

## New Members Join Psychology Board; Short A Public Member

Two new members, Dr. Gina Gibson (formerly Gina Beverly) of Lafayette and Dr. Michelle Moore of New Orleans, have taken their places on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. They were appointed July 23, by Governor Edwards.

The consumer member, who was announced twice by the Governor's Office, Amitai Heller of New Orleans, will not be serving, due to a conflict, noted a source at the board. Because of this, the board is still open for a consumer, public member. The individual must have no connections to psychology.

In a June 20, 2019 press release the Governor's Office announced that Amitai

*Dr. Amy Henke, left, is the new Vice Chair on the state psychology board.*

*Right, Dr. Michelle Moore is one of two new appointees.*



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## September is Suicide Prevention Month

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## Chicago School at Xavier Earns APA Accreditation for Its PsyD Program

Dr. Kelli Johnson, current department chair at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology at Xavier University of Louisiana, announced last month that the program has been granted initial Accreditation on Contingency status through 2024 by the American Psychological Association (APA).

At its July 18-21, 2019 meeting, the APA Commission on Accreditation voted to initially "accredit, on contingency" the doctoral Clinical Psy.D. program at The Chicago School in New Orleans. "Accredited, on contingency" is

granted when the program meets all standards except for the inclusion of all required outcome data on students in the program and after program completion. To move to fully accredited, the program is to provide the required outcome data within three years.

"We are overjoyed that our first class will be graduating from an accredited program next August," said Dr. Johnson. She extended her thanks and that of faculty members Drs. Chris Leonhard, Richard Nilon, and Margaret Smith to colleagues of

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## Gov. Pledges to Close Gaps in Mental Health

Governor Edwards released his Healthy Families Agenda, a plan to make Louisiana a healthier state in his second term.

In a press release August 30, he pledged to close gaps in the mental health system if re-elected. In the release the Gov. said he will build on those first term successes by:

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## How Do You Save A Trillion Dollars?

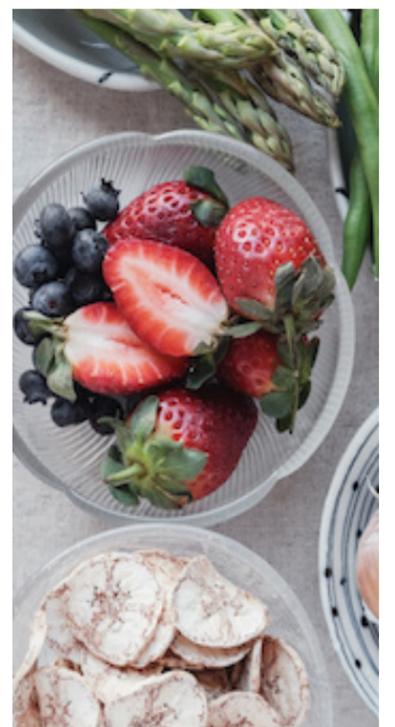
by Julie Nelson

Imagine that a patient with psychosis is given nutrients. She improves her quality of life to such a degree that she no longer needs yearly hospitalizations, which, along with other expenses, amounted to \$500,000 of medical and disability costs over a five-year period.

Dr. Bonnie Kaplan, Professor Emerita in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary, and expert in the field of nutritional mental health, says this type of prevention might save lives and money. Kaplan publishes widely on the biological

basis of developmental disorders and mental health – particularly, the contribution of nutrition to brain development and brain function. She will speak to Louisiana psychologists this November.

In her "Hospitalization cost of conventional psychiatric care compared to broad-spectrum micronutrient treatment," in *International Journal of Mental Health Systems*, Kaplan points to dramatic savings for those patients that respond to nutritional interventions.



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# Editorials and Opinions

## Happy Birthday Aunt Lee!

by Julie Nelson

Born in 1918, my Aunt Lee will turn 101 this month. Last year we celebrated with her for her 100th birthday, joining the multitudes of relatives and friends that gathered at her home on Sibley Lake in Natchitoches, where she lives by herself (Uncle Bill died some years ago), surrounded by books (she retired from teaching and from her job as Librarian at Northwestern) and walls of photos of her five children, grandchildren and greats.

She's watched the disappearance of outhouses, pedal operated sewing machines, and party-lines. She's put away her black & white television, manual typewriter, and encyclopedias. She lived through the Great Depression and WWII, witnessed a cure for polio, and watched the moon landing. She thinks nothing about her age, she said, or death for that matter. Her key to a long life is living it in "a wholesome way."

Like everyone else, her life has not been without its tragedies. When Lee was eight years old, her father died in an accident, described in the headline in a 1926 issue of the *Shreveport Times* – "Auto Plunges from Highway, Man Drowned."

*Coushatta, Dec. 19 (Special).— Charles Hunter, 27 years old, of Creighton, was drowned at 6 o'clock Sunday night, his wife was severely bruised and shaken and the 14 months old baby was lacerated about the*

*head, when the automobile in which they were riding plunged over an embankment two miles from of Creighton, pinning Hunter beneath the car which landed in a ditch filled with water. He was drowned before aid could be summoned. The wife and baby escaped death by being thrown free from the car as it plunged over the embankment.*

Aunt Lee has always expressed her emotions freely, including about the accident, and how her father, Charlie, was playing chicken with a friend, Jeter Adams, on Highway 1 south of Shreveport, when one of them miscalculated and turned stupidity into tragedy, making a widow of my grandmother, Julia, and giving my mother, the 14 month-old, a scar at her hairline to remember her father.

Lee shares the stories of a young widow with three little girls, coping with losses and change, embraced by the close-knit relationships of a rural, farming community, of men who worked long days in the fields and women who sat in a quitting circle or shelling peas together on the front porch. And at all times, these people shared a connection to others at church on Sunday mornings.

In his *Lost Connections: Uncovering the Real Causes of Depression*, author Johann Hari shows that mental illness is social. "You need to have a community," he writes. He quotes the World Health Organization who says, "...the presence or absence of mental health is above all a social indicator...". The rise in suicide and mental illness, Hari writes, is not because we need more pills, but because we are suffering from a "... social and spiritual imbalance in how we live."

Happy birthday, my beloved Aunt. I think you have it right!

## The Psychology Times

Member, Louisiana Press Association

Published monthly  
by Nelson News, LLC.

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Leola Loftin (seated) at her 100th birthday last September. Julie (L), Mike, aka, Archimedes (Center above) and kid-brother, Kevin Nelson (R).

*[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, and organizational consultant, and publisher of the Times. She also holds other various positions in the community. However, her opinions here are those of her own, and do not represent any group or association. She and the Times receive no compensation other than paid advertising. Email her at [drj@drjulienelson.com](mailto:drj@drjulienelson.com), —she welcomes feedback.]*

## Corrections & Clarifications

We did not receive corrections for last month's issue.  
Send your corrections to:  
[psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com](mailto:psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com)

State & National News

## New Members on Board; Short A Public Member, continued

Heller of New Orleans, was appointed to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. The Governor's office has previously announced Heller's appointment in December 2018 but another undisclosed source said that it was premature and not final. Heller is an attorney with the Advocacy Center.

This leaves the consumer position open, ever since the bill was passed in 2018 to require all regulatory boards to include a public member.

The two new psychologist board members were appointed on July 23, by Governor Edwards. Both were nominated by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Dr. Gibson is a neuropsychologist with the Department of Veterans Affairs, licensed in 2008. She lists her specialty as Counseling/Clinical Neuropsychology. Her training is from Louisiana Tech University and employment is with Dept. of Veterans Affairs and also private practice. She is a member of the National Academy of Neuropsychology and the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology.

Dr. Michelle Moore is an associate clinical professor at the LSU Health Science Center. She has served as Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA, Department of Psychiatry, Section of Psychology, and Training Director of Clinical Psychology Internship Program. She is a member of the American Psychological Association; Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers; Louisiana Psychological Association; Southeastern Psychological Association; and Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers.

