

Gov. Signs Budget Bill, Investing in Higher Education

In June, Gov. Edwards signed the budget bill, announcing that the measure invests in many of the Governor's key priorities, including increased funding for education, promoting continued economic recovery from the pandemic, and creating substantial new investments in infrastructure.

"In terms of higher education," said the Governor, "the budget supports a \$19.8 million faculty pay raise, and additional \$14.5 million in the funding formula for both four and two year institutions, fully funds TOPS as well as a historic \$11.1 million increase in GO Grant funding. All of this is critical to

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Gov. Edwards Signs Bills Legislature Closes Shop June 10, Gov. Signs HB 477 into Act 238

House Bill 477, put forth by the state psychology board, was signed by the Governor on June 11 and became Act 238. The new law goes into effect August 1, 2021.

Act 238 allows the state psychology board to charge a registration fee for each assistant to a psychologist, not exceed \$50.

Also, the board will be able to charge an application and renewal fee, up to \$250, to an individual who sponsors a continuing professional development (CPD) course or activity and seeks pre-approval. A licensee who seeks pre-approval of a CPD course can be charged \$25.

Act 238 also allows the board to charge "reasonable" fees for a CPD activity which may be offered, sponsored, or co-sponsored by the board.

The board will be able to charge up to \$200 for special services such as applications for authority to conduct telesupervision, for emeritus status, for written or computer-generated license verifications, or mailing lists.

The measure, authored by Rep. Joe Stagni, was a compromise measure following the downsizing of a 23-page bill introduced by the psychology board in 2020 and then again this year. Under pressure from opponents, the board agreed to substitute a "fee bill," telling sources that

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Dr. Charles Figley Named Distinguished Psychologist for 2021

Dr. Charles Figley, the Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health, Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the Tulane School of Social Work, and Director of the Tulane's award-winning Traumatology Institute, has been named the 2021 Distinguished Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA).

LPA Awards Chair, Dr. Laurel Franklin noted that Dr. Figley has exhibited "...exemplary contributions to Psychology. We were especially impressed with the breath of your mentorship, clinical, and research endeavors in the area of trauma and trauma-related disorders."

Dr. Figley has served as co-founder of two graduate programs at

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Dr. Charles Figley
(Tulane photo)



Dr. Jim Quillin at a meeting of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee.

Ψ We Remember Dr. Jim Quillin

Dr. James W. Quillin passed away May 25 after a battle with cancer. He died peacefully at his home surrounded by his loved ones, according to family members.

Dr. Quillin was the undisputed leader of the movement to provide specially trained psychologists with "prescriptive authority" also called RxP. In 2004 he masterminded what many believed was an almost impossible achievement—the political maneuvering that gave Louisiana medical psychologists the right to prescribe medication, and the state psychology board the right to regulate that authority.

Dr. Quillin was the leader of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, commonly referred to as LAMP, and he served as the organization's president for several years beginning in 2000.

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Editorial Page – Opinions

We Might as Well "Give Psychology Away" —We Aren't Using It.

by Julie Nelson

In 1969, more than half a century ago, APA President George Miller challenged psychologists and future generations to “give psychology away.”

Miller’s vision echoed through the halls of a new, fresh discipline that was in its salad days. Clinical psychologists had flown the coop of medicine and it was a greenfield for innovation and divergent thinking. In that time, applied psychology was steeped in diverse viewpoints. Everyone was aware, at least to some extent, of not only the foundational applied science that we needed, but of all the other specialty areas and their contributions.

Ed Timmons was said to have put it this way, “We train them so you can pick them up by the ear and drop them in anywhere and they will make a difference.”



Last month I presented a motion at LPA having to do with the IO psychologists helping the state board solve its financial and organizational problems. (I was standing in for Gig Costelloe, Chair of that committee, who was out sick.)

Before any real discussion could get off the ground, a council member jumped in with an amendment that neutered the whole idea. He added, “with the approval of the LSBEP.”

While this sounds polite, it completely changes the power dynamics intended in the intervention. By giving the LSBEP a veto, we removed the citizens from their legitimate authority over their own government.

Later another council member deleted the IO committee, removing those who have the skill set and perhaps also the motivation to do the job.

Both amendments violated key principles in the proper design of organizations, which have been in place for 40 years. Interventions should push the power (along with control, accountability, and ownership) down as far as possible in the hierarchy. When we ignore this principle we can’t engage the resources and talents of those we have available to us, and we enable the problem-solving blind spots and biases that come with hierarchical power.

Isn’t it odd that we have a board, and now a professional organization, that feels comfortable prancing its financial problems out in front of the whole state legislature, but can’t effectively engage its own experts?

Miller’s vision requires that we use applied psychology, and the meta-cognitive skills set that comes with it, to solve human problems. A sad example is that there is a mental health crisis in the US and it’s getting worse. Something is basically wrong when one person in every five has some sort of mental health difficulty. The same sad condition exists for suicide rates and behavior based chronic disease. And yet, to a large extent, psychology seems to stand helpless.

If organized psychology can’t solve a simple problem like helping its own board use the knowledge from its own applied organizational scientists, then how will we ever give psychology away to others?

[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, consultant, and publisher of the Times. She also holds other 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, —she welcomes feedback.]

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Corrections & Clarifications

No corrections were received for last month's issue. Please send your corrections to:
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Gov. Signs Budget Bill, Investing in Higher Education, continued

supporting our educational systems as we come out of a challenging year and creating first class learning environments in Louisiana," the Governor said.

According to the press release, Louisiana's budget uses federal coronavirus recovery dollars in the state's ongoing response and long-term resurgence following the pandemic, without creating structural budget issues in the future. Because of these increased revenues, teachers will receive an \$800 pay raise and school support workers will receive a \$400 pay raise. These raises are not enough, said the Governor, but they are another critical step forward in reaching our goal of getting teacher pay back to the Southern regional average.

"The budget I signed today is a far cry from past years, thanks to increased revenues and additional federal funding to support the state's recovery from the pandemic," Gov. Edwards said. "It makes significant investments in education at every level, provides support for families on Medicaid, those living with disabilities, foster families and adoptive parents working with the Department of Children and Family Services, and promotes access to important services for the elderly. It invests in infrastructure, economic development, public safety and our continued efforts to reform Louisiana's criminal justice system.

"Thanks to bipartisan cooperation and a commitment to responsible budgeting, Louisiana enters the next fiscal year more resilient and ready to resume robust economic growth."

