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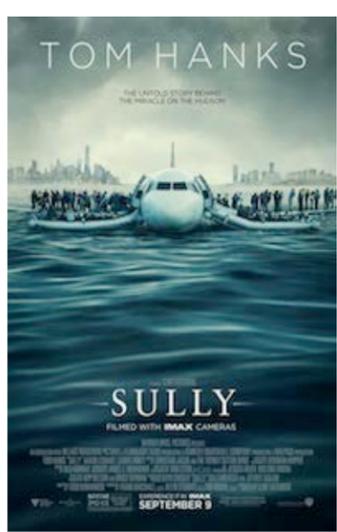
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Dr. Amy Henke

## Dr. Chaney Heads Speakers Bureau

Dr. Courtland Chaney will chair the new Speakers Bureau Committee for the Louisiana Psychological Association, which was launched last month.

The goal of the committee is to help psychologists better communicate to the public about important advancements and useful topics in psychology and psychological science. The effort will include coordinating with community members to offer important topics relevant to the welfare of the general public in Louisiana.

"Psychology as an academic discipline and scientific field of study," said Dr. Chaney, "has amassed a body of empirical data that can be applied to every facet of the human condition. From brain chemistry to personality development; from early child development to aging; from adolescent gang behavior to the group dynamics

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Dr. Charles Burchell (L) and Dr. Courtland Chaney at a conference. Dr. Chaney is leading a Speakers Bureau and Dr. Burchell is co-leading Resiliency Workshops for flood victims.

## Medical Psychologists Lose Majority on LSBEP

# Dr. Henke Appointed

Governor Edwards has appointed Dr. Amy Henke to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, according to an announcement Friday from the Governors' Office.

Henke is a clinical psychologist with the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and Children's Hospital in New Orleans. She is a member of APA Divisions

for Pediatric Psychology and Health Psychology.

Henke is also a Director for the Louisiana Psychological Association, and she will be stepping down from the Council, she said recently.

"My goal, if elected," Henke previously wrote during the election, "would be to assist in improving the relationship between LSBEP and psychologists

across the state through increased transparency, communication, and collaboration."

Dr. Leah Crouch was also nominated by the Louisiana Psychological Association and was included on the list of names provided to the Governor approved for appointment. Dr. Crouch is a clinical psychologist with membership in the

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**Special Report: Battle for the Board**  
Timeline of events since 2009 over control of LSBEP  
– Page 11

*\$8.7 billion in losses*

## Congress Includes \$500M in Budget for Louisiana Relief

A bill signed last week by President Obama to keep the government funded included \$500 million for disaster relief for Louisiana and other states.

"The people whose lives were turned upside down by the historic flooding expect us to give them every opportunity to rebuild," said Governor Edwards in a September 28 statement. "They need to know that help is on the way, and this is first step in that process. We still have work to do after the election to pass a comprehensive flood relief package, but I am confident we can get it done by working together.

"Crossing this milestone took the work of everyone - President Obama, our entire congressional delegation, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, and Commissioner Mike Strain. I want to thank them for working with me to bring home this relief for the people of



Senator Cassidy on uTube.

Louisiana, and I look forward to working with all of them again after the election to bring additional assistance home."

In a plea to support the relief funding, Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy told the US Senate, "If you take out hurricanes, this has been the most expensive natural disaster to happen in the last 100 years."

He said the damages were \$8.7 billion.

The funds became a political football, reported the *Times-Picayune*. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, had threatened to remove the money for Louisiana unless aid for Flint, Michigan was included. Flint has been struggling with lead in its water. \$220 million was included in the bill that then went

Cont'd pg 3

# Editorial Page – Opinions

## Groupthink, Saliva, and the Bishop's Ring

by J. Nelson

When Stone and Janis discovered groupthink in the 60s and 70s, I believe most thought that the phenomenon was an extreme—that most group decisions were relatively free of the unconscious group forces.

It seems however, that we are in a time where unconscious group dynamics are in ascendance. One example is the presidential election. We have the worst, most unlikeable candidate for the U.S. President in the history of our country, running against the second worst, most unlikable candidate in the history of our country.

With millions of people around, we have these two. How does this happen? It must be the amazing conundrum of psychological phenomenon of social behavior. We have in-groups, out-groups, and embedded groups. We have automatic and unconscious characteristics—fast-think, obedience, over-confidence, conformation bias, bystander effects, and so on. All driven by the often invisible force of self-interest, and supported with self-deception.

The first time my own automatic behavior—an element of groupthink—dawned on me, I was in the 5th grade.

I was being confirmed in the Catholic Church in the small, north Louisiana city of Natchitoches. For us it was a major experience of dazzling pomp and circumstance, with mystical and magical things like incense, men in long



robes, and Gregorian chanting. All of this was enough to put a grown adult into a trance, much less a child. Everyone was mesmerized.

Thinking back it was all very lovely and sweet. We were spit-shined in our crisp white-cotton, the girls in their frocks and the boys in their dressy shirts. Standing at attention, scrubbed and combed, we gleamed like an early sunrise. Family members watched us with love and pride; we were all one, we belonged, we knew who we were.

Many of the children had been gathered together from the outlying rural parishes and had never seen a real Bishop before. Certainly I hadn't. So, it's not surprising what happened next.

A young boy about 10 children ahead of me in line, stepped up and bowed. Then he bent over and kissed the Bishop's ring. I was stunned. I'd never seen anything like that before in my entire young life.

The next child did exactly the same thing and the next and the next. When the Bishop made his way to me, I paused for just a split second, then mimicked the others, bowed and placed my mouth on the ring.

The cool, wet saliva already coating the ring jarred me out of my groupthink—me being at exactly that age when all things having to do with someone else's saliva are totally disgusting.

Freed from my mindless, obedient behavior, I raised my head and struggled with my confusing emotions, nodded and backed away. Then I applied every bit of self-control I had at my young age, to refrain from scrubbing my mouth across my starched, white sleeve, as the Bishop slowly turned from me with his kindly smile.

I've watched my own automatic behavior many times since then, in more situations than I care to admit. I've been carried along by the social currents like a leaf in a stream, just like everyone else. But I don't think I've ever been quite as disgusted.

Scattered through the news this month are instances of groupthink, taking the inevitable toll on problem-solving. Boards, committees, commissions, charged with statesmanship, but who slip into politics.

An example is the Task Force for Meaningful Oversight is asking the board questions. One question, there are many, is, does the LSBEP have any "Suggestions for active supervision by the state on market-sensitive decisions..."

To this, and other similar inquiries about oversight, there is the same theme, probably crafted by the attorney. The board replies: "It is the Board's opinion that the board's policies and training in conjunction with oversight currently in place (i.e. rule-making and injunctive proceedings in the District Courts) is sufficient," the board wrote.

Really? The checks and balances are sufficient?

Perhaps a little saliva might help.

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We welcome ideas for news, features, Letters to the Editor, photos, and other material related to psychological community of Louisiana. Editorials and commentary reflect the opinions of this newspaper.

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#### Corrections & Clarifications

No corrections or clarifications were received for last month's issue. Please send corrections or clarifications to the *Times* at  
[psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com](mailto:psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com)

# Dr. Henke Appointed

## continued

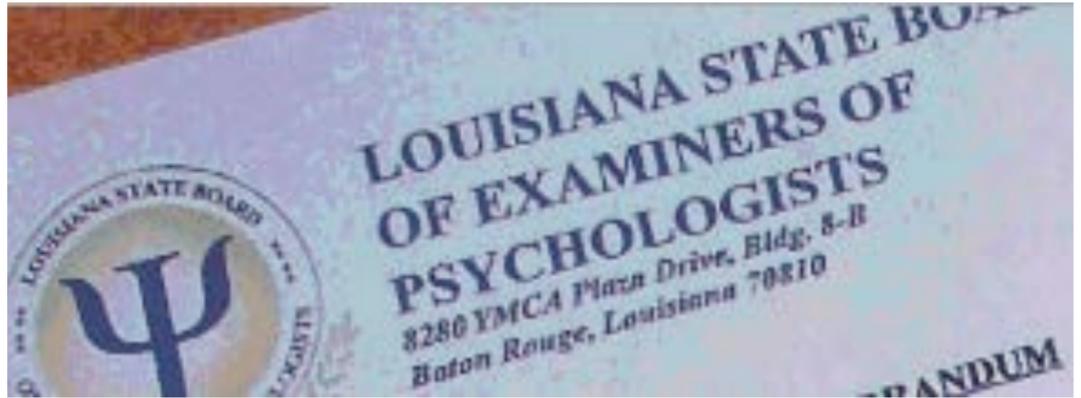
Divisions for Psychologists in Independent Practice, and also for Trauma Psychology.

Dr. Henke received 183 votes, Dr. Crouch, 113 votes, and 27 of those casting votes, abstained, for an election completed December 31, 2015.

Dr. Henke will fill the board seat of outgoing medical psychologist, Dr. Marc Zimmermann, who completed his term this June, but who stayed on for

any major votes, he has explained.

For the first time in eight years, independent psychologists will take more seats on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) than those affiliated with the medical psychology specialty and the politically powerful group, the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists (LAMP).



The January election was the first in recent years without a member of LAMP seeking a position on the board. The LSBEP has routinely been composed of three medical psychologists in the five members, despite the fact that medical psychologists make up only about 5 percent of all

licensed psychologists.

Medical psychologists are not required to hold a state psychology license, but are credentialed by the state medical board, which regulates their practice of psychology.

### Nominations Open for Psych Board

Current Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, Ms. Jaime Monic, notified psychologists and the press that nominations are now open for a board position. The opening will be for the term 2017 to 2022, as Dr. Darla Burnett completes her service in 2017.

The nomination period is through October 30.

Nominations are to be sent to the board's office at 8706 Jefferson Hwy, Suite B., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, attention LSBEP Nominations Committee.

"As you consider serving as a member of the LSBEP, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have," wrote Ms. Monic.

# Congress Includes Up to \$500M in Relief for Louisiana Flood Victims, continued

to the House for Flint, and also funds for fighting the Zika virus. Details will be worked out after the election, noted the report.

Other states that have experienced flooding will be eligible for the funds; West Virginia, Maryland, and Texas. However, House Majority Whip, Steve Scalise, R-Jefferson, said that estimates are that Louisiana will receive 80 percent, said the *Times-Picayune* report.