## Opioid Manufacturer Found Liable in OK Bellwether Case

Johnson & Johnson and its pharmaceutical subsidiary Janssen have been found liable for more than \$572 million for marketing of opioids in the Oklahoma, the state seeking over \$17 billion total for the state. The Oklahoma case was the first to go to trial out of thousands of lawsuits already filed.

The state of Oklahoma sued Johnson & Johnson, Janssen, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma in 2017 on claims of fraud, unjust enrichment, public nuisance and violation of state Medicaid laws for allegedly pushing doctors to prescribe opioid painkillers while downplaying the addiction risks and overstating their benefits.

Purdue settled in March for \$270 million. Israel-based Teva reached a similar settlement in May for \$85 million – two days before the trial began.



*Dr. Koren Boggs is the new Chair on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology (LSBEP).*

*The board has two new members but still has an opening for a public member.*



**“Oops, my pen leaked. Tell me Dr. Stratton ... what do you see?”**

# *If Re-Elected, Gov. Edwards Pledges to Close Gaps in Mental Health, continued*

- Keeping the rural hospitals open
- Closing the gaps in the mental health system
- Eliminating Hepatitis C in Louisiana
- Reducing maternal mortality by 20%
- Getting every Louisiana birthing facility to participate in the fight to reduce maternal mortality
- Lowering prescription drug costs
- Continuing the fight against opioid addiction
- Drastically reducing the waiting list for home and community-based health services for older adults
- Continuing to break records for the number of children adopted out of foster care

“Louisiana is much better off today than we were four years ago, in part because our people are healthier. My decision to expand Medicaid has cut our uninsured rate by more than half, created thousands of jobs, and most importantly saved lives. But we have more to do. In my second term we can build on our successes, using innovative approaches to keep our rural hospitals open, lower drug costs, reduce maternal mortality, and fight infectious disease. Let’s keep moving Louisiana forward, to a happier and healthier future,” said Gov. Edwards.

## **McNeese Psychology Graduate Named Louisiana Poet Laureate**

John Warner Smith has been named Louisiana Poet Laureate for 2019-2021, the Governor announced in August.

Smith earned his undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Accounting from McNeese State University. Smith earned a Master of Fine Arts from the University of New Orleans, and also holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette,

“John Warner Smith’s writing captures the human experience through meaningful, passionate poetry that moves your emotions. John is not only a talented and gifted poet, he is a trailblazer who devotes himself to education and the greater good of the community,” Gov. Edwards said. “He is making history today as the first African American male appointed as Louisiana Poet Laureate, and I’m confident that John will serve our great state well. I want to thank the LEH for leading this search, and I congratulate all of the nominees whose writings tell the unique stories of Louisiana, the place we call home.”

A fellow of Cave Canem, Smith has four published collections of poetry: “Muhammad’s Mountain” (Lavender Ink, 2018), “Spirits of the Gods” (ULL Press, 2017), “Soul Be A Witness” (MadHat Press, 2016) and “A Mandala of Hands” (Kelsay Books - Aldrich Press, 2015). His fifth collection, “Our Shut Eyes: New & Selected Poems on Race in America,” is forthcoming this year from MadHat Press.



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# "Panic Button" App Initiative Aims to Improve School Safety

Gov. Edwards joined Louisiana State Police Superintendent Col. Kevin Reeves at Neville High School in Monroe on August 29, to announce that the state is providing funding for all K-12 schools in Louisiana to begin using the RAVE Mobile Safety App that will better alert authorities to emergencies on K-12 campuses.

"Today we are taking a step forward in making our schools safer with technology that will dramatically improve reporting and response times for teachers and other educators who face emergency situations while in their classrooms," Gov. Edwards said. "While we hope and pray that the safety of our children and their teachers is never compromised, it's our hope that this technology will assist in protecting our schools."

Rave Mobile Safety will provide the Rave Panic Button app to all schools that will allow teachers to quickly request immediate assistance from law enforcement or other first responders in the event of a health or safety emergency in their classroom.

This is funded with \$4 million included in the state's FY 20 budget. The app will begin to be deployed to schools across the state this fall.

"The progress that Louisiana is making to improve the safety and security of our students, faculty and staff are the direct results of the vision and leadership of Governor Edwards in creating the Blue Ribbon Commission," stated Colonel Kevin Reeves, State Police Superintendent. "I am

## Tulane Study Finds More Access to Care After Medicaid Expansion

Fewer Louisianans report they have to put off seeing a doctor or are unable to take their medications as prescribed thanks to Louisiana's Medicaid expansion, according to a Tulane University study released July 31 by Gov. Edwards and the Louisiana Department of Health. Among the results, the study found that the number of people who report they were unable to see a doctor in the past year due to cost dropped by 26.6% and emergency department visits per 1,000 Medicaid expansion enrollees decreased from 115 visits per month to 90 visits per month between 2016 and 2018.

extremely proud of the work of my fellow Commission members including our parish and local law enforcement partners and the efforts of the men and women of the Louisiana State Police that helped bring this technology to Louisiana."

"As tragedies at schools have escalated, leaders in education, law enforcement, and emergency response have collaborated to strengthen preparedness and crisis management," said Louisiana Superintendent of Education John White. "Among those efforts, we have explored the use of new technologies, like the mobile app announced today, that may prove beneficial in quickly and effectively responding to an on-site

emergency. Every child and every educator deserves to feel safe in their classrooms, and it's our duty to put into place every measure to ensure that's possible."

The Rave Panic Button is a smart phone app designed to speed emergency response by alerting authorities when there is a medical emergency, a fire, an active shooter or another crisis. When a teacher, administrator or staff member activates the button, it simultaneously places a 911 call to dispatch help while delivering immediate notification of the type and location of the emergency to other school employees and first responders.

This type of coordination

further enables schools to respond to emergencies more quickly. The state will cover the cost of the technology for all schools in Louisiana, including charter schools, either as their first line of communications or to work in hand with solutions individual school systems already have in place.

"As a school district, the first and foremost requirement we have is to work to ensure safety for all our students, faculty, and staff," said Dr. Brent Vidrine, the Superintendent of Monroe City Schools. "This App is one more tool to help our school district be pro-active in working to ensure safer schools for all of our students and adults on campus."

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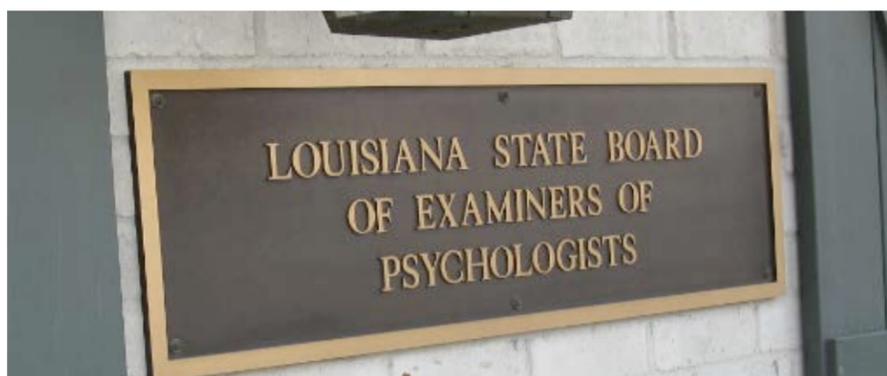
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## State News



# From the Minutes

## Selected Items from the May, June and July Minutes of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

[Ed. Note: The May, June and July minutes were posted by the Board in August.]