In related news, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) pointed out its list of bills passed by the legislature that LABI leaders said can change the Louisiana business climate for the better.

“This has been an extremely collaborative session where legislators worked together to develop innovative solutions for the good of the people of Louisiana,” said Stephen Waguespack, President of LABI.

The association pointed out positive legislation for tax reform, transportation infrastructure funding, school choice appeals process, school funding transparency, paycheck protection, and a ban on deceptive attorney advertising.

"The bills passed this session—with great bi-partisan support—will untangle Louisiana’s confusing tax code and improve the business climate for those in our state as well as those looking to invest here. While tax reform and infrastructure funding were front-and-center in the public’s eye this session, we can’t overlook some of these long-sought solutions to problems plaguing our business community. These are major milestones on the path toward economic opportunity in Louisiana," said Waguespack.

Dept of Health Renews Emergency Rule

The Department of Health published a rule in the June Louisiana *Register*, in order to continue the provisions of the March 16, 2020 Emergency Rule. "... Medicaid may temporarily cover services provided through the use of an interactive audio telecommunications system, without the requirement of video, if such action is determined to be necessary to ensure sufficient services are available to meet recipients' needs."

Gov. Edwards Signs HB 554 and Enacts Juneteenth Day as a Legal State Holiday for Louisiana

In June, Gov. Edwards signed HB 554, now Act 128, authored by Baton Rouge Rep. Larry Selders, enacting the Juneteenth celebration into law and making it a permanent state holiday.

Juneteenth is a day celebrating June 19, 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas bringing the news that the Civil War had ended and the Emancipation Proclamation declared to all those enslaved that they had been freed nearly two and a half years earlier.

Gov. Edwards announced that in honor of Juneteenth becoming a legal holiday in the State of Louisiana, all state offices will be closed for a half-day on Friday, June 18.

"I was proud to sign HB 554 by Rep. Selders and co-authored by the entire Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, finally recognizing Juneteenth Day as a legal holiday in Louisiana," said Gov. Edwards. "This is an important part of American history, commemorating the day those who had been enslaved in the United States learned of their freedom. There are meaningful lessons for everyone to learn."

Act 128 designates the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth Day throughout the State of Louisiana, in honor of the day African Americans celebrate Emancipation Day. Beginning in 2022, all state offices will be closed the Friday before that Saturday.

Louisiana State Parks Offer Free Admission to People Vaccinated to "Bring Back Summer"

As part of an effort to Bring Back Louisiana Summer and encourage people to go Sleeves Up and get their COVID-19 shots, free admission to Louisiana state parks is being offered now for anyone who has been vaccinated, Gov. John Bel Edwards and Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser announced June 3. Vaccinated individuals can gain free entry into all of Louisiana's 21 State Parks through July 31. This offer is available to all visitors from Louisiana and elsewhere who have been vaccinated, no matter when they got their shot. This offer does not extend to tour groups, according to the announcement.



Remember, it's mind over batter."

New Pennington Mission Secured in House Defense Spending Bill, Says US Congressman Graves

This week U.S. Congressman Garret Graves of South Louisiana announced that he is paving the way for a Center of Excellence in Military Health and Nutrition at Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

According to the announcement, Graves secured the new mission for Pennington in the House Defense spending bill, which was approved by the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee this week. This is a strong indication of widespread support for the effort as the bill moves through the legislative process, said the press release. If enacted, Graves' provision would fund new health-science research efforts at Pennington focused on optimizing the health and readiness of U.S. military servicemen and women in Louisiana and beyond.

"We have the best military in the world, and this helps to ensure that our military service members are healthy, ready for deployment, and able to withstand the stress of extended warfare – a priority for each of our military branches. This use of taxpayer funds is exactly the right type of investment for our community. The findings from the research will improve the health of military service members, other first responders, and their families," Graves said.

"Pennington Biomedical has some of the best facilities, research efforts, and proven capabilities to bring about life-changing impacts in our community and the country. I am thankful their efforts begin right here in Baton Rouge,

and I remain committed to keep giving them the resources needed to meet any challenge."

In 2018, clinical psychologist, Dr. Tiffany Stewart, and others from the Pennington Biomedical Research Foundation, honored their 30-year relationship with the U.S. Defense Department, at a special Scientific Dinner.

Dr. Stewart is the Dudley and Beverly Coates Endowed Associate Professor, and presented a recap of the scientific discoveries made by Pennington Biomedical that are in use today to assist the U.S. military in optimum health.

"Every day, soldiers and their families make sacrifices for our freedoms," Dr. Stewart said. "At Pennington Biomedical, we are looking at the health of the whole soldier. We want our men and women in uniform to be ready for whatever they may face during their service, and that means optimization of physical and mental health and resilience, as well as the families that support them."

Dr. Stewart, clinical psychologist, inventor and entrepreneur, was named Woman of Excellence in 2015 by the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation.

Graves has worked with Pennington Biomedical throughout his time in Congress, said the announcement. Other grants to Pennington included the 2020 the "Expansion of Clinical Trials Access to Rural and Underserved Children of Louisiana" for \$440,207; "Aging and the mitochondrial response to exercise training, measured by noninvasive 31P magnetic resonance spectroscopy," for \$667,911; and "Evaluation of the validity of the PortionSize app in controlled and free-living conditions: Tests of an app that calculates food intake and provides immediate feedback to users" for \$415,276.

Gov. Announces Additional Funds for Hurricane and Covid Recovery

On June 17, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness announced an additional \$136 million dollars in FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding has been allocated for Louisiana parishes impacted by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. This is the latest installment in HMGP funding that will be added to the \$40 million dollar allocation announced in November, bringing the total to \$176 million, according to the press release.

Funding through the federal HMGP can be used on projects that potentially save lives and reduce property loss. Working with local partners, the goal is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property by lessening the impact of a disaster, noted the release.

On June 30, Gov. Edwards announced more than \$315 million in federal coronavirus relief aid will be allocated to 290 Louisiana towns and cities under the American Rescue Plan to help them respond to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency and support economic recovery.

"The American Rescue Plan provided vital aid for communities large and small all across Louisiana that are still working to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we will work at the state level to support these communities," Gov. Edwards said.

The funding is divided among the 290 municipalities and localities in Louisiana that did not get direct allocations in the American Rescue Plan, because of their size. Larger communities, such as Alexandria, Baton Rouge, or New Orleans, are not funded through this program. The program is administered by Louisiana's Division of Administration in compliance with federal guidance.