In a September 22 press release, Governor Edwards said, "I couldn't be more appreciative of the collaborative, bipartisan manner in which we all worked to have this funding included in the CR so quickly. Everyone, from our entire congressional delegation to Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser and Agriculture Commissioner Mike Strain, played a significant role in making this happen. The people of Louisiana should have confidence in their elected leader's ability to work together for the betterment of this state, and I know we'll continue that approach when Congress returns after the election to bring additional assistance home."

Gov. Edwards made three trips to Washington, DC to lobby Congress for federal assistance in the Continuing

Resolution, noted the press release. During his visits, he met with Congressional leaders, including House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid. In addition, Gov. Edwards met with various members

of Congress, as well as members of the Obama Administration who formally requested the additional assistance.

The Governor's Office also announced last week that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved his request to activate the Community Disaster Loan (CDL) program.

This will provide assistance to local communities impacted by severe storms and flooding in August.

According to the press release, funds loaned through this program must be used to carry on existing local government functions of a municipal operation character, and meet disaster-related needs.



Flooding in August caused \$8.7 billion dollars of damage in Louisiana, Senator Bill Cassidy told the U.S. Senate. Besides hurricanes, it was the most expensive disaster in the last 100 years, he said. (FEMA photo)

# Garner to Step Down as Complaints Coordinator

Dr. Chris Garner has indicated to the *Times* he will be stepping down as Complaints Coordinator at the state psychology board.

He also said that he may run for a position on the board after the waiting period is up, which may be in the 2017 cycle.

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) selected Dr. Garner as the new Coordinator at their January 22, 2016 meeting.

According to the board's minutes, Dr. Marc Zimmermann and Dr. Jesse Lambert reviewed three "very well qualified applicants," Dr. Erica Meyers, Dr. Chris Garner and Dr. Jill Hayes, and offered the position to Garner.

Garner took over from retiring Coordinator Dr. Clinton (Gary) Pettigrew. Pettigrew retired from his position as Complaints Coordinator at the end of October 2015, after more than 10 years of service.

On September 7 the board members passed a motion to create a second position, the Complaints Coordinator II. Based on the minutes, there is a backlog of complaints and "the role of the Complaints Coordinator is more involved than in previous years as it is required to utilize a licensed private investigator to investigate complaints and who does not have the clinical knowledge of a licensed psychologist, ..."

According to the minutes, the board agreed to offer the additional position to Dr. Sasha Lambert for the remainder of 2016–2017, a contract not to

exceed \$12,000. Dr. Lambert received her PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi.

When he announced his retirement last year, Dr. Pettigrew expressed that the role was not pleasant. He said, "I think it's somebody else's turn." He received thanks and praise from the board members for his service and assistance. Board members agreed that few people know about value of his contributions. Dr. Zimmermann said, "We appreciate your 10 years of service in a thankless, and difficult job.

The Complaints Investigations subcommittee came under scrutiny last year when it appeared that officials ignored a one-year time limit known by the legal term, "prescription."

The time limit is set in the psychology practice law and states that disciplinary proceedings are to be "commenced" within one year. The investigations subcommittee appeared to have proceeded on several complaints cases as if the time limit was three or more years. The board's discussion of the possible error was held in executive session and not disclosed to the public. (See "Board May Have Botched Time Limits on Complaints," in October 2015 *Times*.)

At the September meeting of the LSBEP, Dr. Mark Vigen made a public comment, and asked the board to make sure that those who investigate child custody complaints are "well versed in how complicated these evaluations can be if they are done well."

Dr. Vigen explained to the *Times* that there are many different methodologies to do these evaluations and that they are often very contentious, with parents and stepparents seeing themselves as good and the others as bad. Vigen said that he asked the board to be aware of in-group virtue and out-group vice, negative attribution theory, defensiveness, and other psychological science, and to make sure those in decision roles have the necessary training and experience.

He also indicated that he and the board members discussed the difference between mistakes versus ethical violations.

Dr. Vigen said that the board indicated they would be adding a new psychologist who has forensic experience to the review process. They also asked him if he would consult on problematic child custody cases and he said he would help.

## LSPA GoFunds Flood Victims

Members of the Louisiana School Psychological Association raised almost \$6,000 to help its students and interns impacted by the flood.

The group set up an account on Go Fund Me to aid the students. LSPA President Amber Boykin said, "So far we know of interns who have lost their homes, vehicles, and personal belongings. We all know how financially difficult it is when just beginning internship. We also have a few school psychology students who have been displaced. I am asking the LSPA membership to wrap their support around these students and interns."

"Neighbors helping neighbors, co-workers helping colleagues, and strangers helping strangers shows us that Louisiana is a resilient state and no matter what is thrown at our residents, we will come together and see each other through it," she wrote.

All funds will be divided among interns and graduate students impacted by the flood, said Boykin.

Donations can be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/2jvfb8>

## Louisiana Governor Sues AG Over Anti-Discrimination Clause

Governor Edwards is suing Louisiana Attorney General, Jeff Landry, over a clause in state contracts protecting LGBT individuals, according to several news sources.

Earlier this year, Edwards issued an Executive Order requiring LGBT anti-discrimination language in state contracts. The Attorney General, Jeff Landry, has refused to allow the state to hire outside attorneys if the contracts include anti-discrimination language.

According to a report in *Associated Press* by Melinda Deslatte, Landry argued that the Executive Order that Edwards issued creates a new protected class and is not within the Governor's authority.

The report said that Edwards and Landry met but couldn't agree. "He basically told me if I wanted him to approve those contracts that I would have to sue him. So I'm going to oblige him on that," Gov. Edwards said.

## Psychologist Opportunity

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## LSBEP Answers Questions On “Meaningful Oversight”

A task force created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 65 during the last legislative session, and authored by Senator Fred Mills, created the “Task Force on Meaningful Oversight.” The goal was to examine possible structures for oversight of the 25 healthcare boards under the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH). The effort was to deal with the fact that the boards operate autonomously from the department with “virtually no detectable oversight; ...” said Senator Mills.

The taskforce met in August and mediators Stephen Russo, Chair, and Attorney Angelique Duhon Freel, Deputy Director Civil Division, Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, gave boards a list of questions to answer.

The LSBEP composed its responses and published them in the minutes from a special meeting held September 7. The following are selected questions from Russo and Freel, and answers from the psychology board.

**Q: Mechanism, if any, for removal of board members;**

A: If the behavior of a board member was found to be unlawful or unethical, the Board would notify either the Inspector General, Attorney General, Board of Ethics and/or Governor’s Office (Boards and Commissions). However, there is no mechanism for “removal” that is specifically written in the psychology statute.

**Q: Does the board issue cease and desist letters, and what is the authority, process, and the due process procedures;**

A: Under the authority referenced below, [§2351] the board does investigate complaints against unlicensed individuals.

**Q: Is there any additional oversight for the rulemaking process;**

A: Oversight for Rulemaking occurs at several levels as follows:

- Discussion and opportunity for public comment at Board Meetings prior to filing rules;
- Publication of proposed rules on the Board’s website and also in the LA Register;
- Scheduled hearings or opportunity for public comment or to request hearing on proposed rules;
- Review by the Legislative Fiscal Office which specifically includes review on the following:

**Q: What type of training do the board members receive once they are appointed to the board;**

A: 1) LSBEP has a Board Member Orientation packet which contains

Policy, Procedures, Statutes, Rules, Administrative Procedures Act, Open Meeting Laws, Keesey’s Parliamentary Procedures;

2) Board members are required to annually take online ethics training;

3) New Board Members attend a national association meeting (ASPPB) where they attend a New Board Member Orientation;

4) The Board is a member of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) which provides training on regulatory issues to Members. In 2014, LA Board’s organized a FARB training for Members and Administration.

**Q: Is there currently any training done to educate members on how to recognize actual antitrust issues;**

A: The Board is a member of FARB and has organized training at its own expense to educate its membership on antitrust issues. The Board has also begun implementation of a new policy for antitrust training to be conducted annually by the Board’s General Counsel at its Long Range Planning meeting.

Cont’d next pg

## Behavior Analyst Board Posts Rules in September

The Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board (LBAB) published new Rules for continuing education, ethics, and supervision requirements, published in the September *Louisiana Register*.

The Rule states that each licensed behavior analyst and state certified assistant behavior analyst is required to complete continuing education hours within biennial reporting periods. For the reporting periods that begin December 2016 and henceforth, 32 credits of continuing professional development will be required in the biennial reporting period for licensed behavior analysts and 20 credits for state certified assistant behavior analysts.

The LBAB noted that it maintains that licensed behavior analysts, state certified assistant behavior analysts and registered line technicians shall follow the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board’s (BACB) Professional and Ethical Compliance Code, approved by the BACB Board of Directors and with the effective date of January 1, 2016.

In a section on Supervision Requirements for State Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (SCABA) the Rules notes that a state certified assistant behavior analyst shall assist a licensed behavior analyst (LBA) in the delivery of applied behavior analysis in compliance with all state and federal statutes, regulations, and rules. In the section on Supervisor Responsibilities, the Rule notes that qualifying supervision shall ensure that the quality of the services provided by the SCABA to his employer and to consumers is in accordance with accepted standards, including the guidelines for responsible conduct for behavior analysts and professional disciplinary and ethical standards for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board or other nation credentialing bodies as approved by the board.

The full text of the new Rules can be reviewed in the Register for September, found at

<http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osr/reg/regs2016.aspx>

## American Board of Medical Psychology



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[www.amphome.org](http://www.amphome.org)

# LSBEP Responds on “Meaningful Oversight” cont’d

**Q: What areas of training would the board members like to receive;**

A: Any additional training offered by the state agencies that oversee open meetings laws, ethics; understanding the regulatory role versus professional advocacy, would be a welcomed opportunity.

**Q: What is the board’s position on including more non-market participants as members on the board;**

A: Although the Board would not be opposed to adding ex-officio members serving in an advisory capacity, there is a concern that the addition of any non-market participants on the board would reduce or eliminate altogether the judicial deference afforded to licensing boards by the courts.