### Monday, May 6, 2019

Approved: July 21, 2019  
Posted 8/13

"Dr. Gormanous moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to LSA R.S.42:17.A(4) to receive legal advice related to appropriately responding to disparaging and inaccurate information disseminated publicly, to legislators, and to licensees as the matters are also related to P16-17-14C and P17-18-11C as well as matters pertaining to the following litigation: Eric R. Cerwonka v. Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists Suit No.: 656,587, Section 24 (ON APPEAL in the LA First Circuit); and Eric R. Cerwonka v. Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists and Jaime Monic Civil Action No. 6:17-CV-1095 The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Lambert – YEA, Crouch– YEA, Henke – YEA, Gormanous- YEA"

"Dr. Gormanous moved in favor of reinstating the quarterly newsletter, with notification to licensees of the new issue and subsequent voluntary distribution list to disseminate factual information to licensees and other interested persons. The first issue to be published as soon as possible to report the anticipated or expected legislative impacts of the 2019 Regular Session; and report on board complaint processes; productivity and outcomes. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Lambert – YEA, Crouch– YEA, Henke – YEA, Gormanous- YEA

"Dr. Gormanous moved in favor of sending Attorney Amy Groves Lowe to educate before the Senate Committee on Commerce regarding the impacts of SB 187. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Lambert – YEA, Crouch– YEA, Henke – YEA, Gormanous- YEA

### Thursday, May 23, 2019

Approved July 21, 2019  
Posted 8/13

Dr. Boggs requested to amend the agenda to add an item for discussion of "Personnel Matters" in executive session. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote [...]

**Executive Director Report** - Ms. Monic updated/reported to the board on the following:

- The 2018 Audit has not been initiated due to being short staffed
- Glenn W. Ahava, Ph.D. v. LSBEP, On Appeal from September 18, 2015, Opinion and Order of the LSBEP 19TH JDC; Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, Div. D, No. 643,369. Oral argument has been set for July 29, 2019
- Status/strategy discussion: Eric R. Cerwonka vs. LSBEP, Suspensive Appeal of the 19th JDC/East Baton Rouge State of Louisiana, No. 65658, Sec. 24
- Eric R. Cerwonka, PsyD vs. LSBEP, Civil Matter - U.S. Western District, Lafayette Div. No. 6:17- CV-01095
- Reported on her attendance at the ASPPB mid-year meeting in Santa Fe, NM April 11-14, 2019.

• Advised of training opportunities with CLEAR and recommended attendance for employees/contract employees who handle investigative matters.

• ASPPB Annual Meeting will be in Minneapolis, MN (October 16 – 20, 2019)

**Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards** – Dr. Gormanous discussed budgeting for a meeting outside of the Baton Rouge area so that others could attend meetings. The Board discussed the matter.

**Complaints Committee** - Dr. Lambert reported that there were 7 matters on the agenda for consideration in Executive Session. Additionally, the board continues to work on rule and policy revisions pertaining to complaints.

[Discussions]

**4. Staff and Board Member Training** – Ms. Monic discussed the current opportunities and importance of providing education and training to staff and board members. The Board discussed budget and expenditures related to providing such training, which would include splitting the cost. Following discussion, by motion of Dr. Gormanous, the board approved funding not to exceed \$5,000 to provide Board Member/staff training offered by the Federation of Associations

of Regulatory Boards; the Board also approved travel, hotel and registration for Ms. Monic to attend the Counsel on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR) training in Minneapolis, MN to gauge quality and validity prior to sending additional employees.

**5. Rulemaking: Continuing Professional Development** – The board reviewed CPD rules and discussed the current rules, problems with current rules, administrating current rules, previous rules. The board focused their discussion on minimum requirements necessary to maintain and develop their knowledge, skills and competence in order to keep pace with trending or developing areas of practice for public protection versus requiring maximum standards to force development of personal qualities, attitudes, capabilities, or professional socialization, and how such maximum requirements actually play a role in public protection or the board's ability to regulate such requirements. Following extensive discussion, Dr. Lambert called for motions on setting a direction for revising the CPD Rules. Dr. Boggs moved in favor of researching the option of returning to the basic model of continuing education requirements and reducing the number of biannual hours to 20 and requiring formal approved sponsored activities (quality over quantity). The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Lambert- YEA, Boggs- YEA, Henke– YEA, Gormanous – YEA

**6. ASPPB PSYPACT** – Ms. Monic reported 8 states have passed legislation to participate in PSYPACT including Georgia, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, and Illinois (which will officially join on January 1, 2020) the agreement is anticipated to become effective in those states soon.

**9. Judicial Review:** Regarding the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists over the practice of forensic psychology (19th JDC, Parish of EBR, Docket No. 07-90- 0596 Sec. VII. State Ex Rel, Cosey vs. Vanoy (LSP Angola, LA) – The Board

Cont'd next pg

LSBEP meeting in August: (L to R) Dr. Greg Gormanous, Dr. Koren Boggs, Dr. Gina Gibson, Ms. Jaime Monic, Dr. Amy Henke, and Dr. Michelle Moore.



## From the LSBEP Minutes, cont'd

reviewed the information submitted by Colin Clark, Assistant Solicitor General and Chief of Criminal Appellate Section of the Office of the Attorney General providing notice that the Louisiana Office of the Attorney General has filed a Notice of Intent to Seek Supervisory Review from the Louisiana Supreme Court of the 19th Judicial District Court's denial of the State's Motion to Strike the testimony of Dr. Ginger Calloway, as Dr. Calloway was not licensed as a psychologist in Louisiana at the time she practiced in Louisiana which practice included, but is not limited to, psychological evaluation, administration of psychological testing, psychological diagnosis, submission of a psychological report for use and consideration in Louisiana courts, and testifying as an "expert" in psychology in a Louisiana court. As the issue to be considered by the Louisiana Supreme Court pertains directly to the licensure of psychologists and the practice of psychology in Louisiana, the board resolved, by motion of Dr. Amy Henke as follows: [...] IT THEREFORE RESOLVES by motion of Dr. Amy Henke, to utilize legal counsel to prepare and file an Amicus Curiae brief with the Louisiana Supreme Court to provide information and education on subjects including, but not limited to, licensure of psychologists in Louisiana, the practice of psychology in Louisiana, as well as the Laws and Rules governing the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

### Thursday, June 13, 2019

Approved: July 21, 2019  
Posted 8/13

The Board reviewed the 2018-19 Budget Review and Discussion for final amendments approaching the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2019. Following discussion, by motion of Dr. Gregory Gormanous, and roll call vote of the members present, the LSBEP unanimously RESOLVED to adopt revisions to the current July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 budget, which reflect a reduction in the anticipated Total Means of Financing from \$307,197 to \$302,593; a reduction in anticipated Total Salaries from \$117,998 to \$107,134; a reduction in anticipated Total Operating Expenses from \$87,117 to \$64,586 and an increase in Professional services from \$91,540 to \$97,479.

**Legislative Oversight Committee** – Dr. Gormanous reported the session ended on June 6, 2019. No legislative instruments passed that would have had negative impacts on the Board. Ms. Monic reported on the following: HB 423 passed which repealed the ability of a professional board to revoke an occupational license for failure to pay student loans, which also eliminates its reporting requirement to the office of student financial aid; SB 171 passed related to reports required of boards, which changes the agency to which an individual may complain about boards, and quarterly reports made by boards;

HB614 passed which will require the board to provide reasonable notice that information sent to the board may become public record; HB29 passed which prohibits boards from bringing



LSBEP Executive Director Ms. Jaime Monic (L), new Vice Chair, Dr. Amy Henke (C), and new board member, Dr. Michelle Moore, attending a recent meeting of the state psychology board.

action against licensees for providing testimony before the legislature and prohibits boards from using non-disparagement clauses in consent orders.

[Discussions]

### 2. Staff and Board Member Training

– Dr. Gormanous reported he had a potential conflict with the November 15, 2019 Comprehensive Regulatory Training date for FARB. Ms. Monic agreed to explore additional dates and the availability of LBAB to still split the cost of training with LSBEP. Ms. Monic also reported that since the last meeting and board approval so send her for training with CLEAR, that organization has had much interest in this training and has agreed to conduct a training in Baton Rouge, LA which will save the Board travel costs and enable additional staff attendance. Ms. Monic will report to the board as additional information is made available.

6. Interagency Agreement with the Division of Administrative Law – Ms. Monic presented a draft agreement with the Division of Administrative Law, to be utilized as an option on a case by case basis, when necessary due to conflicts of interest arise. The Board discussed the matter. Concerns were raised with regard to the Board's statutory authority to delegate final decision making to involving the ability of an individual to continue to maintain a license to an Administrative Law Judge within the Division of Administrative Law. It was requested that Ms. Monic inquire further with the DAL with regard to this question.

