA, insurance companies who accept and process insurance claims electronically are only required to accept ICD-9-CM diagnosis.
Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy
Advocacy: “Lobbying”

Executive Branch

Judicial Branch

Legislative Branch
Oh, get a move on: Michelle Obama waits with apparent impatience as her husband attends to business on his first day in the Oval Office
Advocacy: “Lobbying” and the Balance of Power
VA Psychologists GS11-GS15 by Fiscal Year, FY95-August 08
Congressional Oversight of VA

Senate VA Committee
- Majority: Sen. Akaka
- Minority: Sen. Burr

House VA Committee
- Majority: Rep. Filner
- Minority: Rep. Buyer
Prevented elimination of the Mental Health Deputy position in VACO

Partnership with AVAPL and Div 18

Hybrid Title 38

Congressional testimony

Rep to VA SMI Committee

Public Ed: eg, Homecoming, Stress in Time of War
Public Education

Consumers

Policymakers

Business and Employer Community
Chronic Illnesses on the Rise

Prevalence of Diagnosed Diabetes per 100 Adult Population

1994

Prevalence of Diagnosed Diabetes per 100 Adult Population

2004

- Missing Data
- < 4%
- 4–4.9%
- 5–5.9%
- 6+ %
The popular media have given extensive coverage to mind/body issues.

*Newsweek*, September 27, 2004
Consumer Material

- “Questions to Ask Your Doctor” (English and Spanish)
- “For A Healthy Mind and Body…” Brochure
- *Fortune* ad section reprints
- Help Center Bookmarks (English and Spanish)
- Obesity, Stress, Job Stress, and Heart Disease Fact Sheets
- Mind/Body Health Interactive CD
Statutory and Regulatory
All States or Territories that have pursued RxP Legislation through 2008

Current Status of RxP Legislation

- **Yellow**: Have enacted RxP laws
- **Red**: Introduced RxP bills in past
- **Blue**: Introduced RxP bills this year
Department of Defense

- PDP-trained psychologists who continue to prescribe
- Civilian trained military psychologists credentialed to prescribe in US Army, US Navy and US Air Force
- Civilian trained psychologists credentialed to prescribe as civilian contractors at DoD facilities

US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

- DoD-PHS Partners in Mental Health initiative

Indian Health Services

- Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service Behavioral Health Division is actively recruiting prescribing psychologists as either Commissioned Corps or civil service psychologists.
Non-Physician Prescribers in VHA

- **Advance Practice Nurses:**
  - Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs)
  - Nurse Practitioners (NPs)
  - **Clinical Pharmacy Specialists (CPSs)**
  - **Physician Assistants (PAs)**

- **NOTE:** All defined through Under Secretary authority
APA Advocacy at the National Level

- Model Curriculum
- Model Licensing
- Standards for Training Programs
- Psychopharmacology Exam
For more information from APA:


**APA Practice Directorate 1-800-374-2723**

- **Model Licensure and Curriculum** – Deborah Baker, JD, Legal and Regulatory Affairs
- **PEP** – Jan Ciuccio, MA, Practice Executive Office
- **State Advocacy and Legislation** – Dan Abrahamson, PhD, State Advocacy
Unprecedented Opportunities for Psychology

- VHA is largest integrated care system in the US, and largest single employer of psychologists
- Unprecedented needs of aging veteran & returning vets and families – primary care / integrated care roless
- The new challenges for VA (rural care & extended access)
- Attentive public & policymakers
- Huge funding increases (eg, 80% incr to $3.8B for MH alone)
- Effective partnerships (VSOs, other disciplines, consumers, & Congress)
- Regime change in Washington
“The future is now.”

-- Patrick Henry DeLeon, Ph.D., J.D.
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www.APApractice.org
www.APAHelpCenter.org
www.APAPracticenet.net
www.apa.org