**Q: What is the board’s position on needed changes in light of the North Carolina Dental case: does the board think it is applicable, what are the board’s concerns, and proposed remedies;**

A: The North Carolina Dental case has caused the Board to scrutinize its statutes, regulations, policies and procedures concerning antitrust issues. This review has facilitated the

implementation of better defined procedures for handling complaints against non-market participants (including the adoption of the FARB Model for Identifying and Addressing Antitrust Issues); and implementation of an annual antitrust training for members. However, beyond this, it is the Board’s position that the statutes and regulations are clear regarding the scope and limitations of the board to regulate the practice of psychology.

**Q: Does the board take the position that there is currently a state supervisor who reviews decisions of the Board; if so, describe and explain whether that person has the power to reverse or modify the board’s decision;**

A: It is the Board’s position that, regarding **market participants**, there is oversight through rule-making, and adjudication of a complaint.

In **complaint adjudication**, a complainant is ultimately the Board’s witness against a licensee. The parties in an Administrative Complaint include the Board and the Licensee. In decisions which are adverse to the licensee, this Board is required to follow the LA Administrative Procedures Act and offer an opportunity for hearing. In these cases, an administrative law

judge oversees the decisions of the board. An opportunity to appeal these decisions are (*sic*) afforded under La. R.S. §2353. E.

**Q: Suggestions for active supervision by the state on market-sensitive decisions;**

A: It is the Board’s opinion that the board’s policies and training in conjunction with oversight currently in place (i.e. rule-making and injunctive preceding’s (*sic*) in the District Courts) is sufficient.

**Q: Position on creation of a superagency that would review market-sensitive decisions and would approve, modify or veto the board’s action;**

A: The Board maintains that adequate oversight currently exists in market-sensitive decisions involving non-market participants (i.e. the District Attorney; Judicial District Courts; LaRegister; Legislative Fiscal Office; Health and Welfare Oversight Committees).

**Q: Is there a concern with participation by board members that wear a dual hat/association appointee, etc.;**

A: Participating as an officer in an Association could present a conflict of interest where the Association

protects the interests of the market participant and the Board protects the interests of the consumer. There may be ethical and/or legal considerations in dual office holding in some cases. The Board must rely on the Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions to review and vet these matters and potential conflicts of interest. This Board is not currently dealing with such concerns. Additionally, the Board seeks to improve relations with its association to seek and support the Board’s opinion on legislation that may promote the profession, but potentially harm the public.

**Q: Are there specific board prohibitions that address conflicts of interests that may exist for board members;**

A: The Board has no prohibition specifically written in its regulations. However, it is the Board’s policy to follow the Open Meetings and Ethics laws.

(The complete text of questions and answers can be found in the minutes of the September 7 meeting, available at <http://www.lsbep.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes-9-7-16-Final-Approved-.pdf>)

**Way to Know!**

**NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK**

**OCT. 2-8, 2016**

## State News

### Louisiana Ranks #7 in Prescriptions

## Opioid Abuse Prevention Group Meets

The Louisiana Commission on Preventing Opioid Abuse met on September 26 at the Department of Health and Hospitals, to begin its work of indentifying the causes of opioid abuse in Louisiana.

The Commission was created by House Concurrent Resolution 113 passed in the 2016 legislative session, amid increasing awareness that opioid use is at dangerous levels in the public.

The report, "CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain – United States, 2016," published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, concluded that there was no evidence for long-term benefit of opioids in pain and function when compared to no opioids. However, the authors said there was "extensive evidence" for harm.

Louisiana ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in painkiller prescriptions, according to the CDC. CDC authors have noted that 165,000 persons died from overdose related to opioid pain medication in the United States between 1999 and 2014. The Drug Abuse Warning Network estimated that greater than 420,000 emergency room visits were related to the misuse or abuse of narcotic pain relievers in 2011, the most recent year for which data are available.

The Commission is co-chaired by Malcolm Broussard of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and Eric D. Torres of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Joseph Tramontana is attending for the Louisiana Psychological Association. Tramontanta was recently elected to the board of the Southern Pain Society.

"It is now widely accepted that pain is a biopsychosocial phenomenon," clinical health psychologist and President of the Southern Pain society, Dr. GERALYN DATZ, told the *Times* in a recent interview. "The Guidelines are really exciting because they explicitly state that physicians should be using nonpharmacological strategies including cognitive behavioral therapy as well as exercise for patients with pain," Datz said.

The Commission's goals include assessing the causes of opioid abuse in Louisiana, medical issues around prescribing, and evaluating reasonable alternatives to opioid use, such as mental and physical health treatments.

Outcomes also are to recommend policies and procedures for "more effective interagency, intergovernmental, and medical provider communication, cooperation, data sharing, and

collaboration with other states, federal government, and local partners (non-profit agencies, hospitals, health care and medical service providers, and academia) to reduce opioid use."

The Commission will also examine training needs and educational materials and outreach strategies, and alternatives to incarceration.

In a March 18 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) authors said that there was no evidence for a long-term benefit of opioid pain medications. However, the authors found strong evidence for serious risks, including overdose, opioid use disorder, and motor vehicle injuries.

The CDC said that other treatments, including psychological approaches, had long-term benefits, without the high risks of opioids.

## Business Recovery Centers Still Open to Help Flood Victims

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development and Louisiana Small Business Development Centers have partnered to provide support services to citizens with businesses impacted by the flooding.

Business Recovery Centers open include:

Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Archives, 3851 Essen Lane (near Interstate 12), Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Prairieville: BancorpSouth Bank, 13423 Louisiana 73, Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Denham Springs: Arts Council of Livingston Parish, 133 N Hummell Street, Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

Baker: Baker Workforce Development Center, 3262 Baker Blvd., Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lafayette: Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE) Executive Conference Room, 537 Cajundome Blvd., Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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## Science & Education

# Dr. Chaney to Develop Psychology Speakers Bureau continued

of a Board meeting, psychology can offer empirical evidence and expert opinion to understand and ameliorate the human condition," he said.

In a recent announcement to members of the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA), Chaney invited psychologists to participate in the program and speak on any topic in their area of expertise.

Why should psychologists speak up? "Arguably," Chaney said, "we should do so because it is a professional responsibility. My experiences these many decades have resulted in some realizations."

One of these, he said, is, "Talkativeness is not related to how much one knows. How much one knows is independent of how much one talks." And, "The people who talk the most," he said, "influence the group's decision and direction," and he pointed to Irving Janis' Groupthink research.

Chaney explained that he offered the idea for the Bureau at an LPA workshop last year on psychology's role in helping the Louisiana community. "During this session I suggested a speakers bureau. Well, be careful what you say and wish for—you might not only get what you want, you might also be invited to take a lead role in pursuing your recommendation," Chaney said.

He explained that he thinks psychologists can do more to improve public knowledge about psychology. He said he was recently watching a television show on contemporary news and research. "I was astonished to hear a report that 'recent research' at a major US corporation 'discovered' that people will not say what they think or otherwise speak up unless there is an adequate level of trust," he said. "This is especially true when high status members of the organization are present in the meeting."

He said he was very surprised that this well-known psychological result was being viewed as a new discovery.

"For the first time in my life, I sent correspondence to the TV show citing empirical evidence and ample expert opinion from the 1960s and 1970s to support the observation," he said. "Does anyone read the literature?"

As to why he is taking on this effort, he said, "So much of what I have done the last 30 years has been more associated with

business, management and human resource management. Now, I am reconnecting with the discipline and profession of psychology."

"As corny as this may sound, I want to leave the world a better place," he told the *Times*.

Chaney is a licensed industrial/organizational (I-O) psychologist and a certified professional in human resources. He has worked as a consultant in the fields of I-O psychology, organizational development and change, and human resource management since 1984, and is the owner of Human Resource Management Associates, Inc. He has designed and taught supervisory and management development programs under the auspices of LSU's Continuing Education division since 1984.

Those interested in participating in the Speakers Bureau can contact Dr. Chaney at [courtlandchaney@cox.net](mailto:courtlandchaney@cox.net) or [mqcourt@lsu.edu](mailto:mqcourt@lsu.edu)

Or visit his web site: [www.courtlandchaney.com](http://www.courtlandchaney.com)

# Dr. Rizzuto Organizes Women's Leadership Conference with Focus on Diversity and Solutions

Dr. Tracey Rizzuto is co-organizing the She Geauxs! Women's Leadership Development Conference, an effort to help women understand and build their leadership ability. The conference is to be held November 16 and is part of the College of Human Sciences and Education's Leadership Development Institute, recently approved by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Rizzuto is Associate Director of the School of Human Resource Education & Workforce Development, in the College of Human Sciences & Education at the Baton Rouge campus of Louisiana State University. She is an Ind.-Org. psychologist.

According to the *Baton Rouge Business Report*, Rizzuto initiated the creation of the conference because she found a missing element in typical and local leadership conferences when it came to women's development as leaders.

"Women in male-dominated fields often lose out on important socialization and mentor opportunities, and having those needs met elsewhere is important to women's continued development," Rizzuto said to the *Business Report*.

The She Geauxs conference is designed to give attendees help in understanding the psychology of their individual leadership styles and traits, and to pinpoint strengths, weaknesses, and areas for individual and professional development.

She Geauxs! is hosting a networking event as a lead up to the conference, Wednesday, October 12, 6 pm to 8 pm at Blend, 304 Laurel Street, in Baton Rouge, Dr. Rizzuto explained to the *Times*.

She also said that there are some openings still available for volunteers and LSU Students and staff are eligible for discounted attendance in exchange for volunteering.

The She Geauxs conference is part of the Leadership Development Institute and has been in development since 2014, according to the *Business Report*. The School of Human Resource Education & Workforce Development interim director, Reid Bates, said that the a need for leadership and leaders' abilities to adapt to new challenges was needed for Louisiana, said the report.



Pre-Conference Networking Session

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH**

Join us for encouraging conversations related to leadership during tragedy & self-care during disasters as we celebrate some of our #cajunrosies!

Learn more at [chseproed.com/SheGeauxs2016](http://chseproed.com/SheGeauxs2016)



6:00pm -8:00pm

Blend  
304 Laurel St.  
Baton Rouge, LA

Fee: \$20

To register for this session, email [chseproed@lsu.edu](mailto:chseproed@lsu.edu)

**LSU** College of Human Sciences & Education

## Tulane's Dr. Gray Awarded Prestigious Young Investigator Grant from BBR Foundation



Dr. Sarah Gray at recent presentation. She has been awarded the NARSAD Young Investigator Grant.

