

**Statement of AVAPL Regarding OMB Orders of September 22 & 28, 2020:
*Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping
& Training in the Federal Government***

October 16, 2020

The recent OMB Orders have caused a good deal of confusion and angst. While stating that the administration is committed to “fair and equal treatment of all individuals in the United States,” OMB has ordered a cessation of any training that includes “divisive, un-American propaganda.” Examples of this included press reports of training that suggested that “virtually all White People contribute to racism,” or they “benefit from racism.”

In our professional work, VA psychologists work for and with Veterans, one of the most racially and ethnically diverse cohorts in our country. Our APA ethical principles state, “*Psychologists are aware of cultural, individual, and role differences, including those due to age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, and socioeconomic status. Psychologists try to eliminate the effect on their work of biases based on those factors, and they do not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.*” Many of us serve as training supervisors for APA-accredited internships and residencies and that accreditation requires that we work towards having diverse faculty and training cohorts and that we provide training that includes cultural diversity. As social scientists we recognize this nation’s history, the fact that our justice systems often reflect unequal treatment for minority members, and that these disparities impact the wellbeing of many members of the population we serve.

Through our meetings, educational activities, advocacy, and work with Veterans, the membership of AVAPL will continue to support and to promote diversity and inclusion.

AVAPL Executive Committee and on Behalf of the Organization:

Kenneth R. Jones, PhD, President; Samuel Wan, PhD, Past President; Kaki York, PhD, President Elect; Mary Beth Shea, PhD, Treasurer; and Jennifer Boyd, PhD, Secretary