The Fisher Project Suicide Prevention Program

The Mental Health Association for Greater Baton Rouge is operating a COVID-19 Emergency Response for Suicide Prevention Project in Louisiana funded by SAMHSA. In partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health and other agencies, we are offering comprehensive suicide follow-up and recovery support services. Mental health concerns have increased considerably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Louisiana has been affected by high rates of infection and deaths, and many of our communities are more vulnerable to trauma and increased risk for mental health problems. The services we provide are culturally affirming and trauma-informed. We invite you to utilize our services to better serve your patients. There is no cost to participate.

Clients enrolled will receive 6 months of care:

- Screening for suicide risk at every appointment
- Safety planning and means restriction
- Discharge planning
- Warm hand off(s) to treatment or community organizations

Services are available via telephone and video telehealth.

To Enroll or Refer a Patient

Call the Fisher Project 225.960.6800 or email sblauvelt@mhagbr.com

Eligible participants are: Age 25 and over and · Have an increased risk for suicide in past 3 months

All services are provided by a certified peer specialist and supervised by a licensed clinical psychologist.



Dr. Tiffany Stewart
(courtesy photo)

Gov. Signs Bills into Laws

Gov. Edwards Signs HB 477 into Law, continued

without the increased fees the board would not be able to operate in the future.

On the Senate floor, an amendment was attached to the bill by Alexandria Sen. Jay Luneau to rename the 2009 Act 251. Luneau's amendment renames Act No. 251 of the 2009 Regular Session "The Dr. James W. Quillin, MP, Medical Psychology Practice Act."

The Legislative Fiscal Office note indicates that Act 238 changes should total to \$78,750 per year. The office estimates that \$50,000 of this amount will come from continuing professional development preapproval applications. The Office also estimates initial registration of unlicensed assistants will grow to 420 and produce revenue of \$21,000.

According to the explanation from the Fiscal Office, estimates and reasoning included:

"(1) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Preapproval Applications: 200*\$250=\$50,000-\$50,000 is presumed based on 1/3 of total revenue for CPD Sponsor preapprovals observed by the Physical Therapy Board, which has three times as many licensees and requires the same number of CPD hours.

"(5) Annual Renewal of Registration of Unlicensed Assistant: 420*\$50 = \$21,000 -LBEP [sic] cites a 2019 survey where 1/6 of LA licensees report the use of 70 assistants, thus 70*6=420..."

Act 1 Strengthens Rights for Victims of Sexual Assault

Gov. Edward signed HB 375 into the new law, Act 1. The new law allows victims of sexual assault to receive early termination of their residential leases.

"I am proud to have signed HB 375 by Rep. Freeman into law, making it Act 1 of the 2021 Legislative Session," said Gov. Edwards. "This bill is a great step forward in helping sexual assault survivors gain independence and protection under the law, and I applaud Rep. Freeman for bringing this legislation forward."

The individual will need to

- (1) Assert in writing to the lessor that the lessee is a victim of sexual assault and requests an early termination;
- (2) Provide reasonable documentation of a sexual assault within the prior six months;
- (3) Assert in writing that the lessee shall not willingly and voluntarily permit the sexual offender further access to, visitation on, or occupancy of the lessee's residential dwelling unit; and
- (4) Fulfill all requirements of a lessee under the lease agreement. The new law provides that the lessor shall be entitled to an immediate eviction of a sexual assault offender upon presenting reasonable documentation of the assault.

Proposed law provides that the lessee shall vacate the residential property by the date agreed upon to avoid liability for future rent.

Gov. Edwards Vetoes Sen. Mizell's Bill on Women's Sports

On June 22, Gov. Edwards announced he had vetoed Senate Bill 156 authored by Sen. Beth Mizell during the 2021 Regular Legislative Session. The bill, known as the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, sought to prevent transgender girls and women from participating on athletic teams or in sporting events designated for girls or women at elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools. Gov. Edwards issued the following statement:

"As I have said repeatedly when asked about this bill, discrimination is not a Louisiana value, and this bill was a solution in search of a problem that simply does not exist in Louisiana. Even the author of the bill acknowledged throughout the legislative session that there wasn't a single case where this was an issue.

Further, it would make life more difficult for transgender children, who are some of the most vulnerable Louisianans when it comes to issues of mental health. We should be looking for more ways to unite rather than divide our citizens. And while there is no issue to be solved by this bill, it does present real problems in that it

makes it more likely that NCAA and professional championships, like the 2022 Final Four, would not happen in our state. For these and for other reasons, I have vetoed the bill."

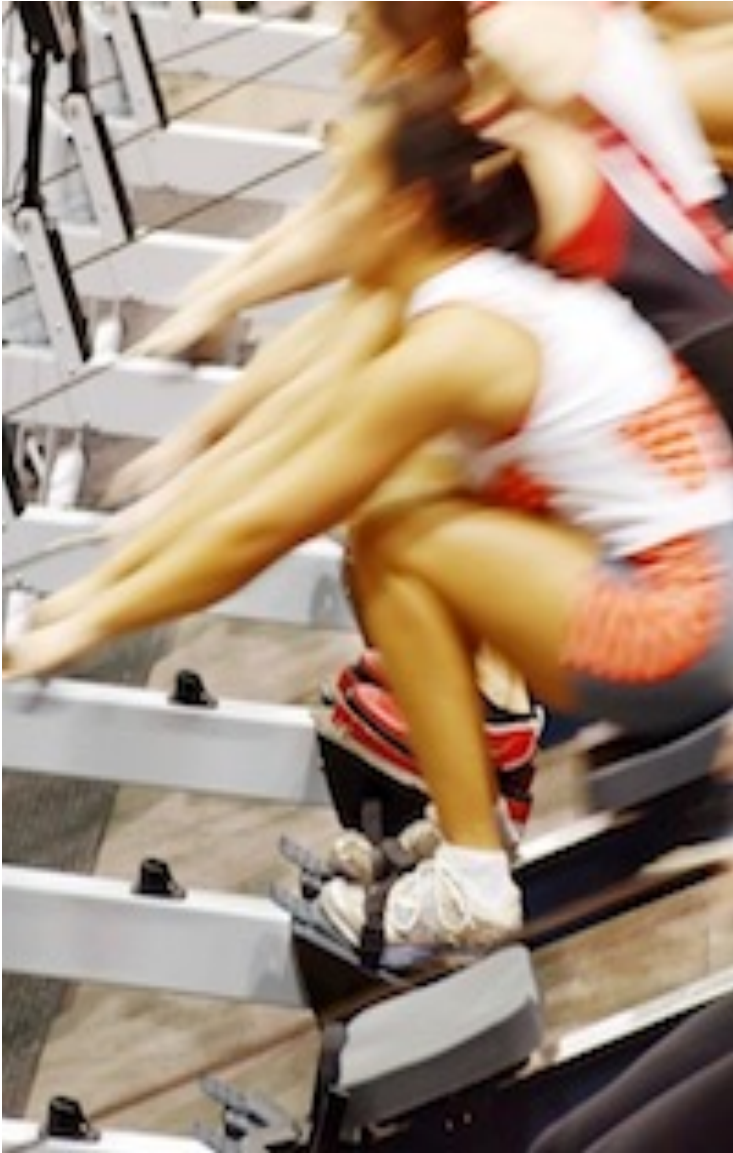
Senator Beth Mizell's controversial SB 156, the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act", passed both chambers. The final passage in the House on May 27 was 78 yeas, 19 nays, and 8 absent. The Senate vote was 29 yeas, 6 nays, and 4 absent. It has been sent to the Governor.