The Brain and Behavior Research Foundation has awarded Tulane's Dr. Sarah Gray the NARSAD Young Investigator Grant for her research *Parasympathetic and Behavioral Synchrony and Child Emotion Dysregulation Following Trauma*.

Gray, an assistant professor of psychology at Tulane, explained to *Tulane News* that she and her research team will focus on "children's ability to regulate their emotions and behavior."

Brain and Behavior Research Foundation notes that The Young Investigator Grant supports the most promising young scientists conducting neurobiological research.

A NARSAD grant is one of the highest distinctions in the field of mental health research. Fewer than 200 researchers receive the prestigious award during the year, noted the Foundation.

Gray and her team will have up to \$70,000 over two years to study children who have been exposed to violence or other traumatic events, reported Barri Bronston, *Tulane News*. Gray's team includes collaborators in the Tulane Department of Psychiatry and the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

"Studies show that children under 5 years old are exposed to these events at rates that are actually higher than older children," Gray told Bronston. "And we know that many children who are exposed to these events show lingering effects for long periods of time."

Gray said that she and her team will be examining how biology, behavior and the environment work together. "We're hoping that when we understand the mechanisms that underlie regulation difficulties among children exposed to trauma, we can better support parents to support children," she told Bronston.

Dr. Sarah Gray will be presenting with Dr. Courtenay Harding, "Defining Resilience, understanding bio-markers and how to use them, and promoting resilience" and "What is Resilience?" at the 2016 National Dialogues on Behavioral Health (NDBH) annual conference in New Orleans to be held at the Renaissance Arts Hotel from October 23 through 26.

## Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

### Technology to the Rescue

**It's about Time!** Instead of technology increasing our stress, new apps are coming out that aim at helping us stay healthy and combat stress. In the last operating system upgrade (iOS 10) for MAC iPhones and iWatches, there is attention paid to reminders and apps that remind you to breathe or spend a few minutes of Mindfulness time. The new iOS 10 has actually added Mindfulness and Sleep to the Health Data built into the operating system. This allows you to track your Mindful Minutes daily. The phone also sends reminders to the iWatch wearer to Breathe or to take a Mindful Minute break. It tracks your heart rate and how much you move all day long. Reminders that it is time to stand up and move some are helpful on those days spent in front of a computer screen typing a report.

I know Apple is not the only smart phone provider and that other such apps exist. The point is that technology has finally turned its attention to seeking new ways to keep the population in a healthier state of mind (and body). One such app that debuted in 2012 is called, Headspace. Emma Watson, author of *Sitting Still Like a Frog*, said, "it's kind of genius." Headspace is meditation made simple. Install it free today to learn meditation and mindfulness in just 10 minutes a day. If you enjoy Take10 (taking a 10 minute break) and want to learn more, then you can choose to continue and get access to hundreds of hours of original meditations. These include guided and unguided lessons and range from 2 to 60 minutes long.

Another such app that costs the same as a fancy cup of coffee is buddify. buddify is also a mindfulness app that is playful and beautifully-designed from a visual point of view. It boasts over 11 hours of custom meditations for many different things you might be doing during a day, including going to sleep, taking a work break, travelling, and many more.

When you start looking into apps designed to take some time for yourself or track changes toward adopting a healthier life style, the selection is surprisingly large. There is an app that tracks how much water you drink a day. There is a Diet Coach app. Many of these are free. One I just found while writing this column calls itself, "7." It is a workout app that takes 7 minutes and challenges you to do it daily for 7 months. It is based on the workout featured in the NY Times magazine and it builds in a challenge: if you miss 3 days in a row, it resets your score to zero.

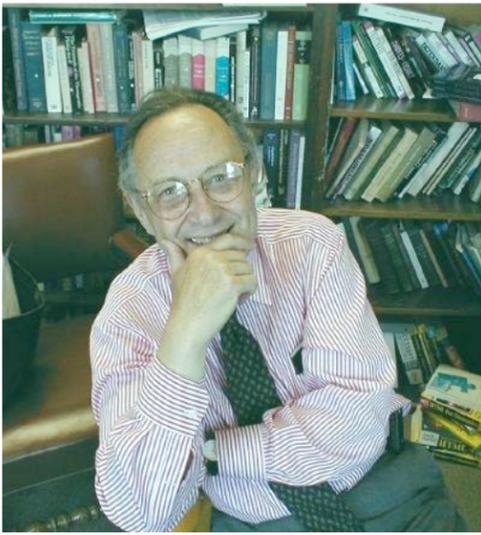
As the Apple announcer-lady with a cool British accent says, "Making small changes in 4 key areas can make a difference. Just move a little more. Eat a little better. Sleep tighter. And, take a moment to calm your mind." It really is *about time*.



Dr. Susan Andrews, Clinical Neuropsychologist, is currently Clinical Assistant Professor, LSU Health Sciences Center, Department of Medicine and Psychiatry, engaged in a Phase III study on HBOT and Persistent PostConcussion Syndrome. In addition to private clinical practice, Dr. Andrews is an award-winning author (*Stress Solutions for Pregnant Moms*, 2013).

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. He is also a member of Inklings, a Mandeville critique group that meets weekly to review its members' imaginative writings.



courtesy photo

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.

## *Sully* A Review by Alvin G. Burstein

USAir Flight 1549 was airborne only six minutes before crash landing in the Hudson River January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The film, *Sully*, directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Tom Hanks is also short, about an hour and a half. It is a biopic about Chesley Sullenberger, the pilot of the plane who was central to the astonishing survival of the one hundred and fifty-five persons aboard.

The film is remarkable in a number of ways. In it, Hanks confirms his virtuosity in portraying a particular kind of protagonist. Rather than hero of Greek tragedies, a great man brought down by a flaw in his character, or an epic hero whose virtues inspire us, he gives us a Sully worried about making ends meet and scrupulous about routine, but whose rule-bound commitment to professionalism becomes a virtue.

Hanna Arendt, writing about Eichmann's trial for his actions during the Holocaust, coined the phrase "banality of evil." She was referring to the capacity for enormous wrong-doing that might be a consequence of a bureaucratic commitment to following orders or rules.

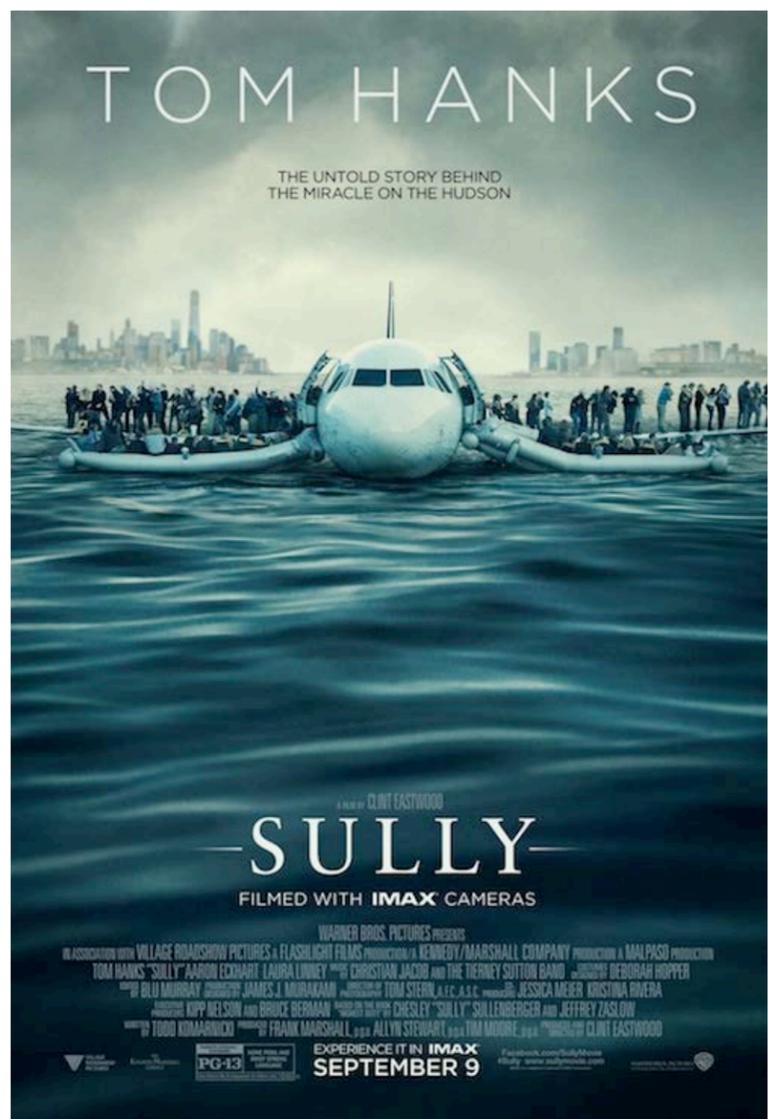
What *Sully* illustrates is that remarkable achievement may ensue from a similar source, perhaps a sort of banality of virtue. Sully describes his behavior, and that of his crew, as "just doing their jobs." While he was piloting the plane in its descent into the Hudson, his co-pilot was, as Sully ordered, thumbing through the book of procedures kept in every cockpit, and following the stipulated procedures. Perhaps this kind of banality is a positive one that could be understood as involved in what we understand by the term "professionalism."

Another striking aspect of the film is its ability to generate suspenseful tension about the outcome of the six-minute ordeal, despite the successful outcome being well-known, indeed, celebrated.

The director, Clint Eastwood skillfully accomplishes the feat by interleaving bits of Sully's early life, and, more importantly, pieces of the activity at the air traffic control center and on the rescue crafts, as they struggle to put together a response to Flight 1549's loss of engine power. Further, and perhaps more powerfully, Eastwood portrays Sully as having to deal with crises beyond that of piloting a powerless plane over a heavily populated area. Sully must later struggle with nightmares and feelings of self-doubt, elements which are now pathologized as Post Traumatic Stress disorder.

In the film, he must also struggle against an effort by the National Transportation Safety Board to conclude that he erred in ditching the expensive plane, needlessly imposing the risks

# A Shrink at the Flicks



of a water crash landing on the passengers and crew, that he could have taken the plane to a safer airport landing.