7. Registration of Unlicensed Assistants – Dr. Gormanous presented this matter to discuss the authority of the board to regulate the practice of psychology; the current requirements regulating unlicensed assistants to psychologists; and public protection. Dr. Henke was opposed to considering

a requirement to register assistants stating that she did not see a need, although would remain open to the prospect. Dr. Gormanous agreed to continue to investigate the option and look at other psychology boards across the U.S. and also other Louisiana Boards that require registration of assistants.

**CURRENT LITIGATION/LEGAL [R.S. 42:17(A)(2)]:** The Board received a status and discussed legal strategies in the following cases:

1. Glenn W. Ahava, Ph.D. v. LSBEP, On Appeal from September 18, 2015, Opinion and Order of the LSBEP 19TH JDC; Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, Div. D, No. 643,369
2. Eric R. Cerwonka vs. LSBEP, Suspensive Appeal of the 19th JDC/East Baton Rouge State of Louisiana, No. 65658, Sec. 24
3. Eric R. Cerwonka, PsyD vs. LSBEP, Civil Matter - U.S. Western District, Lafayette Div. No. 6:17-CV-01095
4. Richard A. Marksbury, Ph.D. vs. LSBEP, Petition for Judicial Review, 19th JDC, EBR Parish, State of Louisiana, No. C-682294 Sec. 21/D
5. Frank Ford Cosey, vs. Darrel Vannoy, Warden LSP Angola LA; State of Louisiana 19th JDC EBR Parish No. 07-90-0596 Sec. VII (Amicus Brief RE Practice of Psychology/Licensure)

### Sunday, July 21, 2019

Approved: August 23, 2019  
Posted 8/28

Dr. Gormanous moved to approve the agenda with an amendment to add a motion to recognize the service of Dr. Jesse Lambert by Formal Resolution of Appreciation and Commendation. The motion passed unanimously by the voting members present.

### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Boggs appointed members to committees as follows:  
inance Committee: BOGGS, HENKE  
Oral Examination Committee GORMANOUS, MOORE  
Jurisprudence Examination Committee HENKE, GIBSON  
Legislative Oversight Committee GORMANOUS, BOGGS  
Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards GORMANOUS, MOORE  
Continuing Professional Development Committee HENKE, GIBSON  
Supervision/Credentials Committee HENKE, MOORE  
Complaints Committee BOGGS, HENKE  
Long Range Planning Committee GORMANOUS, GIBSON

**DISCUSS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (New Board Chair)**  
Dr. Boggs, as the new Board Chair, discussed the goals and objectives she would like accomplished for her final year on the Board stating that there are a lot of items that have been ongoing discussions that she would like to see through including oral exam procedures, resolving or refining procedures related to recognizing program specialties versus health service provider versus whether we have any designations at all; conducting a thorough review of our regulations to make sure our procedures are in line with how the statutes and rules are written; review regulations and procedures for determining degree equivalency; and review procedures and regulations for assessing competencies.

**Executive Director Report** – Ms. Monic Reported the following:  
• LSBEP Members attending APA are invited to the ASPPB Reception Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019 after APA Opening Session in the Boulevard Ballroom.

Cont'd next pg

## *From the LSBEP Minutes continued*

•Current Renewal Stats o Opening Renewals July 1, 2019: LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS: 770 (62 ARE CLASSIFIED AS RETIRED FROM FULL TIME PRACTICE AND RENEWED AT THE REDUCED RATED IN 2018) LSSP: 22 PROVISIONAL: 11, TWO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RENEWAL

Renewal Income for 2019-20 FY based on 2018 renewals is estimated to be less than \$261,750 (On average 22 psychologists allow their license to lapse each year.)

Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards – Dr. Gormanous reported that he would be attending APA in August as well as the ASPPB Reception at APA.

Continuing Professional Development – Dr. Henke reported that she is continuing to receive and review paper CPD Reports. One of the main problems she is seeing is that people are lumping their credits together. Also, APA has changed its review process and only reviews and approves sponsors of continuing education, they are not endorsing the activities. Therefore, PESI, for example is reporting that some of the credits are “not eligible for APA credit”, although they are an APA approved sponsor for continuing education.

[Discussions]

1. Set Required Hearing Date for Rules before January 1, 2020 (LAPA 49:953.C(2)(a)- The board discussed this statutory requirement and set the date for hearing on Thursday, October 10, 2019 to precede the Long Range Planning Meeting.

2. Add Rulemaking initiative required under LAPA 49:953.C(1) to establish procedure for any person to petition the board requesting the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule including the form for petitions and the procedure for their submission, considerations, and disposition. - The Board discussed this statutory requirement and authorized initiating rulemaking accordingly, notice for comment at that October 10, 2019 meeting and file with final LPA, Title 46, Part LXIII amendments.

4. Interagency Agreement with the Division of Administrative Law – The Board reviewed the Interagency Agreement proposed by the Division of Administrative Law. Ms. Monic discussed issues and concerns raised by Attorney Courtney Newton of the Board’s authority to transfer decision making to the Division of Administrative Law. The Board resolved to seek the opinion of the Attorney General or General Counsel related to the issues and the ability for the board to delegate its final decision making authority to another agency.

5. Mandatory Reporter Requirements – Ms. Monic discussed the need for direction to staff and licensees regarding Mandatory Reporter Requirements since this is a common complaint raised in almost every complaint investigated related to child custody matters. Dr. Koren Boggs agreed to work on this initiative with Ms. Monic.

6. Contract: Anderson, Boutwell, Traylor – The Board discussed continuing this contract in light of the fact that Attorney Courtney Newton is no longer with this firm. The Board discussed the matter and formally adopted the following resolution to continue to procure the services of Attorney Newton: [...] IT THEREFORE RESOLVES by motion of Dr. Henke, that the Board contract with Courtney Papale Newton, Esq. to provide legal services including, but not limited to, prosecutorial functions, for a multi-year contract beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2021. The contract to commence; at the rate of \$100 per hour plus travel and expenses that are preapproved in accordance with Policy and Procedure Memo 50, and not to exceed a maximum of \$40,055.97 for that period.

9. POLICIES & PROCEDURES: Sexual Harassment - The Board reviewed the statutory requirement to establish policy and procedures for sexual harassment in the workplace. The Board reviewed and discussed drafts adopted by other Louisiana Boards. Ms. Monic was directed to create a new draft based on the Board’s discussion for final consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

10. RULEMAKING: LAC, Title 46, Part LXIII. Chapter 8. Continuing Education Ms. Monic provided the Board with draft rules based on LSBEP original Continuing Education rules which were in place prior to initiating new requirements based on ASPPB’s Continuing Professional Development model. Dr. Henke and Dr. Moore will review for discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Complaints:

1. In the matter P16-17-14C and P17-18-11C – Administrative Complaint, Formal Hearing, and Request for Board Member Conflict of Interest Statements - Ms. Monic reported that she was in contact with the Division of Administrative law and still gathering information



U.S. Army Pfc. Bittner, left, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ashley North tape a detonation cord during explosives training in Afghanistan. The Governor is putting in place more opportunities for returning Veterans to start their own businesses. (Navy photo by Lt. Chad A. Dulac.)

## Louisiana Launches Veterans First Business Initiative

On August 13, Gov. Edwards joined state leaders and veterans at the National WWII Museum to launch the Louisiana Veterans First Business Initiative. The program will promote veteran-owned businesses through certification, in-business displays and an online database that encourage consumers to do business with Louisiana’s veteran-owned firms.

The Initiative recognizes firms that are majority-owned by veterans, military reservists, active-duty personnel or Gold Star family members. Following a certification process, the program will promote their businesses through a public database at LAVeteransFirst.org. To support a veteran-owned business, visitors to the site may search by business name, region, and industry. Approximately 250 businesses are certified on the site already.