During the process numerous co-authors signed onto the measure.

The measure would have required an athletic team or sporting event sponsored by an elementary, secondary, or postsecondary educational institution to be designated, based upon the biological sex of team members, as only one of the following:

- (1) A males', boys', or men's team;
- (2) A females', girls', or women's team;
- (3) A coeducational or mixed team or event for students who are biological males or biological females.

SB 156 would have prohibited a team designated for females, girls, or women from being open to students who are not biologically female.



Gov. Signs Bills into Laws

Act 59 Updates Behavior Analyst Board Procedures

The new law retains prior law, providing for the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board (board) including the membership, officers, meetings, and powers and duties of the board. The prior law provided that members of the board shall serve at the pleasure of the governor and a vacancy in an unexpired term shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment. The new law provides that each member of the board shall be appointed for a term of four years and that a vacancy in an unexpired term shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term. The original law that created the board included terms of three years, four years, and five years.

Act 73 Aids Awareness to Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias

Gov. Edwards signed HB 379 by Rep. White into Act 73, a measure about public health programs and services related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

Act 73 states that the legislature is aware of the importance of early detection and timely diagnosis of cognitive impairment and dementia. The new law provides that it is in the public interest that information be provided to better understand Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases and increase awareness. Also, it states that it is public policy of the state that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) provide consistent guidance and effective education programs to healthcare providers across the state.

Act 73 provides that LDH may educate healthcare providers on the following:

- (1) The importance of effective care planning, including treatment options, support and services, long-term care options, advanced directives, and care at every stage of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to include appropriate counseling.
- (2) The use of validated cognitive assessment tools.

The new law states that the LDH office of public health may provide information that does all of the following:

- (1) Increases awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases including any link to chronic disease, such as vascular risk factors.
- (2) Advises the public of the value of early detection of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases along with information on the early signs of such diseases.
- (3) Educates the public on the importance of identifying and reporting signs of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to healthcare providers for timely diagnosis.
- (4) Increases data and surveillance applicable to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases and encourages additional data analysis and accurate reporting on death certificates.

Further Act 73 provides that LDH shall consult with and seek input from the Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, along with other experts, advocates, or associations, when promulgating such rules and regulations.



Sexual Assault Oversight

Act 188 Creates Oversight Commission under AG

The Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission has a mission to 1. Develop recommendations for a standardized sexual assault collection kit. 2. Develop recommended protocols for forensic medical examinations of sexual assault victims. 3. Develop recommendations of appropriate entities to perform sexual assault examinations. 4. Office of Attorney General to adopt all rules necessary to implement the recommendations.

Act 188 updates the Commission, "...hereby created within the Department of Justice, office of the attorney general." Act 188 adds the president of Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response to the members and the meeting schedule.

Act 279 –On Healthcare Family Members Amended, Signed by Governor

Act 279 establishes that a professional or occupational licensing board shall issue a license, certification, permit pending normal license, or registration to an applicant who is a dependent of a healthcare professional in accordance with the provisions of proposed law if the healthcare professional has relocated to and established his legal residence in Louisiana, holds a valid license to provide healthcare services in Louisiana, and is providing healthcare services in Louisiana.

The new law provides that the dependent of the healthcare professional shall apply to the appropriate professional or occupational licensing board pursuant to one of the following:

- (1) Licensure by endorsement or reciprocity if provided for in law.
- (2) If the applicant holds an out-of-state license but licensure by endorsement or reciprocity is not provided for in law, by providing proof of certain qualifications.
- (3) Licensure based on work experience in another state, if the applicant worked in a state that does not use an occupational license or government certification to regulate the occupation.

Act 279 provides that an applicant who is licensed pursuant to proposed law shall be subject to the laws regulating the occupation in this state and the jurisdiction of the professional or occupational licensing board in this state. Proposed law preempts laws by township, municipal, parish, and other governments in this state.

Act 279 law provides that a professional or occupational licensing board may require an applicant to pass a jurisprudential examination specific to relevant state laws that regulate the occupation if required by law or the administrative rules promulgated by the board.



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Act 283 –Peace Officers "Peer Support" Bill Signed

SB 66 was amended on the Senate floor the governor signed it in June to become Act 283, the Peace Officer and Public Safety Personnel Peer Support and Mental Health Wellness Act.

According to the new law, "Peer support program" means a program established by a governmental entity to provide peer support services to peace officers and public safety personnel.

"Peer support member" means a person specially trained and certified to voluntarily provide confidential emotional and moral support and assistance to peace officers and public safety personnel and who is approved as a peer support member by the executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, but need not be a peace officer or a licensed counselor or mental health professional.

"Peer support session" means any communication by a peace officer or public safety personnel with a peer support member, primarily through listening, assessing, and assisting with problem-solving, and may include referring a peace officer or public safety personnel for professional intervention or treatment that is beyond the scope of the peer support member, and includes a group session following a critical incident experienced by a group of peace officers or public safety personnel.

"Peer support training" means training in peer support and critical incident stress conducted by the Southern Law Enforcement Foundation, the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc., or an equivalent program as approved by the executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

New law provides that any governmental entity that establishes a peer support program must ensure that peer support members successfully complete the training required by new law before being designated as a peer support member.