Sully, in his autobiographical account, does describe some of the mental distress with which he had to cope in the aftermath of the event. One might wonder if what he describes benefits from being pathologized in our medical culture as opposed to being understood as part of the psychological process of emotional assimilation of painful material.

On the other hand, there is no evidence in Sully's account, or in other accounts that I have found, of a "grilling" of Sully by the NTSB beyond the normal review that would ensue after the crash landing any commercial plane. I assume that Eastwood's invention of these activities is intended to introduce another level of suspense, and to increase Sully's heroism. The pilot becomes not just a very proficient professional, but a David routing the Goliath of bureaucracy and commercialism.

Good movie making, but one that obscures the interesting possibility of deepening the meaning of professionalism.

# Timeline: Battle for the Board



With Friday's appointment of Dr. Henke to the state psychology board, the majority shifts away from medical psychology for the first time in eight years.

The tug-a-war over the state psychology board appears to have been one of the many outcomes of Act 251, which moved medical psychologists and their practice of psychology to the state medical board. Conflicts over control of the board appear to continue to fuel tensions in the community.

Even though they have held the majority on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), medical psychologists are not required to have a license under the state psychology board. And, only about 5 percent of those holding a license with LSBEP are medical psychologists.

In this special report, we present the timeline since 2009 of the struggle over control of the board, using excerpts from our news stories over the last years. Highlights of some of the decisions made by the LSBEP are presented in boxes. The complete stories are available on the *Times'* website or from the publisher.

[Note: Reporting on the politics around the board won the *Times'* numerous first place awards through the Louisiana Press Association, including three years of Best Investigative Reporting.]

## November 2009

### Nominations Received for LSBEP; Balanced Board Expected

Representing different specialties and work settings, seven psychologists volunteered to become nominees to serve on the Board of Examiners to fill three positions.

Nominees volunteering are Dr. Glenn Ahava (CL, Lafayette), Dr. Mkey Bonner (IO, West Monroe), Dr. Rita Culross (ED, Baton Rouge), Dr. Gary Jones (CL, Shreveport), Dr. Lee Matthews (CL/CN, Kenner), Dr. John Simoneaux, (CO, Pineville), and Dr. Tony Young (CL, Ruston). [Dr. Young had affiliations with medical psychology.]

Three positions are to be filled. A regular opening for July 2010 is created by Dr. Jillandra

Rovartis in completing her term. Additionally, recent resignations require two more appointees to fill unexpired terms of Dr. Glenn Ally and Dr. Paul Dammers. Dr. Ally resigned effective September 15th and Dr. Dammers has given his resignation for December 31st. Dr. Joseph Comaty remains on the board, in Complaints and Long- Range Planning. And Dr. John Courtney remains, on Legislative, Education, and Jurisprudence Examination Committees.

## April 2010

### Dammers "Reappointed" by Governor's Office, Officials Surprised

Dr. Paul Dammers has been "reappointed" to the Psychology Board, after having resigned in September last year, according to a press release from the Office of the Governor. Dr. Dammers resigned September 4 amid

controversy concerning Act 251 and medical psychologists' dual positions in psychology and medicine.

According to the press release dated March 18, "Dammers was nominated for reappointment by the Louisiana Psychological Association, as required by statute."

However, results of the duly conducted election in November produced a list of names that were then submitted to the Governor for his selection. Dr. Dammers' was not on that list. The results of the election, conducted jointly by LPA and LSBEP, resulted in six individuals being ranked as follows: Dr. John Simoneaux, Dr. Lee Matthews, Dr. Rita Culross, Dr. Tony Young, Dr. Gary Jones, and Dr. Glen Ahava.

Dr. Dammers' reappointment appears to have come as a surprise to the executive directors of both LPA and LSBEP. LPA Executive Director, Ms. Gail Lowe, told the *Times* that she received notice on Friday, March 19 by email and was surprised by the announcement. She said, "Dr. Dammers' name was not on the list we sent to the governor's office. The press release must be an error," she said, "because LPA did not nominate Dr. Dammers for reappointment."

## May 2010

### Dr. Dammers Resigns Again; Drs. Young, Simoneaux Appointed to LSBEP

Two appointments have been made to the LSBEP, and a reappointment cancelled, according to Boards and Commissions Director, Ms. Sarah Olcott, in a phone conversation with the *Times* last week.

Dr. Tony Young was appointed in March and Dr. John Simoneaux was appointed in late April. The Governor's office had also announced the reappointment of Dr. Dammers, but since then he has re-resigned, according to Ms. Olcott.

## June 2010

### Dr. Culross Appointed To Board

On May 18 Governor Jindal announced his appointment of Dr. Rita Culross to the Psychology Board. Dr. Culross will replace Dr. Jillandra Rovaris whose normal term expires this month.

## July 2010

### Dr. Simoneaux Not Confirmed; Dr. Matthews Appointed

Dr. John Simoneaux's appointment to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) was not confirmed, surprising and disappointing many in the community. A June 29 press release announced the appointment of Dr. Lee Matthews.

Drs. Simoneaux and Matthews were the top vote getters in a statewide election conducted in November, with 141 and 103 votes respectively.

## Lopsided MOU

In 2010 the Psychology Board created a Memorandum of Understanding with the state Medical Board. The agreement instructed the Psychology Board to cooperate with the Med. Board for regulating MPs (medical psychologists) who retained their license with the Psychology Board.

However, there was no provision for the Medical Board to cooperate with the Psychology Board for regulating the practice of Psychology for MPs licensed solely under the Medical Board.

One board member referred to it as "the pecking order."

# Battle for the Board, continued

According to available information, the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee considered Dr. Simoneaux's appointment on May 26. Ms. Yolanda Dixon, 1st Assistant to the Secretary of the Senate, told the *Times* that the committee reviewed his appointment in private.

Dr. Simoneaux had been appointed by Governor Jindal in April and had already begun to serve on the LSBEP. According to Ms. Lowe, a nominee not being confirmed has occurred only one other time during her service. Mrs. Connie Stigall, who was the LPA Executive Director from 1986 to 2001, noted that this may happen if "... it's a clerical error, or some date is missed." But that "It doesn't happen very often."

An undisclosed source told the *Times*, "John is a man of utmost integrity... he is particularly well-informed about the ethical parameters of our profession, and speaks openly and candidly about our shortcomings. I wonder if he is experiencing backlash for his candor."

Dr. Simoneaux had written openly on the LPA listserv during 2009 regarding the long-term consequences to the profession of Act 251. Sources indicated that he confronted what he viewed as financial irregularities while on the LPA executive committee. Later in the town-hall meeting held by

the association, December 13th, 2009, he spoke up in opposition to the arrangement between LPA and Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, where LPA subcontracted with LAMP for lobbyists.

## January 2011

### Two Offer To Serve on LSBEP

Dr. Michael Chafetz and Dr. Marc Zimmermann have self-nominated and offered to serve on the psychology board.

## August 2011

### Governor Appoints Dr. Zimmermann To Psychology Bd

Governor Bobby Jindal has appointed Dr. Marc Zimmerman, licensed clinical psychologist and medical psychologist, to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, according to a press release from the Governor's office on July 7.

He and Dr. Michael Chafetz were nominated by the Louisiana Psychological Association to fill a vacancy left by Dr. Joseph Comaty, who this past June completed his five--year term of service.

Dr. Chafetz, who received 70 percent of the votes from licensees, was not appointed.

## No Dice

In 2010 and 2011, members of the Louisiana Psychological Association passed a motion to "explore ways to address the dual licensure issues created by Act 251, and "open a dialogue" with various groups, including the psychology board.

In late 2011, the then LPA President, Phil Griffin, asked the psychology board to discuss the issue. The board told Griffin, "This is a legislative matter and is not the responsibility of the LSBEP to change."

We don't legislate, we regulate, was the board's response.

But the board would prove to be an active participant in legislation. Only a few months later the board would launch an aggressive effort to bring Behavior Analysts under their regulatory control. It ended badly for psychologists.

## January 2012

### LSBEP Ballots In Mail This Week

Ballots go out this week for an election to the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists, according to Executive Director of the Louisiana Psychological Association Ms. Gail Lowe. Dr. Tony Young will be completing the term that he has filed. Self-nominated are Dr. Darla Burnett, Dr. Arnold James, and Dr. Gary Jones. Dr. Burnett is psychologist and medical psychologist with the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System in Jackson, according to the LSBEP license verification. Dr. James is with the Tulane

School of Medicine, also according to the LSBEP license information. Dr. Jones is Chair at LSU Shreveport.

## March 2012

### Dr. Burnett Captures Top Spot in Bd Election

Dr. Darla Burnett received the top number of votes in the LSBEP election that closed on February 6. She won the top spot by capturing 77 votes or 43 percent of the total 180 psychologists voting in the election. Dr. Gary Jones came in second with 67 votes, for 37 percent of the total. Dr. Arnold James received 36 votes, or 20 percent.

Dr. Burnett's and Dr. Jones' names have been submitted to the governor, according to the LPA Executive Director. [Dr. Burnett is a medical psychologist.]

## August 2012

### Gov Appoints Dr. Burnett To LSBEP

On Friday Governor Jindal announced his appointment of Dr. Darla Burnett to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists for a five-year term.

## December 2012

### Dr. Courtney To Resign from LSBEP Dec 31

Vice Chair of the psychology board, Dr. John Courtney, will be stepping down from his position on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology December 31, 2012, according to comments by board members at the LSBEP meeting on November 9, 2012.

## Reversing Opinion on Supervision of Interns

In late 2010 the psychology board ruled that medical psychologists who wanted to supervise psychology interns would have to maintain a valid psychology license under the LSBEP.

But then they reversed their decision after being contacted by the medical board representatives. Dr. Joe Comaty, a medical psychologist, was the chair and key in both the initial decision and the reversal. None of the medical psychologists on the board recused themselves for the vote.

The Executive Director of the association of psychology boards said Louisiana was "Playing with fire."

When the *Times* asked for the documents that were presented by the medical board, the request was denied, and *Times* publisher was told to present her press "credentials." When the publisher submitted press badges, documents were still denied.