The Initiative was created through House Bill 391, by Rep. Franklin Foil who served 28 years in the U.S Navy. It was unanimously approved during the 2019 legislative session and signed into law by Gov. Edwards.

Gov. Edwards said, “The Louisiana Veterans First Business Initiative provides an opportunity for us to give back to our veterans and their families by purchasing goods and services from these businesses. As a former Army Airborne Ranger, I encourage all veterans, active-duty personnel, Gold Star families and reserve-military business owners to sign up for this program today and connect with new customers and clients. And I encourage everyone to make use of the Veterans First database by patronizing these businesses, and remember to thank them for their great service to our state and nation as well.”

To register as a veteran-owned business, or to learn how to support Louisiana Veterans First businesses, visit LAVeteransFirst.org.

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regarding the authority of the board to consider the request of the respondent to move this matter to another jurisdiction.

Litigation:

1. Eric R. Cerwonka, PsyD vs. LSBEP, Civil Matter - U.S. Western District, Lafayette Div. No. 6:17-CV-01095. - Ms. Monic notified the Board that she received a subpoena for deposition and would be deposed by Eric Cerwonka on September 5, 2019 at the Attorney General’s office in Lafayette. Dr. Gormanous moved in favor of requesting the presence of Amy Lowe, General Counsel for the Board if appropriate. The board discussed the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: BOGGS – YEA, HENKE-YEA, GORMANOUS – YEA

# Chicago School at Xavier Earns APA Accreditation for Its PsyD Program

*continued*

the Louisiana Psychological Association. "We would like to extend our gratitude for your support for the program from its inception. A number of you have been a part of the program as adjunct instructors, offered your agencies as practicum training sites, and have served as clinical supervisors over the years," Johnson noted. "Thank you to each of you for offering guidance, consultation, or encouraging words along the way...your ongoing support has been and continues to be invaluable and we look forward to many more years as a part of Louisiana's psychology community."

The school began implementation of its "Health Service Psychologist" Model and Multicultural Focus in September 2015 when the first class of doctoral students started at the new PsyD program in clinical psychology.

The effort was innovative in a number of ways, including getting a head start on aligning with new standards for "Health Service Psychologists" approved by the American Psychological Association later that year.

The Chicago School at Xavier program was also innovative because it focused on applied clinical psychology specifically for the diverse and multicultural context in south Louisiana, and on "growing PsyD Psychologists here," explained Dr. Christoph Leonhard, founding chair of the program.

"We developed the program to meet the needs of local social service providers of psychological services and of the community," he said, "and frankly, to provide culturally competent services by people who understand this community, which is a very unique place in many ways."

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSPP) program is hosted by Xavier, the highly ranked New Orleans institution which is the nation's only Roman Catholic Historically Black College and University.

The PsyD (Doctor of Psychology) degree is the only program of its kind in the state, and the only other clinical psychology training after that at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

The program organizers focused their recruitment to students inside Louisiana, hoping to grow PsyD psychologists here, and who will remain here, in order to serve the sometimes unique needs of the Louisiana culture. "Studies indicate that newly graduated psychologists who have to leave the state to get an advanced degree do not return," said Leonhard. "So the emphasis of this program is to educate and train our own."

Prior to her death this year, Dr. Janet Matthews served on an Advisory Committee of local professionals, along with health psychologist, Dr. Michele Larzelere, for the Chicago School program.

The program is designed specifically to meet community needs, with the focus on primary care/integrated care, and cultural diversity issues, Janet Matthews had explained, and she felt it was ideal for the Greater New Orleans area, helping provide psychological services in an underserved community.

The doctoral students in the TCSPP program at Xavier complete studies in four models of intervention: Cognitive Behavioral, Psychodynamic, Humanistic Existential, and Systems. The program

includes a Research Clerkship model where the students are paired with mentors from the faculty. Three years of practicum and one-year internship are included in the 106 total credit hours that will take five years to complete, prepares students to sit for the psychologist licensing exam.

The PsyD program took advantage of the changes in approach brought about by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) that requires prevention and a focus on primary care and community health.

APA shifted its training model in response to ACA, and the Chicago Professional School at Xavier aligned with these changes. "To be in compliance with what the ACA calls for, we're now going to be training health service psychologists—psychologists that provide health service, mental health being a health service, said Leonhard. The Patient and Affordable Care Act is that it mandates interprofessional care teams throughout health care but importantly, in primary care, he said.

Dr. Michele Larzelere served on the Advisory Committee and saw this benefit. "Since primary care is an excellent way to reach underserved and minority populations, the PsyD program will also be expanding Xavier's efforts toward its core mission," Larzelere previously said, "and providing a tremendous service to the population of Louisiana."

The program offers two formal focus area -- Clinical Psychology in a Diverse and Multicultural Context and Behavioral Medicine/Health Psychology.

*From our 2015 files:  
Dr. Christoph (L)  
and Dr. Matthew  
Holcomb chatting  
with administrative  
assistant Olivia  
Daniels Crum. The  
TCSPP program was  
brand new and  
students just  
beginning to arrive.*



# How Do You Save A Trillion Dollars? continued

by Julie Nelson

Nutrition is one of the innovations in illness prevention that has been neglected for decades. Other neglected approaches include behavioral treatments for lifestyle based illnesses, equally as cost-effective.

"Prevention requires tools that are often unfamiliar because educational, behavioral, and social interventions, not usually considered to be part of medicine, may be most effective for many diseases," said Hamilton Moses and co-authors in, "The Anatomy of Health Care in the United States," in an article of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

While medical costs are driven by chronic disease, these costs are not due to an aging population, even though age is often cited as the cause. Moses shows that about 80 percent of the total health care cost is accounted for by individuals under 65, and relate to psychological, social and behavioral factors. The CDC estimates that three lifestyle factors—poor diet, inactivity, and smoking—account for 80 percent of heart disease and stroke, 80 percent of type 2 diabetes, and 40 percent of cancer.

"Behavioral intervention is the foundation for lifestyle medicine," writes Dr. John Caccavale, author of *Medical Psychology Practice and Policy Perspectives*. "Of the top four classes of medical problems in America—metabolic disorders, respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, and mental disorders—physicians will have great difficulty demonstrating that they are improving patient health by utilizing medications as a first-line treatment for these classes of disorders," writes Caccavale.

"I think wellness/prevention are areas where there is tremendous need in primary care," said primary care psychologist Dr. Michelle Larzalere. But, rarely is this need addressed.

"For both physical and mental health, the need to work on active problems is often so high that wellness/prevention get shorted on attention," Larzalere said.

"The health habits that most reduce the preventable component of the most prominent causes of morbidity and mortality in the US—for example, refraining from smoking, eating a healthy diet, getting regular exercise, and limiting alcohol consumption—are behaviors that psychologists can really impact positively. Unfortunately, at least in my experience, other needs are so great that it is hard to make time for wellness/prevention initiatives unless there is a specific plan put in place."

Author of *Health Psychology*, Dr. Linda Brannon said, "The division of health into mental and physical health is a false dichotomy that we need to get over. I think that many providers address the presenting problem to the extent that they do not look beyond it."

For decades now, psychological scientists have known that behavior is the key to costs. Larzalere explained that psychological scientists have repeatedly shown that resulting savings by including prevention behaviors can produce savings between 30 and 60 percent in medical use costs.

To put this in perspective, a 10 percent reduction in medical/surgery costs nationwide—by treating the mental or behavioral component—would exceed the entire current national mental health budget, she explained.

She is correct. According to federal agency, The National Health Expenditure Accounts, healthcare spending reached \$3.5 trillion in 2017, for both public and private sources. This is \$10,739 per person, and accounts for 17.9 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

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## Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

### New Evidence That May Help Prevent the Lasting Effects of Early Life Stress

This was a very new topic 10 years ago. Today, however, it is a research area that is receiving much more activity. In 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics' position paper acknowledged that the period of time from conception through early childhood is critical. They include prenatal stress in their definition of toxic stress and say that children exposed to early stressful conditions are more likely to struggle in school, have short tempers, manage stress poorly, and tangle with the law.<sup>1</sup>

A November 2018 *Science Daily* article titled, "Studies highlight lasting effects of early life stress on the genome, gut, and brain", starts with a summary statement: "The new research suggests novel approaches to combat the effects of such stress, such as inhibiting stress hormone production or resetting populations of immune cells in the brain."