New law applies only to peer support sessions conducted by an employee or agent of a governmental entity who has both successfully completed peer support training and, at the time of the peer support session, has been designated by a governmental entity to act as a peer support member.

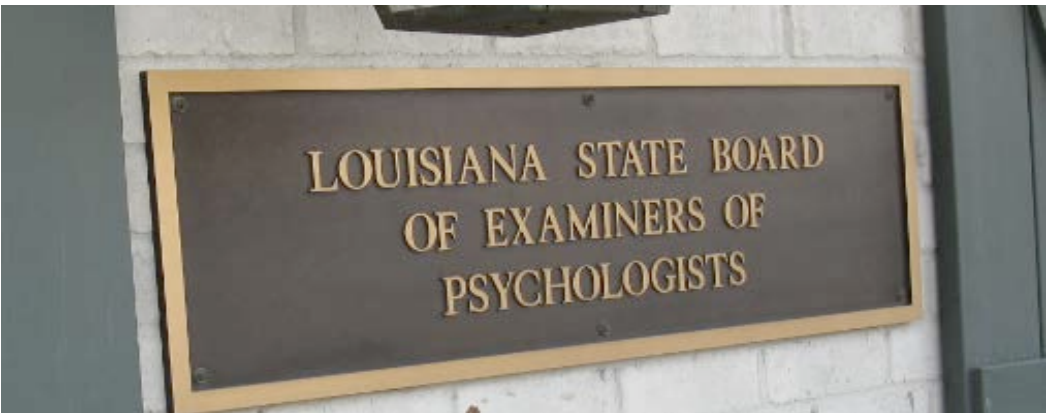
Act 372 Supports Patients' Rights to Select Tx Facility

The Governor has signed HB 79, a measure to provide for the selection of a treatment facility by a patient and the protection of a patient's right to receive treatment.

Current law provides that a treatment facility shall be selected in the following order of priority:(1) Medical suitability. (2) Least restriction of the person's liberty. (3) Nearness to the patient's usual residence.(4) Financial or other status of the patient.

The new law retains present law and adds that in the selection of the treatment facility a patient's preference shall be the fifth consideration. Present law provides that a patient may be admitted by an emergency certificate to be diagnosed and treated.

The new law adds that the emergency certificate shall allow legal authority for a patient to be transported to a treatment facility pursuant to present law and the transport shall be in line with the patient's rights to receive care.



From the Minutes

Selected Items from May 2021 Minutes of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP)

Friday, May 21, 2021
Executive Committee Report – Ms. Monic reported on the following:
a. Legislative Performance Audit – The Legislative Auditor has begun performance audits of the mental health boards. Ms. Monic was informed that following the LPC Board of Examiners, LSBEP will be subject to audit in late August 2021. b. The matter Richard Marksbury vs. LSBEP is currently being litigated in the La. 1st Circuit. LSBEP has requested dismissal.

g. Meetings/appearances: i. Ms. Monic reported that on May 7, 2021 she attended the California Board of Examiners of Psychologists, Tele Telepsychology Committee Meeting with Dr. Gormanous. [...] some of the issues raised included:

1. Concerns for constitutionality of ASPPB's PSYPact (brought up by California's Attorney) where PSYPact becomes a quasi-governmental public agency authorized to issue licenses to practice, without governmental oversight and with authority to regulate practice in an adopting jurisdiction, including authority over the state licensing board (place mandates on state agencies, assess fees on agency, and require an agency to conduct investigations on licensees complained of that reside in other jurisdictions). *Ms. Monic educated the Board that Louisiana actually has an Attorney General Opinion and Jurisprudence (Schwegmann Bros. Giant Super Markets v. McCrory) related to delegation of government authority to non-governmental/private entities. ASPPB issued a "Legal Opinion" on January 13, 2021; however this opinion does not cite any jurisprudence to support legal or constitutional authority to engage in the PSYPact.*

4. Other information learned was that ASPPB developed the PSYPact agreement which becomes a quasi-governmental agency in a state once legislation is passed in an adopting state. It is governed by the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission (PSYPact), and ASPPB holds a non-voting seat on the PSYPact Governance Commission. The PSYPact Governance Commission requires funding from jurisdictions who are supported by license renewal fees, and also requires licensees to pay to participate in PSYPact; then requires jurisdictions to bear the financial and legal burden of disciplining licensees from their jurisdiction and the participating jurisdiction.

Following presentation on the PSYPact by Ms. Janet Orwig at ASPPB, and considering public comments, the California Tele Telepsychology Committee voted to recommend that the California Board of Examiners of Psychologists not adopt PSYPact.

h. Researched options for Learning Management Systems to conduct virtual CPD and electronic Jurisprudence examinations.

2. Finance Committee – [...]b. Financial Statements – Ms. Monic reported that Valerie Dominique was still working on April Financial Statements and that she and Ms. Dominique will have a Budget Meeting to discussed previously approved amendments next Monday, May 24, 2021. A draft will be provided at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

6. Complaints Committee – a. Mr. Owens reported for the period 5/1/21-5/21/21 as follows: Zero new Request(s) for Investigation were received by consumers since the last report; there are a total of 12 open investigations, 10 are active (one from FY17-18; one from FY19-20; eight from FY 20-21; two are under review and not yet noticed). There are currently no formal hearings scheduled; no disciplinary actions were finalized during this period and there were no applicants denied based on review of criminal history.

2. LSBEP Employee Structure – The Board discussed the current workload of staff, including the inability to staff an attorney at the budgeted amount. Dr. Henke suggested changing directions from seeking an in-house attorney to seeking an administrative position under the supervision of Ms. Monic. The board discussed some particulars of the individual needing to be technology savvy, potentially part-time and exploring the option of requesting that Civil Service change the new unclassified position created for an in-house attorney to an additional administrative unclassified position. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed [...]

Dr. Charles Figley Named Distinguished Psychologist for 2021, continued

Tulane. He served as Founding Program Director of Tulane's Master of Science degree in Disaster Resilience Leadership Program and as Founding Program Director of the City, Culture, and Community PhD Program.

"I was shocked and delighted to be named Distinguished Psychologist by the State Association," said Dr. Figley. "Thank you so much. This is among the most welcomed and prized awards I have received. I am too old to cry but never too old to scream with delight!"

Included among his many accomplishments, Dr. Figley has served on the American Psychological Association (APA) Council of Representatives and on the Executive Council of APA's Division on Trauma Psychology.