# Battle for the Board, continued

## March 2013

### Dr. Phil Griffin Grabs Top Votes In LSBEP Election

Dr. Phil Griffin received the top number of votes in the LSBEP election that closed on January 25, 2013. Griffin won the top spot by capturing 81 of the 166 total votes cast by licensed psychologists in the state, or about 49 percent of those voting.

Also hoping to serve on the board, which would be for a second term if appointed, is Dr. Joe Comaty, a medical psychologist who recently retired from the state Office of Behavioral Health. Comaty received 46 votes, or 28 percent of the vote. Dr. Lynn Schechter, a psychologist in private practice in Baton Rouge, received 39 votes or 23 percent.

## March 2013

### Three Offer To Fill One-Year Spot LSBEP

Three candidates are offering to serve on the psychology board, to fill an unexpired term caused by Dr. John Courtney's resignation in December 2012. Dr. Jessica Brown, Dr. Thomas Fain, and Dr. Beverly Stubblefield are included on a ballot that was due in yesterday.

## July 2013

### Governor Appoints Brown, Griffin To Psychology Board

In a press release Friday Governor Jindal announced that he was appointing Dr. Jessica Brown and Dr. Phillip Griffin to the state psychology board.

## September 2013

### New LSBEP Member Now Listed as MP

In late June, the state medical board listed Dr. Jessica Brown as qualifying for the medical psychologist certificate. This comes as a surprise to some in the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA), where Brown had served as Legislative Chair during 2010 to 2011. One insider in the association said to the *Times*, "I had no idea," in response to the news.

Dr. Brown was recently appointed to the Louisiana

State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP). However, she did not list her 2010 preparation training for the MP on her nomination form. [It was later changed at the state medical board that Brown was MP certified in 2013.]

## January 2014

### Three in Race For Psychology Board

Three psychologists are running for the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists in an election that is currently in progress. These are Dr. Joe Comaty, retired from the Department of Health and Hospitals, Dr. Robin Chapman, currently at St. Thomas Community Health Center, and Dr. Connie Patterson, Professor of Practice in Psychology at Tulane.

## February 2014

### LSBEP Election Do-Over

Due to an error in the color of the ballots, the election for a five-year position on the state psychology board is being delayed, current ballots destroyed, and new ballots being sent to licensed psychologists around the state. The error, that ballots were printed on plain white paper rather than shaded paper, would make it easy for someone to send in duplicates. "We do not have any evidence of any voting impropriety having taken place," said Fanning, "but we want the election to be unambiguously above-board."

## March 2014

### Psychology Board Ballots To Go Out for Third Time

Ballots for a 5-year position on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists will have to be sent to the over 650 licensed psychologists in the state for a third time.

According to Dr. John Fanning, President of the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA), the organization that helps conduct the election, a clerical problem caused some mailings not to contain a cover letter explaining to licensed psychologists exactly why there was a second ballot being sent to them. The cover letter was to help avoid any voters' confusion. "We asked the board to send an e-mail to all psychologists licensed in the state, but the board declined to do so," Fanning said.

## May 2014

### 116, 77, 20: Snake-Bit LSBEP Election Finally Concludes – Maybe

Votes for a five-year position on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists were finally counted on Saturday, April 26, in a snake-bit election that has included three rounds of ballots having to be sent to state psychologists, and a fourth round still a possibility.

Dr. Constance Patterson captured 116 votes, 77 were cast for Dr. Joe Comaty, and Dr. Robin Chapman received 20 votes. Patterson's and Comaty's names will be sent to Governor Jindal's Office for him to name his appointee. Ballots were counted in an open meeting at Touro Infirmery, New Orleans.

## May 2014

### Emails Point to Behind the Scenes Tensions In Current LSBEP Election

A release of emails from both the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the Louisiana Psychological Association responding to requests for public records by

the *Times*, points to behind the scenes interactions, some of which contributed to the historical three ballots having to be sent to voters.

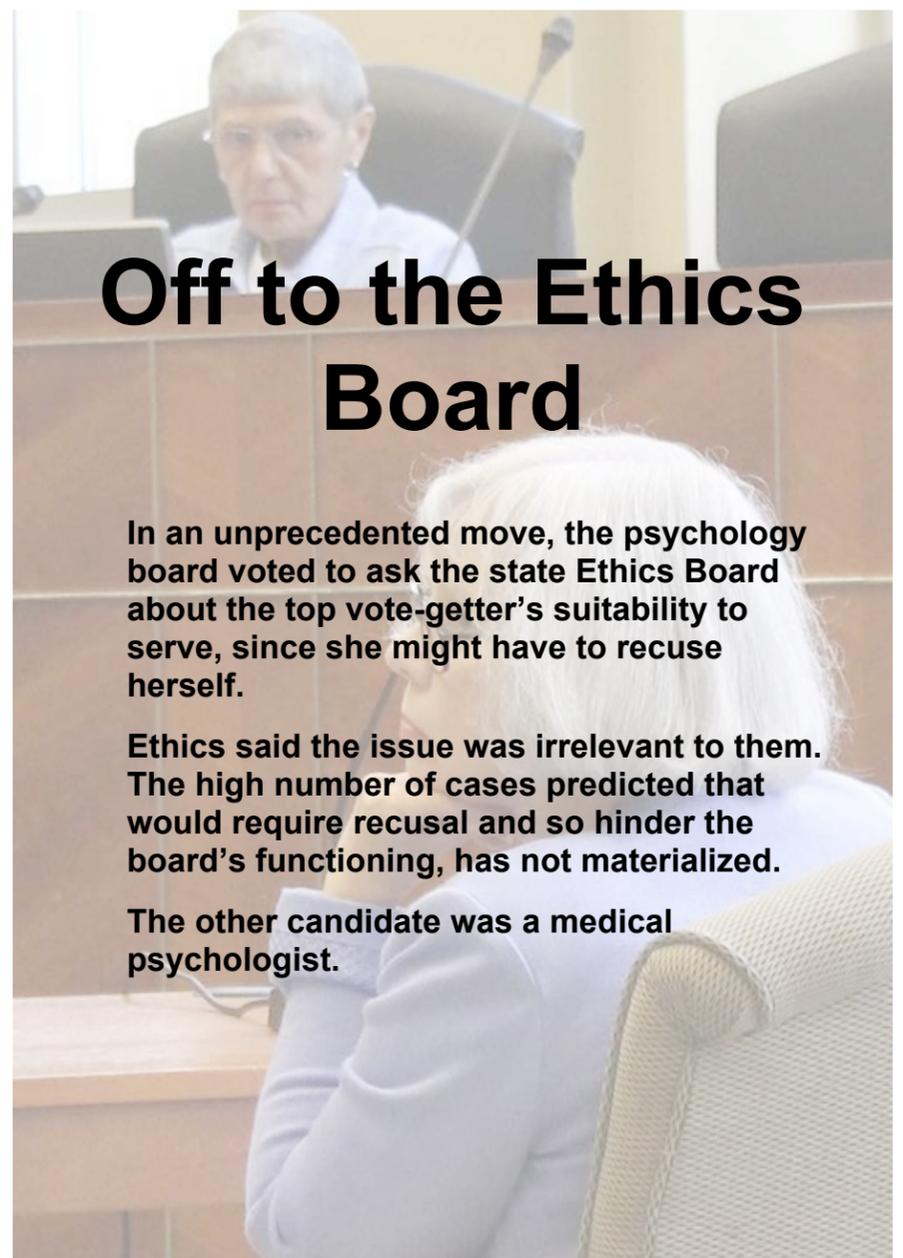
In a December 31, 2013 email from Dr. Joe Comaty to Kelly Parker, Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), Comaty wrote about several concerns he had regarding the election.

He first said that he had been given emails circulated about the election, "... that we had discussed earlier," and noted that the emails "... indicate a concerted effort on the part of this group to run Connie or get behind Robin and to clearly defeat me at all costs."

The memo seemed to suggest that Comaty believed the emails to come from LPA. However, sources confirm that the emails referred to by Comaty came from Grassroots, a group opposing Act 251 and its consequences.

Comaty wrote to Parker, "Well, I hope that the new year will bring new opportunities to rid LPA of these malicious members."

Cont'd next pg



## Off to the Ethics Board

**In an unprecedented move, the psychology board voted to ask the state Ethics Board about the top vote-getter's suitability to serve, since she might have to recuse herself.**

**Ethics said the issue was irrelevant to them. The high number of cases predicted that would require recusal and so hinder the board's functioning, has not materialized.**

**The other candidate was a medical psychologist.**

# Battle for the Board, continued

In this email to Parker, Comaty expressed a complaint that this group had the names of candidates before others in the voting public, and also his concerns about how the voting would be verified. "How can we be sure that some psychologists would not be encouraged to send in more than one ballot; or that there may be some manipulation of the counts?" he wrote. "Of course, I would be unfairly judging the integrity of my colleagues and making a serious allegation."

In another email, released by the LSBEP, Ms. Parker forwarded a copy of a letter Comaty wrote to Boards and Commissions Assistant Director Holly Robinson on January 2, 2014. It is not clear how Parker came by a copy of this letter. She forwarded it to LSBEP chair Dr. Rita Culross.

In this letter, Comaty listed his concerns, beginning with, "One of the candidates currently running has a direct conflict of interest," he wrote to Robinson.

## June 2014

### CYA or Interfering with the Election: What is the Psychology Board Doing?

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) has latched on to an appeal made by a candidate for a position on the board, medical psychologist Dr. Joe Comaty, and run with it all the way up to the state Ethics Administration.

In an unprecedented move, the psychology board asked the state Ethics Administration to give them an Advisory Opinion about whether someone who has information about certain cases would present an "obstacle" for the LSBEP if appointed.

[...] an emergency meeting by the LSBEP that was held off-schedule on Tuesday, May 6. Attending the meeting were Drs. Rita Culross, Marc Zimmermann, Darla Burnett, and Executive Director Kelly Parker. The members voted 3 to 0 to ask for the opinion from the Ethics Administration.

On May 7 the LSBEP sent a Request for Advisory Opinion, signed by Chair Culross, in overnight mail to the Ethics Administration, and copied officials at Boards and Commissions in the Governor's office.

## July 2014

### No Conflict of Interest As Far As We're Concerned, Says State Ethics Board

In a brief review of facts and a short comment by Dr. Rita Culross, members of the Louisiana Board of Ethics found nothing in their Code that applied to the questions posed to them by the state psychology board regarding Dr. Constance Patterson's qualifications to serve.