In 2012, many articles existed that spoke to the dangers of high levels of stress in pregnant mothers but at that time, the main measures were cortisol production during stress and an understanding that some women (and men) were less able to reduce the effects of stress on their bodies than others. Longitudinal research done in Avon, England had followed pregnant moms and then their offspring until the children became adolescents. Those studies showed strong correlations between highly/chronically stressed mothers (measured by their own ratings) and the propensity of their children to deal less well with stress.

A subsample of 74 of the Avon children at age 10 years old were asked to collect samples of saliva first thing in the morning and at three other times during the day. The samples were collected for three days. Dr. Thomas O'Connor and the study team examined the children's levels of cortisol and found that the mothers' levels of prenatal anxiety, some 10 years earlier, predicted the children's higher morning and afternoon cortisol levels. In other words, the higher the mother's cortisol levels when she was pregnant, the higher the child's cortisol levels 10 years later. This study is cited as providing evidence that prenatal anxiety might have lasting effects on the HPA axis functioning in the child and that the child's HPA axis is affected by the mother's high cortisol levels during pregnancy.<sup>2</sup>

What has been more or less missing was a mechanism that made the link between the pregnant mother's higher cortisol and the child's higher cortisol levels 10 years later. It is now emerging that there is not one link but many. For example, stress during pregnancy can alter gut bacteria, which can reduce critical nutrients reaching fetuses brains. Even more exciting is that researchers in Tel Aviv University have used cutting-edge genetic research and brain imaging technologies to produce a personal profile of resilience to stress. Their findings hope to lead to a future blood test that would facilitate preventive measures for people with Low Resilience to stress. This could potentially reduce the damaging health consequences and keep us from passing low stress resilience from generation to generation.

<sup>1</sup> Jack P. Shonkoff; Andrew S. Garner; and the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health; Committee on Early Childhood, Adoptions, and Dependent Care; and Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, "The Lifelong Effects of Early Childhood Adversity and Toxic Stress," *Pediatrics* 129 (2012): e232–46.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas G O'Connor, Yoav Ben-Shlomo, Jonathan Heron, Jean Golding, Diana Adams, and Vivette Glover, "Prenatal Anxiety Predicts Individual Differences in Cortisol in Pre-Adolescent Children," *Biological Psychiatry* 58 (2005): 211–17.



Dr. Susan Andrews is a Clinical Neuropsychologist, an award-winning writer/author (her book *Stress Solutions for Pregnant Moms*, published in 2013, has been translated into Chinese,) and 2016 Distinguished Psychologist of the Louisiana Psychological Association.

# How Do You Save A Trillion Dollars? continued

A 10% savings, as Larzelere suggests, would result in a savings of \$350 billion. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration estimates treatment spending from all public and private sources to total \$280.5 billion in 2020.

Estimating at the low end of the range of expected savings, a conservation goal of 30%, would come to \$1 trillion.

Gains in quality of life and productivity would be added on top of that.

## Some Current Problems

Is all this spending doing anyone any good?

A pattern of poor health outcomes and high costs reflects the country as a whole. The United States ranks 50<sup>th</sup> out of 55 industrialized countries in a measure of life expectancy and medical care spending, according to *Bloomberg*, who concluded the U.S. is the “least-efficient” health-care system in the world.

Louisiana typically falls at the bottom of the states in health ranking. In the most recent report from America’s Health Rankings, an annual analysis of the United Health Foundation, Louisiana ranked No. 50. The state ranked last in both behaviors and community & environment categories, No. 47 in clinical care, and No. 48 in health outcomes.

Louisiana has its challenges. Nearly 21% of the population of the state is at the poverty level or below, when only 12-1/2% of the citizens nationwide fall at this level. Over 41% of the citizens in Louisiana fall at 200% of the poverty level or below, compared to 29.75% nationwide.

Health is woven into a complex set of social and psychological behaviors, not a single cause. “Socioeconomic status is one of the most powerful predictors of all cause mortality,” says Dr. Chris Leonhard, health psychologist and Professor at the Chicago Professional School at Xavier. “New Orleans is a startling example of this,” Leonhard said. “Life expectancy at birth in the Tremé where the average household income in 2010 was about \$26,000 is 55 years, while in Lakeview, the average 2010 household income was \$75,000, and life expectancy at birth is 80 years.”

But money is flowing. The state paid \$10.7 billion on behalf of about 1.9 million Medicaid recipients, according to the Louisiana Department of Health. During the fiscal year 2017–2018, about 39.6 percent of Louisiana’s citizens were enrolled in the Medicaid program and payments were made on behalf of 1,876,908 recipients.

Using other federal data, this time from Medicare, a concerning picture emerges. According to an analysis by Blake Kruger and Jeremiah Brown, Louisiana spends the most on Medicare beneficiaries per capita than any other state. At the same time, Louisiana reports greater disparities in health status and death rates than other states.

Kruger and Brown investigated the associations between healthcare intensity, healthcare spending, and mortality in Louisiana Medicare beneficiaries. They defined healthcare intensity to be synonymous with the hospital care intensity index, a combination of inpatient days and physicians’ services.

The researchers found no association between healthcare intensity and spending. Nor did they find any association between spending and mortality.

“We also observed no association between health-care spending and age, sex, and race-adjusted mortality,” the researchers wrote. And, when they compared healthcare intensity to age, sex, and race-adjusted mortality, they could find no meaningful associations. Nor did they find that more spending made any difference in survival when adjust for smoking, inactivity, or obesity.



While the lack of an association between healthcare intensity and spending could indicate that outpatient care in Louisiana is becoming more highly utilized, the findings could also reflect that spending more on healthcare in Louisiana does not improve rates of survival or health outcomes for Louisianans.

## Healthcare: Designed for You by Special Interests

The sheer size and complexity of the healthcare industry would suggest that innovations like nutrition or lifestyle therapy would be challenging, and new treatments even more unlikely because of the political power yielded by the industry giants. Over the last years the pharmaceutical industry, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the American Hospital Association, and the American Medical Association were the some of the highest contributors to Congress.

Psychology and other groups have not been able to garner a place at the medical table to push for new methods. California Attorney David Ries of Human Capital Specialists tried to persuade federal Rule makers to include psychologists in the bonus plan for Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) but failed. He told the *Times* that the final Rules were very disappointing, and said, “The broad recognition of the importance of behavioral health to overall wellness indicates that ACOs are unlikely to achieve their treatment objectives ...”.

These special interests exert themselves not only through direct lobbying, but the medical-pharmaceutical-hospital-insurance industrial complex has a firm hold on the prices and services in this country, through the “CPT Codes” and the “Relative Value Scale Update Committee” or RUC. These groups decide what services are allowed and how much they are reimbursed.

The CPT codes, short for Current Procedural Terminology, control what services are allowed and reimbursed. The codes are created by three hundred “Advisors and Experts,” primarily from the American Medical Association’s House of Delegates, representing medical specialties, who work to influence an “Editorial Panel,” composed of representatives from medical societies, insurance companies and government. This panel conducts secret meetings to decide on which healthcare services are paid for, and which are not.

Dr. Tony Puente, Past-President of APA, was one of the two outsiders allowed to participate in the CPT process. “Essentially,” he said, “the CPT tries to divvy it up in a way that is theoretically and empirically, and diplomatically and politically, correct.” Participants must sign a strict AMA (American Medical Association) confidentiality agreement declaring, “I will not disclose, distribute or publish confidential Information to any party in any manner whatsoever.”

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# How Do You Save A Trillion Dollars? continued

The CPT system is dominated by organized medicine. “Every seat at the table has a vested interest, mostly not supporting your proposed code,” said Dr. Travis Thompson, professor, psychologist, and leader in the Association for Behavior Analysis International. It took him and colleagues three years to muscle through codes for the treatment of autism.