He has served on numerous editorial boards including for *Family, Systems, and Health*, *Journal of Family Psychology*, and *Traumatology*. He is founding editor of the *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, the *Journal of Family Psychotherapy*, and the international journal, *Traumatology*. He is also Founding Editor of the Book Series *Death and Trauma*, *Innovations in Psychology*, and continues to as Editor of the *Psychosocial Stress* Book Series.

He has published more 160 refereed journal articles and 25 books as pioneer trauma scholar and practitioner.

His *Encyclopedia of Trauma* was named as an Outstanding Academic Title for the 2013-2014 academic year by *Choice*, a publication of the American Library Association. The work is an interdisciplinary guide, bringing together concepts from the humanities, all of the social sciences, and most of the professional fields, for understanding human responses to traumatic events.

His newest book is *Psychiatric Casualties: How and Why the Military Ignores the Full Cost of War*, co-authored with Mark C. Russell and published by Columbia University Press.

The authors write, "The psychological toll of war is vast, and the social costs of war's psychiatric casualties extend even further.

Yet military mental health care suffers from extensive waiting lists, organizational scandals, spikes in veteran suicide, narcotic overprescription, shortages of mental health professionals, and inadequate treatment. The prevalence of conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder is often underestimated, and there remains entrenched stigma and fear of being diagnosed. Even more alarming is how the military dismisses or conceals the significance and extent of the mental health crisis."

Dr. Figley's *Encyclopedia* was one of the sources for Tulane's "MOOC," one of Figley's many innovations at Tulane. An MOOC, sor Massive Open Online Course, is a trend in higher education that allows for online enrollment extending to other states and even other nations. Figley's training invention was the first free course in the world about trauma, and the first MOOC for Tulane.

"It's the first of its kind anywhere," said Dr. Figley in a previous interview. "The original MOOC model was flawed. MOOCs were simply the traditional classroom structure..." They were often only videotaped lectures moved online and free. But, "They were boring, rigid, and rather inflexible," he explained. "We chose to invent a new platform that would make it easier and more fun for students to use all platforms—ipad, smartphones, computers—to access all course material, when they wanted it, where they wanted it, and we made it much more interactive and engaging," he said.

Dr. Figley has made training others a key element of his vision. He has regularly presented at the American Psychological Association and regional associations topics such as, "First Do No Self-Harm—Self-Care Strategies for Psychologists Working with Trauma Survivors," "Compassion Fatigue and Promoting Regeneration in Psychologists" and "Stress Management Skills and Developing a Self-Care Plan."

"Burnout, compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma, and secondary traumatic stress reactions are frequently found among psychologists and others who deliver humane human services," said Figley. "These problems are an indication of low resilience

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In 2018 Dr. Figley and Dr. Reggie Ferreira, Director of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, visited Puerto Rico to assess the status of the area after one year following landfall of the hurricane Maria.

Here, Dr. Figley (L) and Dr. Ferreira (C) with Carlos Valazquez-Garcia, long-time friend and colleague.

The team helped assess the area's needs in disaster recovery and mental health services, and also trained organizational leaders in disaster resilience and leadership for recovery.

(courtesy photo)

Dr. Charles Figley
Named Distinguished
Psychologist for 2021
continued

that can be corrected with proper training for workers and their supervisors. I love helping in this way," he told the *Times*.

Dr. Figley enjoys, "A sense of satisfaction of informing psychology and helping psychologists. Also, I learn lots from practitioners struggling with critical issues never addressed by researchers," he explained.

Figley's book *First Do No SELF Harm* has garnered high praise, "... because it addresses—finally—the high prices physicians and medical students pay in managing work-related stress," he explained.

His work he has had far-reaching influence. In 2018 Dr. Figley and Reggie Ferreira, Director of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, visited Puerto Rico to assess the status of the area after one year following landfall of the Category 4 hurricane, Maria. Reported by Tulane magazine, the two were working with the Foundation for Puerto Rico, a nonprofit organization, to promote economic and social development.

Figley and Ferreira helped assess the area's needs in disaster recovery and mental health services, and also trained organizational leaders in disaster resilience and leadership for recovery.

He is a former professor at both Purdue University (1974-1989) and Florida State University (1989-2008) and former Fulbright Fellow and Visiting Distinguished Professor at the Kuwait University (2003-2004). In 2014 Dr. Figley received the John Jay College of Criminal Justice honorary degree of doctor of letters, honoris causa.

Dr. Figley notes on his website that he has many passions, among these is social justice with special focus on those overlooked: "This passion emerged in high school, continued during his service in the US Marine Corps, especially his war service in Vietnam where he worked with his high school in Springboro, Ohio to collect and ship several tons of school and hygiene supplies to his Marine unit in Da Nang for distribution to the children at the Catholic orphanage and school. After graduation he spent considerable time as a volunteer and as a scholar to help war veterans cope with their mental health, disaster survivors, secondary trauma survivors, and others who experienced traumatic stress injuries. He continues his humanitarian efforts today, focusing inequities in the treatment of Native Americans, torture trauma survivors, and the elimination of on trauma stigma."

Dr. Figley and wife Dr. Kathy Regan Figley own and operate the Figley Institute, a professional training company.

Stress Solutions
by Susan Andrews, PhD

Today’s Pregnant Woman Has More to Manage

That the birds of worry and care fly over your head, this you cannot change, but that they build nests in your hair, this you can prevent.
~ Chinese proverb

A friend who was about to become a grandmother for the first time told me of her fears about her daughter’s pregnancy. The doctor was concerned about an early or premature delivery. My friend confided to me that she was worried that this had something to do with her daughter being a Type A personality and continuing to work long hours at her job. “Could someone under that much pressure,” she asked, “expect to have a normal baby?”

My friend wasn’t worried about whether her daughter’s child would have ten fingers and toes, two eyes and ears, and a nose. She wondered about the baby’s disposition, ability to rest, and overall health and wellbeing. Intuitively, my friend understood what research is now confirming: too much stress during pregnancy, if not properly managed, can affect the baby’s development in a number of ways. Stress, for example, is now recognized as a primary factor in preterm birth as well as a number of other later childhood problems.

The notion that modern generations are busier and handle more tasks at the same time than past generations is not only supported by research; it is common sense. While we may not need to plow the fields and do the wash by hand, we are juggling more variables, processing more information, and facing increasing psychological demands as our society becomes more technologically advanced. In our fast-paced lives, things change around us rapidly. Change itself is a significant cause of stress because when something in our environment changes, we are compelled to change our behavior. And changing our behavior can be an emotional event often accompanied by fear, anxiety, and even anger.