During the short discussion, the investigating attorney said, "She has no conflict of interest," referring to Patterson and her previous work as a consultant to the psychology board, and the applicable law under the Ethics Administration.

Chair M. Blake Monroe, the Ethics Board Chair from Lafayette, said he understood the issue about people on a board recusing themselves. "We sometimes have to deal with that same problem on our board," he said. But, he explained that those issues do not involve

the Ethics Board. He said, "These questions you're asking don't involve us."

"Why did you bring this to us?" Vice Chair Julie Blewer of Shreveport asked Culross, who commented about concerns regarding having enough members to vote on disciplinary issues if Patterson recused herself.

## July 2014

### Psychology Board Refuses to Disclose Its Legal Rationale

At the regular meeting of the state psychology board last Friday, June 27, Dr. Tom Hannie asked the members to explain the basis for a comment they made during a presentation to the La. Psychological Association in June. At the presentation, the Chair, Dr. Rita Culross, told attendees and presented a slide, that, "Contrary to recent rumors, disciplinary panels can only be made up of Board members – the Governor CANNOT appoint a replacement."

On Friday Dr. Hannie asked the board members to reconcile their statement, with sections of the law that appear to contradict their public statement made to the psychologists in their June presentation.

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# CEs from a PAC?

In 2014 the LSBEP was informed that medical psychologists had been obtaining their continuing education from a Political Action Committee, the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists.

It was not known why the MP board members would not have known this years before.

Even though PACs are not qualified sponsors for CEs, the psychology board approved the past education credits.

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# Battle for the Board, continued

"... I asked them if they could show me where in the law it says that, and they said, 'No. Because of attorney-client privilege.' No matter how I asked them or what I asked them, eventually it got back to that," Hannie said.

## September 2014

### Gov. Appoints Dr. Comaty; MPs Retain Majority on LSBEP

Governor Jindal has selected the second ranked nominee, Dr. Joe Comaty, to fill a five-year spot on the psychology board, according to an August 14 announcement from the Governor's office.

## October 2014

### Emails Point to LAMP in Recent LSBEP Appointment, Not DHH; Stream of Requests for Patterson, Democratic Process

Almost 40 letters in support of Dr. Constance Patterson and the democratic process apparently were not enough to overcome the political influence of two names listed in one obscure interdepartmental email.

"Bud Courson and James Quillin recommend Dr. Comaty for appointment."

Mr. Courson is the lobbyist for the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists (LAMP) Political Action Committee, and Dr. Quillin, a Medical Psychologist, is a key leader in LAMP and Chair of the Medical Psychologist Advisory Committee for the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

The single reference to the two men showed up in an attachment email, when Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Kathy Kliebert responded back to an email about the two appointees.

The original email, from an administration assistant to Boards & Commissions Director, Barker Dirmann, noted that Patterson was recommended by the President of Tulane, Representative Pat Smith, and the school psychology association. Comaty, the memo noted, was recommended by Bud Courson and James Quillin.

Also, what looks like an attempt by Boards & Commissions Director Barker Dirmann to redirect attention away from LAMP politics by floating the idea that Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) was pushing for Comaty's appointment, was dispelled by an email from Kliebert.

Kliebert responded that either Patterson or Comaty was

acceptable. And in another exchange, after Kliebert was alerted to rumors that DHH was supporting Comaty, Kliebert contacted Dirmann and asked to speak with him about the matter.

The emails were released by Boards & Commissions in response to a public documents request by the *Times* and provide the bread crumbs in what some view as one of the most bizarre elections for the psychology board any can remember.

Dr. Comaty sent over 30 pages of communications to Boards & Commissions with complaints that included his concerns about possible election tampering by members of the Louisiana Psychological Association. This triggered three balloting cycles.

## February 2015

### Stubblefield - 173, Boggs 132, and Lambert - 71, in High Turnout for LSBEP

Dr. Beverly Stubblefield captured the top number of votes in the recent psychology board election with digital polls closing at the end of the year. Dr. Stubblefield received 173 votes, Dr. Koren Boggs, 132, and Dr. Jesse Lambert received 71.

## June 2015

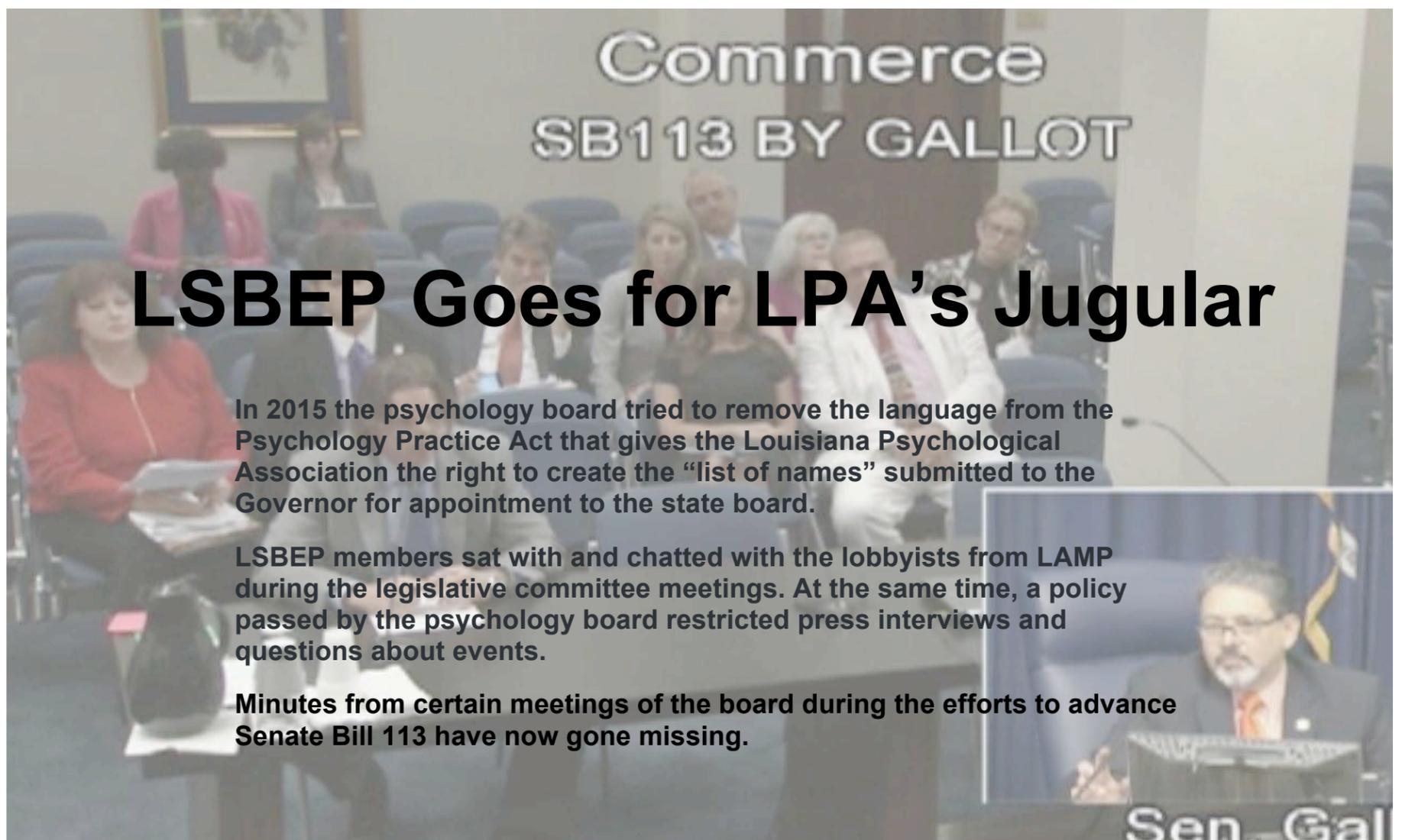
### Board Calls Special Meeting; Psychology Board Pushes to Include LAMP Candidate on List to Governor

The psychology board held a special meeting on June 1 to entertain motions about what action they should take, given a conclusion they appeared to have already reached—that all candidate names should be included on the Louisiana Psychological Association's list to the Governor.

Dr. Culross and Executive Director, Ms. Kelly Parker, said their reasoning was that all names should be listed, because the Memorandum of Understanding, which specified two names, was terminated last year. They said their interpretation of the statute, which is R.S. 37:2353, was that it means "all" names.

Dr. Rita Culross said that the meeting had been called, "To discuss the results of the 2014 election that LPA reported to the Governor's Office. It has been noted," she said, "that LPA did not report the results of the full election to the Governor's Office, but only reported the vote tallies for the top two candidates," she said. She did not specify who noted this.

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## LSBEP Goes for LPA's Jugular

In 2015 the psychology board tried to remove the language from the Psychology Practice Act that gives the Louisiana Psychological Association the right to create the "list of names" submitted to the Governor for appointment to the state board.

LSBEP members sat with and chatted with the lobbyists from LAMP during the legislative committee meetings. At the same time, a policy passed by the psychology board restricted press interviews and questions about events.

Minutes from certain meetings of the board during the efforts to advance Senate Bill 113 have now gone missing.

Timeline—special report

# Battle for the Board, continued

## July 2015

### Dr. Joe Comaty Not Confirmed

In a twist to one of the most unusual psychology board elections ever, the Senate declined to confirm Dr. Joseph Comaty to serve a second term on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP).

While no one in the community is officially taking responsibility for lobbying against the appointment, numerous undisclosed sources tell the *Times* that Dr. Comaty's decisions have drawn criticism from psychologists, licensed professional counselors, and also from marriage and family therapists, and that these and other issues motivated efforts to block his serving again on the board.

Dr. Comaty's political positions while previously serving on the psychology board have caused a variety of concerns from different groups in the community.

Some consider his interests to be aligned with Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists (LAMP), who has controlled a majority vote on the state psychology board since 2009 and Act 251.

Comaty has assured the community that he does not have a conflict of interest, stating so in a board newsletter last year, following his initial appointment.

Lack of confirmation is rare. But in 2010, top vote getter and widely admired clinical and forensic psychologist, Dr. John Simoneaux was also torpedoed.