While the CPT approval is a first leg of a long journey, another element of this behind-the-scenes influence is the panel known as AMA/ Specialty Relative Value Scale Update Committee, or RUC. Since 1991 members of the RUC establish the value or price for the CPT codes. Somehow this is not considered price-fixing.

To decide on reimbursement, 28 voting members of the RUC, representing medicine specialties such as anesthesiology, cardiology, neurology, neurosurgery, obstetrics, oncology, psychiatry, and so on, meet and decide how much each service is worth, and how much will be paid.

Control of the CPT and RUC have helped shaped health care toward high technology and

high prices, less primary care, and no prevention.

A dramatic example of flawed decisions in the medical/pharma industrial complex is the opioid crisis. Twenty years after a marketing blitz convincing physicians that opioids were safe and effective, now one of the deadliest medical mistakes of modern times.

Despite the flood of legal opioids into the society, the CDC reported no change in pain that would meaningfully have ever driven the prescribing: “...there had not been an overall change in the amount of pain that Americans reported.”

The CDC did find that psychological and physical treatments for pain were beneficial, but these non-medical approaches are rarely integrated into treatment programs. Behavioral approaches were often the more appropriate treatment. “It is now widely accepted that pain is a biopsychosocial phenomenon,” clinical health psychologist and Past-President of the Southern Pain Society, Dr. Geralyn Datz said, and that must be treated as such.

## Louisiana Follows the Leaders

Louisiana may have the most to gain from prevention and innovations, but there is a long way to go from where the state is currently.

In the most recent Louisiana Medicaid Annual Report, the top 10 provider types, ranked by payment, were first, hospitals, at \$1.3 billion, and second, pharmacy, at \$726 million. Dentists were third at \$162 million, then mental health rehabilitation at \$140 million, nurse practitioners at \$115 million, and behavioral health rehabilitation agencies at \$114 million. Distinct psychiatric hospitals were next at \$76 million and freestanding mental health hospitals at \$69.7 million.

In comparison, all other providers, which include chiropractic, personal care attendants, physical and occupational therapy, psychology, social work, and other services, totaled only \$917,000.

In a 2018-2019 Combined Behavioral Health Block Grant Plan, published in late 2017, the state noted that the number of persons being served was only 3.29% of the estimated

prevalence. The estimated number of children/youth with serious emotional disorders was 38,803 and only 1,370 had been served. The prevalence estimate for adults with serious mental illness was 192,019 and only 7,590 had been served.

Access to care and rates have been a problem nationally, with nearly half of all providers not offering services to Medicaid patients. Nationwide, Medicaid fees are about 72 percent of Medicare, which is about 80 percent of private pay. And this amount comes to an even smaller portion of what some practitioners charge in a fee-for-service setting.

In a list of "Specialized Behavioral Health Services CPT Code" and reimbursements, effective last year, the fee structures provide little in the way of reimbursement for health and behavior, or any clear mechanism for integrated services. The "health and behavior" services pay between \$12 and \$15 and are only listed for a psychiatrist,

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## How Do You Save A Trillion Dollars? continued

nurse/physician's assistant, medical psychologist, or a psychologist. None were listed for clinical social workers or counselors.

Some codes and fees are listed for psychotherapy. Individual psychotherapy is reimbursed at \$69.76 for psychiatrists for 45 minutes, \$55.81 for nurse practitioners and physician assistants, \$55.81 for psychologists, and \$48.83 for social workers, counselors, and marriage and family therapists. And group therapy, a valuable therapy mode for many issues, is paid at only \$23.23 to \$18.58 and there is no reimbursement for the social worker or counselor listed on the current fee schedule. The low pay may account for why only about 130 psychologists are listed as providers on the current Medicaid rolls, and many of these are agency staff.

These misaligned incentives seem likely to impact those who have the least options to find better care in the private sector.

Finally, physician researcher Dr. Martin Makary has shown that medical error, unrelated to the illness or injury, is the third cause of death nationwide, following only heart disease and cancer deaths.

To conclude, Louisiana spends more than other states while there is no positive relationship between the money spent and health outcomes. Nationwide, the costs are staggering, while many chronic diseases are on the rise. Overall, the system looks to be more like a money-laundering scheme than a set of effective health services.

States like Louisiana with a high percentage of citizens at or near the poverty level, would benefit most from prevention and new, inventive treatments. "A bright new future of understanding, preventing, and treating mental disorders awaits us," writes Bonnie Kaplan.

But just how long is that wait going to be?

## Other State News

### Appointments to Boards & Commissions

On August 9, Gov. Edwards announced his appointments to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, Erin R. Bendily of Baton Rouge. Ms. Bendily is the assistant superintendent of the Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs within the Department of Education. Her position on the Board will represent educational support programs including secondary vocational education.

The Children's Cabinet serves as the governing body responsible for coordinating funding and programmatic services at the state and local level related to children and their families. It consists of a cabinet secretary from each state agency and is chaired by the executive director of the Children's Cabinet, who is appointed by the governor. The Children's Cabinet Advisory Board provides information and recommendations from the perspective of advocacy groups, service providers and parents.

On July 31, Gov. Edwards announced his appointments to the Central Louisiana Human Services District, Laura N. Jolly of Pineville. Ms. Jolly is an operations manager at Midstate Supply Company, LLC and a licensed Notary. Her seat on the board will represent a parent, consumer, or caregiver of a consumer of services.

The District provides mental health and addiction-related counseling and treatment for adults, children and adolescents in the parishes of Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes.

Also on July 31, the Gov. announced his appointments to The Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) which serves to defend the public health, safety and welfare by protecting the people of the State of Louisiana against unnecessary deaths and morbidity due to trauma and time-sensitive illness.

Dr. Charles A. Nassauer of Bogalusa was reappointed to the LERN Board. Dr. Nassauer holds a license in optometry and is a former parish councilman for Franklinton, Louisiana. He will represent The Optometry Association of Louisiana.

Schielanda S. "Schaun" Chevis of Baton Rouge was appointed to the LERN Board. Ms. Chevis is the emergency preparedness coordinator for the Office of Behavioral Health and the past public health emergency response coordinator for Public Health – Capitol Region. She will represent the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health.

## People

### Dr. Brittany Joslyn and Husband Welcome Baby Boy on August 25

Dr. Brittany Joslyn and husband, Dr. Peter Joslyn, welcomed son, Samuel Thomas "Sam" Joslyn into the world on Sunday August 25, weighing in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and at 18.5 inches long. "We are having a great time with our bundle of joy," Brittany said.

Dr. Joslyn is a Consulting Psychologist and Executive Coach, with offices in New Orleans. She owns Joslyn & Co. and focuses on leadership assessment, development, and coaching. She has a background in HR consulting, counseling psychology, and career development, and has served as an executive coach in leadership development programs for Fortune 500 companies. She is a member of the Louisiana Psychological Association and is on the Leadership Council for the Society of Consulting Psychology, Division 13 of the American Psychological Association.

*Dr. Peter Joslyn and Dr. Brittany Joslyn with their new baby boy, Samuel Thomas.*

*(courtesy photo)*



# A Shrink at the Flicks

## *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*

### A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

“Once upon a time” is a phrase signaling the beginning of a fairy tale. Fairy tales are folk tales that persist in a culture because they embody and illustrate that culture’s values. They function as parables. So the title of this film invites us to look for its moral center.

There is another interesting aspect of director Tarantino’s choice of the title. On one hand, the film is deeply rooted in a particular historical moment, the fifties and sixties. On the other hand, the tale is an odd amalgam of fact and fable. Movie actress Sharon Tate, whose tragic 1969 murder by Manson acolytes riveted the public, is a central figure in the film. But the tale the movie unfolds is an alternate history saga: what if the murderers had gone to a neighboring Beverly Hills mansion instead of that occupied by Tate and her famous husband, Roman Polanski?