One of the things my friends’ daughter did when she became pregnant was to examine lists of physical and mental symptoms of stress like the one below. This was the first exercise she did to become more aware of her reactions to the day’s events. These aren’t the only symptoms of a stressful lifestyle, but hopefully you will find this exercise helpful to help you recognize when your tension is mounting.

Considering that many people have a misperception of how well they are handling the rising stress in their lives, how well do you know yourself? Do you find yourself. . ?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holding your breath under tension | <input type="checkbox"/> Rapidly shaking your foot while sitting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Now and then taking a sudden deep sigh | <input type="checkbox"/> Being very fidgety or irritable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Having a racing heart or sweaty palms | <input type="checkbox"/> Jumping to loud or unexpected noises |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clenching or wringing your hands | <input type="checkbox"/> Trembling all over |



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.

Dr. Sonia Blauvelt Honored as 2021 Recipient for *Psychology in the Public Interest*

At their annual meeting on Friday June 25th, the Louisiana Psychological Association named Dr. Sonia Shah Blauvelt as the 2021 recipient of the award for Psychology in the Public Interest.

"We were especially impressed with your extensive work with underserved minorities, and your efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic," wrote the chair of the awards committee, Dr. Laurel Franklin.

The nomination materials noted, "Through her outreach and applications, particularly in the area of diversity and community involvement in support of less privileged or oppressed groups, she exemplifies what it means to apply psychology in the public interest." And, "Dr. Sonia Blauvelt has responded courageously to historical and ongoing sociopolitical and systemic injustice and the COVID-19 pandemic."

Dr. Blauvelt serves as the project director for The Fisher Project, a statewide suicide prevention program funded by a \$620,000 COVID-19 Emergency Response to Suicide Prevention SAHMSA grant. In this role she provides clinical supervision to peer support specialists, monitors adherence to evidence-based program protocols, and intervenes in emergency situations. The majority of clients served by The Fisher Project are living in poverty and are from historically oppressed populations, according to the Mental Health Association for Greater Baton Rouge.

Dr. Julia Buckner, Professor & Director of Clinical Training, Department of Psychology, Louisiana State University and Dr. Blauvelt's major professor said, "Despite having just graduated from LSU's clinical psychology doctoral program in 2018, Sonia has established a private practice that is one of the only (if not the only) explicitly evidence-based practices that provides culturally affirming services in Baton Rouge. This is a much needed addition to clinical services in our area given that persons of color (POC) comprise

over 50% of Baton Rouge's population and POC tend to be less likely to seek psychological services. In fact, 80% of Dr. Blauvelt's clients are POC," said Dr. Buckner.

"In addition to the impressive amount of work that has gone into building her unique and important private practice, Sonia recently became the project director for The Fisher Project, a SAHMSA-funded suicide prevention program for residents of LA, aimed primarily at POC, low SES/uninsured individuals, and individuals who have experienced trauma," Buckner said.

"I am very proud of the work she's been doing and am excited to see LPA's recognition of her work!"

In 2020, the Mental Health Association for Greater Baton Rouge implemented a COVID-19 Emergency Response for Suicide Prevention Project in southeast Louisiana to help contain the expected increase in mental health problems for Louisiana citizens. Dr. Blauvelt is leading the suicide prevention program.

The project addresses the fact that socially and financially disadvantaged families are more vulnerable to stresses and traumas, and the risk for mental health problems and domestic violence increases after families face extreme adversity, such as those related to COVID-19 disruptions and trauma.

Blauvelt explained, "We identified these areas of southeast Louisiana as having high rates of COVID-19 infection and deaths, high rates of intimate partner violence, and poor health outcomes overall," she said. "These factors leave individuals even more vulnerable to deterioration in mental health in addition to having limited resources."

"There is a great need for community based services for people with suicidal thoughts and behaviors," said Blauvelt, "and we hope this program will reduce the high level of hospitalizations and inpatient stays for people who experience higher risk of suicide."



Dr. Sonia Blauvelt (L) at her graduation with her major professor, Dr. Julia Buckner. Buckner is Director of Clinical Training at Louisiana State University. (courtesy photo)

Dr. Blauvelt is working closely with LSU assistant professor of psychology, Dr. Raymond Tucker, who founded the LSU Mitigation of Suicidal Behavior research laboratory. Dr. Tucker is also the co-director of the National Suicidology Training Center.

Dr. Tucker said, "I have so thoroughly enjoyed working with Sonia, in part because her professional motivations are so inspiring. Her goal to improve the lives of those in our community is front and center in all of our collaborations and planning. She thinks deeply about improving patient care of course, but also is deliberate about ways in which she can change systems of training and care provision to improve her professional reach," he said.

"I always leave our meetings inspired by her efforts, with new ideas to help serve, and just more hopeful about our work in the community."

Dr. Blauvelt is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in Baton Rouge. Her PhD is from Louisiana State University and she interned at the Charlie Norwood VA/Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, Georgia where she specialized in treating Veterans with military sexual trauma. She currently treats PTSD, trauma-related disorders, and anxiety disorders, with special attention to cultural factors related to mental health.

The nominating psychologist said, "As a South Asian woman of color, Dr. Blauvelt has lived experience as well as extensive clinical training. Her mission is to empower her clients and to create a safe, equitable, and inclusive future by providing high quality clinical services to all, regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic status."

And, "I am honored to offer Dr. Blauvelt as an outstanding example of the psychologist who has rolled up her sleeves to engage those less privileged or oppressed, and to give of her professional talents generously and in as many ways as she can, to serve the public interest through the science of psychology."

Dr. Sonia Shah Blauvelt is the 2021 recipient of the award for Psychology in the Public Interest.

Here she is at home with her cat, Marty.

(courtesy photo)



Ψ We Remember Dr. Jim Quillin

He served as the president of the Louisiana Psychological Association in 2005 and then again in 2006, and as the legislative chair for that organization for many years. At the national level he served in the American Psychological Association Division 55, the American Society for the Advancement of Pharmacotherapy.

"I am so very sad at the loss of such a professional giant as well as a kind giving soul," said friend and colleague Dr. Catherine Hansen. "I have many memories from over the years in LPA and then LAMP. Wherever he went, there was laughter but also a great deal of productivity. I feel proud to have known him and feel like a better psychologist because of his efforts for several practice expansions, only the latest of which was prescriptive authority."