In 2010, Simoneaux reluctantly spoke with the *Times*, indicating that he had been told that, if he had any questions, to speak with his Senator, Joe McPherson. At that time, McPherson was the Senator for both Simoneaux and Jim Quillin.

Last year the *Times* obtained records off the internet from a court proceeding involving a relative of Senator McPherson. In these proceedings, Dr. Simoneaux was the court-appointed psychologist.

According to the records, the relative objected to Simoneaux helping with the case, alleging that he was biased "... because her uncle, state Senator Joe McPherson, blocked his appointment to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists."

In a 2009 letter from LAMP leaders to the American Psychological Association attorneys, explaining why LAMP negotiated Act 251, Dr. Glenn Ally noted, "[It] So happens it is Sen. McPherson who was the sponsor of our initial RxP bill and friend of Dr. Quillin."

## July 2015

### LSBEP Continues Power Grab

In an email on June 24 to licensed psychologists, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) said it will force the Louisiana Psychological Association to conform to the LSBEP's view of the law regarding how names are submitted to the governor for appointment.

The new policy, sent by Executive Director, Kelly Parker, noted "... the Louisiana Psychological Association shall report to the Governor's Office the results of the entire election, including all nominees and the votes for each nominee." The policy included the warning, "If the Louisiana Psychological Association fails to report the all of the information (sic), in one way or another, the Board will also notify the Governor's Office with the accurate results of the board election."

LPA's current policy is to include the two top vote-getters, which officials have said is to support the democratic method.

## August 2015

### LPA, LSBEP Wrestle Over Names on "List"

As the delay for two positions on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology (LSBEP) continues to stretch out, emails from Boards & Commissions point to a continuing

effort by the LSBEP to influence which names are sent to the Governor for appointment. Some view LSBEP's efforts as usurping the legal rights of Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA), who is pushing back.

On June 25 the LSBEP published an Emergency Rule. The rule included wording that appears to direct both the Governor's and LPA's actions. The rule notes, "The Governor shall fill, within 30 calendar days, for the remainder of the term, any vacancy occurring in board membership for an unexpired term from a list of qualified candidates provided in the most recent election."

The LSBEP also wrote, "If the Louisiana Psychological Association fails to report the all of the (sic) information, in one way or another, the Board will also notify the Governor's Office with the accurate results of the board election."

Dr. Lacey Seymour, emailed Parker and offered to speak by phone, attaching a formal letter. Seymour continued in her letter to Parker, "We would also like to request that a Task Force be formed in order to facilitate open discussion and communication between the Louisiana Psychological Association and the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists regarding the adoption of policies for future elections as we strongly feel as if it is in the best interest of psychologists across the state to have input regarding how these elections are conducted." According to Seymour, Parker said the board voted against the request for a task force.

## September 2015

### Governor Appoints Drs. Boggs, Lambert; LAMP Keeps Majority on LSBEP

Governor Jindal has appointed Dr. Koren Boggs and Dr. Jesse Lambert to serve on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), according to a memo dated August 14, 2015, obtained by the *Times*.

Dr. Lambert's appointment maintains the six-year majority presence of medical psychologists or LAMP members on the state psychology board.

## February 2016

### Henke First in LSBEP Election Returns

Dr. Amy Henke has captured 62 percent and Dr. Leah Crouch, 38 percent, of votes from the licensed psychologists casting votes in the election for a seat on the state psychology board, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP).

The election was the first in recent years without a member of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologist (LAMP) seeking a position on the board.



Dr. Jesse Lambert (L), current Chair Dr. Darla Burnett (C) and returning Executive Director, Ms. Jamie Monic, at a conference. Some see a number of positive changes in processes at the board, with the return of Ms. Monic.

# Up-Coming Events

## *Drs. Charles and Paula Zeanah, Dr. Keyes, Dr. Coulter, Dr. Chaney* Louisiana Psychological Assn to Hold Fall Workshop October 8 in Port Allen

Charles Zeanah, MD, and Paula Zeanah, PhD, will give the keynote addresses, "Is it Ever Too Late? Sensitive Periods in Brain and Behavioral Development," and "Adverse Childhood Experiences: Implications for All Psychologists," at the Louisiana Psychological Association Fall Workshop

Courtland Chaney, PhD, will present, "Unethical Behavior: Understanding Why Good People Do and Repeat Bad Things." He will explore the situations and circumstances that prompt people to act in unethical ways and the psychological dynamics that allow or even encourage people to repeat unethical behavior.

The workshop will be held October 8 at the West Baton Rouge Conference Center in Port Allen, Louisiana.

The Drs. Zeanah will discuss various issues in the clinical, research and policy perspectives on early experience applicable to all clinicians and researchers.

Angela W. Keyes, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Tulane Institute of Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health, and Allison Boothe, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Tulane Institute of Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health, will present "Supporting the Development of Young Children's Social and Emotional Skills Through Mental Health Consultation."

"Weak Links in School-Related Evaluations: Evidence-Based Practices," will be presented by W. Alan Coulter, PhD.

Dr. Coulter is Director for Education Initiatives at the Human Development Center, School of Allied Health Professions, LSU Health Sciences Center.



Current president of the Louisiana Psychological Association, Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, watching a presentation from the back of the room at last year's Fall Workshop. This year's workshop is this Saturday, October 8.

## Gulf Coast ABA October 6-8, in New Orleans

The 2016 Gulf Coast ABA Conference, featuring Dr. Jesús Rosales-Ruiz, will be held October 6-8 in New Orleans at the Le Meridien Hotel.

Featured speaker is Dr. Jesús Rosales-Ruiz, associate professor and chair of the Department of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas.

## *Drs. Harding, Gray, Osofsky, Foreman and others* National Dialogues Conference on Resilience, New Orleans, Oct 23 – 26

The 2016 National Dialogues on Behavioral Health (NDBH) will hold its 57th annual conference in New Orleans at the Renaissance Arts Hotel from October 23 through 26. The conference theme is "Promoting Individual, Family and Community Mental Wellness and Resilience".

The focus of the conference is to identify short- and long-term solutions to maintaining mental wellness by applying research-based approaches for communities and across the lifespan of individuals and their families.

Local experts will join national speakers in a variety of workshops and pre-conference presentations.

Dr. Courtenay Harding and Dr. Sarah Gray will present Defining Resilience, understanding bio-markers and how to use them, and promoting resilience"

and "What is Resilience?" They will discuss the "emerging science of neurobiological, genetic adaptations for research-based therapeutic interventions for trauma and stress to promote mental wellness and resilience for individuals, families and communities." They will also discuss risk and protective factors and summarize how people repair the biopsychosocial damage left by trauma and other life events, and explain how systems, services, families, consumers, and communities can help reclaim lives.

Dr. Joy Osofsky will join Ingrid Donato of SAMHSA to present "Challenges and building resiliency over the lifespan." The presenters will look at how resilience can be promoted at different stages of life, from early childhood through old age. Participants will be learn how develop interventions

## Group Psychotherapy Society Holds Fall Institute Oct 29

The Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society will hold the 2016 Fall Institute, October 29, in Baton Rouge. The theme is "Going Beyond Talk."

Presenters will include an array of topic and techniques. Featured topics and presenters are Art Therapy: Robin Toler, ATR-BC, LAC, AIT-C; Drum Circle: Stanley Masinter, LCSW, BCD, CGP; Mindfulness: Emeric Csaszar, PhD, LPC-S, NCC; MusicTherapy: Mary Malloy, MA, MT-BC; and SandplayTherapy: Margaret Humphris, LCSW-BACS, CST.

that promote resilience in early childhood, teens, adults, and for all genders and a variety of cultural groups.

Dr. Mimi McFaul and April Foreman will present, "The Role of the Media." The presenters will discuss social and mass media campaigns addressing critical factors targeting individual and

community resilience, the role of social media and public health, suicide, and other health issues, potential applications of social media in mental health resilience and recovery, and how grassroots social media movements can significantly drive innovation and research in mental health.

# Up-Coming Events

## Resiliency Workshops Set for Flood Victims

A series of workshops for those adults, teens, and youngsters affected by the flood, will be offered on November 5, 12, and 19, for adults, and on December 3, 10, and 17 for teens and children.

Organizers Dr. Darlyne Nemeth and Dr. Charles Burchell are developing the Emotional Resiliency Workshops to help flood victims develop ways for positive coping. The workshops are hosted by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Resiliency is a term that includes multiple aspects of positive coping, such as response flexibility, communication, humor, problem-solving, help-seeking, and creative-thinking, and others.

Psychologists helping to develop the workshops include Drs. Lucinda DeGrange, Andrew

Yarborough, ValaRay Irvin, Thomandra Sam, Fernando Pastrana, and Mr. Stedwin Coleman, said organizer Dr. Charles Burchell.

Dr. Nemeth has been nationally and internationally recognized for her Hurricane Anniversary Wellness Workshops. She has a background in community psychology, and involves government, religious, and professional organizations, and uses a wellness model of group intervention.

She and her staff offered workshops that helped prepare participants for the emotional reactions at the anniversary dates for Katrina. Post-workshop data has indicated reduced anxiety, improved coping and evidence of

reattachment, as reported in APA Division 49 news.

Nemeth was invited by Peking University, the Chinese Psychological Society, and the Chinese Association for Mental Health to present a workshop at the '08 World Congress for Psychotherapy in Beijing, China, where she trained psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers in anniversary reaction interventions and provided a training workshop for up to 3,000 of these mental health professionals. She has served as the World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP) delegate to the United Nations, and worked on the development of a worldwide Disaster/Trauma Relief professional certification process.

## Openings for Participants in Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Study

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Mike Dooley, owner and founder of Sigma, an engineering firm, is also the husband of *Psychology Times* publisher Julie Nelson. He serves on the *Times* staff as a photographer and "sounding board" editor.

“I started sigma in 1987 with partner Steve Brasuell. We decided to build a great company by creating an outstanding workplace environment, thereby attracting top-notch employees. We consulted with Julie for pre-employment selection and psychology services to help with this process. Steve and I have passed the bulk of the business duties to current company president Miles Williams, who has clearly maintained the original business philosophy.”

“Congratulations to Sigma and personnel!”

— Mike Dooley



Julie and Mike in the time just before he founded Sigma. Mike told young engineers at LSU recently, “I still have that shirt and I still have that woman.”

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