That second house is owned by the fictional character Rick Dalton, played by Leonardo DiCaprio. Dalton was the star of a western bounty hunter TV series. He is struggling to upgrade his stereotyped small screen television career into a more rewarding one in big screen movies. An integral part of Dalton’s career is his relationship to his stunt double, Cliff Booth, played by Brad Pitt.

Guest Columnist,  
Dr. Alvin Burstein

Burstein, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, is a professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and a former faculty member of the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center with numerous scholarly works to his credit.



courtesy photo

He is also a member of Inklings, a Mandeville critique group that meets weekly to review its members’ imaginative writings. Burstein has published flash fiction and autobiographical pieces in e-zines; *The Owl*, his first novelette, is available at Amazon. He is, in addition to being a movie fan, a committed Francophile, unsurprisingly a lover of fine cheese and wine, and an unrepentant cruciverbalist.



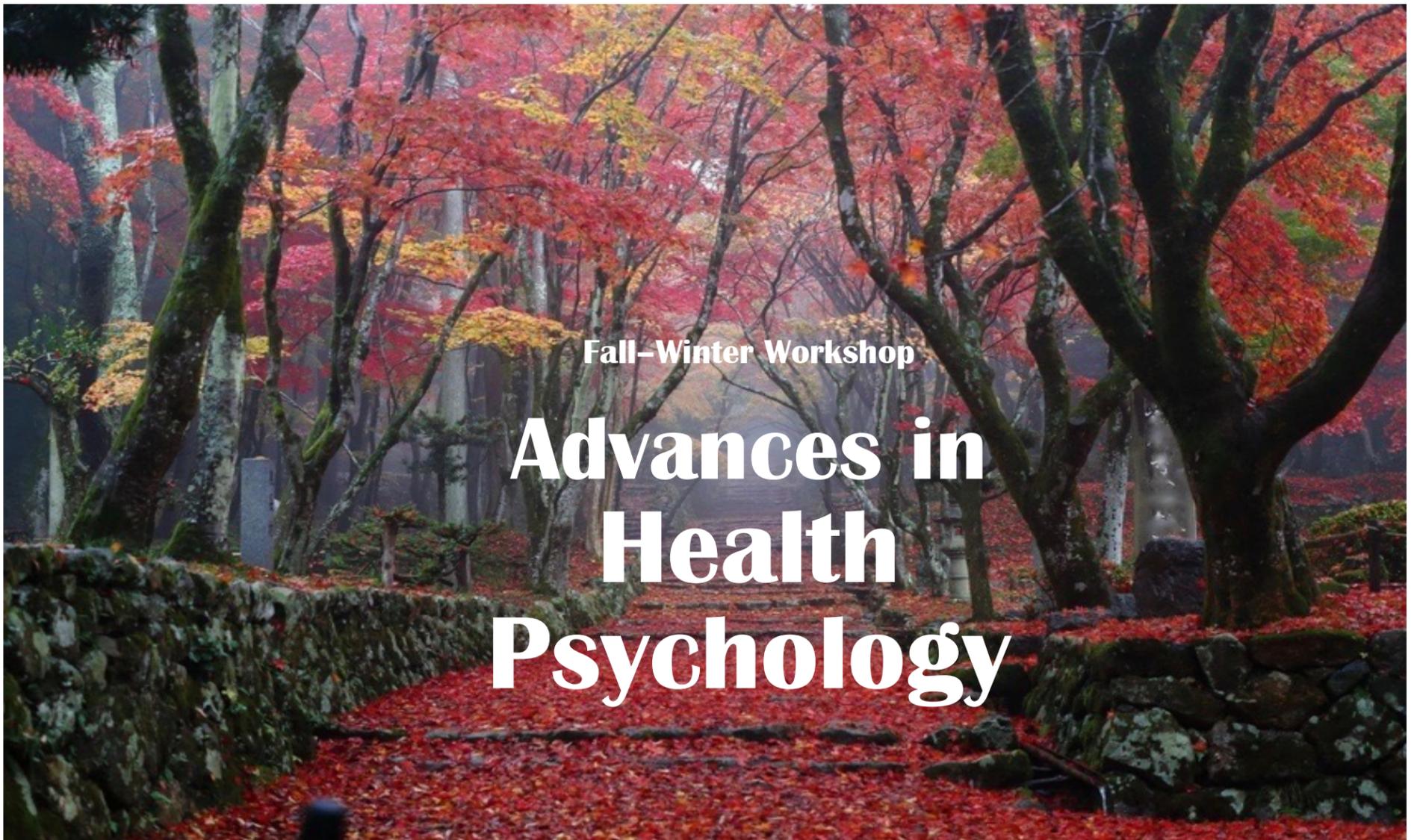
Booth is more than a stunt double. He is Dalton’s factotum, and the film makes much of their relationship, intentionally troubling us with the disparity between their rewards and social status, and the nature of their tie to each other. They need each other, but in ways that transcend convenience and utility. Part of the fairy tale element of this film is its providing an opportunity to make a moral judgment about this pair of characters. The fictional movie star owner of the opulent Beverly Hills mansion next door to Tate and Polanski is less admirable than is his stunt double and body man, an ex-Green Beret who lives in a trailer on a lot behind a drive-in movie screen.

Booth’s “roommate” in his trailer abode is Brandy, a pit bull. In a highly comedic element, Booth feeds his dog Wolf’s Tooth dog food, “Good Food For Mean Dogs.” It comes in two flavors, Rat and Raccoon. Brandy, eager and quivering with hunger, is trained to wait while Booth prepares the dog’s dinner. Not until her owner, at his leisure, gives her the signal, does she lunge slavering to her repast. Brandy later plays a key role in dealing with the misdirected home invasion by Mansonites. She is one of the most admirable characters in the film. The moral point: a creature of simple if urgent impulses, she controls herself out of attachment to Booth. In addition to the contrast between Dalton and Booth, we have a contrast between Dalton and Brandy. Dalton uses Booth and others, Brandy’s devotion is unconditional.

The film is very popular—high ratings from *Rotten Tomatoes*, grossing over a hundred million dollars at this point. Part of its popularity is its focus on an interesting time and place. Another element of its fascination is its look behind tinsel town glitter. It has the allure of a gossip column, a peek at what goes on behind the doors of the rich and famous. In Freudian terms, a peek into the parents’ bedroom.



# The Louisiana Psychological Association's



Fotila



**Friday, November 1  
2019**

**The Lake House  
12312 Old Hammond Hwy**

**Baton Rouge**

Join us to explore the latest research and practice guidelines for lifestyle and behavioral factors impacting mental and physical health — nutrition and biochemistry, stress, exercise, pain and other topics.

**Online Registration opens September 6 at:**

[louisianapsychologicalassociation.org](http://louisianapsychologicalassociation.org)

# Up Coming Events

## Dr. Bonnie Kaplan to Speak on Nutrients and Mental Health at Louisiana Psych Assn

Bonnie J. Kaplan, PhD, Professor Emerita in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and expert in the field of nutritional mental health, will speak to attendees at the Louisiana Psychological Association's Fall-Winter Workshop, to be held November 1, at The Lake House in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Kaplan will speak on nutrients and health and topics such as inflammation and mental health, the microbiome and mental health, oxidative stress and mental health, mitochondria and mental health and nutrient-treatment research.

Kaplan has published widely on the biological basis of developmental disorders and mental health – particularly, the contribution of nutrition to brain development and brain function. Her nutrition-related studies have focused on 1) broad spectrum micronutrient treatments for mental disorders, and 2) the effect of intrauterine nutrition on brain development and maternal mental health.

In her work, Kaplan outlines “a new model for understanding the etiology of the symptoms of mental disorders. In a healthy person with a healthy GI system, who eats a healthy diet and absorbs nutrients



Dr. Bonnie Kaplan  
(courtesy photo)

efficiently, there is usually sufficient nutrient availability for mitochondria to function optimally and produce adequate amounts of ATP to deal with the stresses of life. Our ATP provides a natural defense against the oxidative stress that occurs from normal metabolism and can help heal a compromised GI system. Our ATP also helps protect us from many environmental toxins and stressful life events," writes Kaplan.



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