Dr. Quillin and his achievements earned the respect of many in the state legislature. In the 2021 legislative session, a psychology board measure was amended to include a change in the 2009 Act No. 251 to rename it —"The Dr. James W. Quillin, MP, Medical Psychology Practice Act".

Additionally, the House passed House Concurrent Resolution Number 124 honoring and expressing condolences on Dr. Quillin's passing, concluding:

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of James Wesley Quillin; does hereby recognize Dr. Quillin's inspiring pursuit of excellence in his professional career and his unrelenting dedication to the advancement of the practice of medical psychology; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family find comfort during this extremely difficult time."

Dr. Quillin spent most of his life in Louisiana. While he was born in Waco, Texas in 1949, he was raised in Pineville, Louisiana. He attended Pineville High School and then Louisiana College, where he graduated in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He obtained his master's degree in psychology at Northwestern State University and then his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1978. After his residency in Columbia, South Carolina, he started his private psychology practice in Pineville, and then opened Psychological Associates, in Alexandria, Louisiana.

The family said that during his long professional career, he had the pleasure of treating thousands of patients in the central Louisiana area. He authored numerous academic journal

articles, and for a brief period was an adjunct faculty member at Louisiana College.

During his professional career he worked in advocacy for psychologists including for hospital admitting privileges, issues with workers' compensation, and the specialty of neuropsychology.

Perhaps for many in the psychology community both at the state and national level, Dr. Quillin's most notable achievement was Louisiana becoming the second only state for psychologists to prescribe, an accomplishment applauded by national groups including the American Psychological Association (APA).

"It was an honor to serve with him in the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives," said James Bray, PhD, Former President of APA. "He was a true trailblazer and dedicated clinician. He will be missed."

Pat DeLeon, PhD, MPH, JD, distinguished Professor in the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University and also a Former President of APA, worked closely with Dr. Quillin throughout the years.

"When Governor Kathleen Blanco signed Louisiana's prescriptive authority legislation into public law on May 6, 2004, Jim's landmark quest, which had begun in 1995, finally became reality," said Dr. DeLeon.

"Throughout the process Jim and I had many discussions, telephone calls, and handwritten letters. This was long before today's instant text messaging. He would share the 'ups and downs' of his efforts, from the State Capitol and his home. He truly believed that success for his patients, with persistence, was right around the corner. His ability to get patients actively involved in the legislative process was visionary; as was bringing quality academic training to practitioners in their home state. 'If we don't quit, we win!' was Jim's signature message," said Dr. DeLeon.

"Once the law was implemented, there were the inevitable 'next steps' that very few, other than Jim, had ever anticipated. He understood that those personally invested in the movement needed their own unique and targeted association," said DeLeon.

"He would do far more than his fair share of oftentimes thankless work, all for the greater goal of inspiring a national movement. Yet, he never sought credit and always (publicly and privately) gave credit to those working with him and especially to his physician friend, Donald Hines who was then President of the Louisiana State Senate."

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A relaxed meeting of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee as members gather to discuss issues with Dr. Robert Marier (left) then executive director of the medical board.

Dr. Quillin is on right and Dr. Warren Lowe is in center.

Ψ *We Remember* *Dr. Jim Quillin*

In 2009 Dr. Quillin led a second and successful effort to give medical psychologists more autonomy by moving them under the medical board, known as Act 251. While controversial, the move was praised by many as a way of accelerating medical psychologist's independence of practice.

As recently as March 2021, Dr. Quillin served as the chair of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee, established under the state medical board as a subcommittee created by Act 251.

As a member of several national and Louisiana state professional organizations, Dr. Quillin. received multiple awards for his service to the field and his dogged pursuit of excellence, said the family. In 2004 Dr. Quillin and colleagues were named with the Karl F. Heiser APA Presidential Award for Advocacy, an award honoring those psychologists who have given voluntarily of their time to define the discipline of psychology statutorily by state and federal laws and regulations through advocacy.

In a May 2004 feature article in the APA *Monitor*, the national news magazine for psychologists, Louisiana was considered to be a major victory for professional psychology across the US, and it was an effort many attributed to Dr. Quillin.

"The bill passed 62-31 in the Louisiana House and 21-16 in the state's Senate," reported the *Monitor*. And then on May 6, Governor Kathleen Blanco (D) signed the bill into law, making Louisiana the second state--New Mexico became the first in 2002--to give specially trained psychologists the authorization to prescribe certain drugs related to the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders.

"Fueling the bill's passage was legislators' overall sense that it would boost mental health care while providing cost savings--a message communicated through strong relationships psychologists had forged with key politicians, observers say."

Interviewed in the article, Dr. Quillin said, "As in most states, front-line treatment of psychological disorders is currently managed by nonpsychiatric physicians who largely welcome the role of psychologists in assisting in the management of these conditions.

"It's hard to argue against a bill that represents good, quality health care," said Quillin. "This [will] allow us to begin to address the problem of inadequate access. The alternative is to allow the

powerful medical lobby to dictate all policy while they reject safe and meaningful alternatives that could address the present health-care needs."

Dr. Quillin was an active member of St. James Episcopal Church, family members said. He joined the congregation at St. James in 2012 and received his confirmation in 2014. In his church service he was a member of the St. James vestry, where he most recently served as the senior warden until his death. He regularly ushered church services within his church family. Additionally, he served on the church Stewardship Committee for several years, and was a member of the Russell Knight Men's Bible Study Group. His civic involvements include serving on the board of the Rotary Club of Alexandria for several years, active membership in the Parlangua men's Mardi Gras Krewe, and serving as king of the Krewe of Twelfth Night, said the family members.

He was a beloved husband, son, brother, father, grandfather, fisherman, duck hunter, poker player, dog lover, Mardi Gras krewe member, Christian, genealogist, Irishman, and patriarch. He was a native son of central Louisiana, taken too soon from the family, friends, and community he loved, wrote the family.

Dr. Quillin is survived by his wife, Paige Quillin; children, Drs. Elizabeth McLemore (Aaron); Rebecca Bartlett (Grant), Jennifer Andrus (Brandon), and Drs. Joseph Quillin (Thanmaya Reddy); sister, Susie Quillin (Russell Ward); mother, Paulina Ussery; grandchildren, Anna Kate Bartlett, Jack McLemore, Molly McLemore, Luke McLemore, Emily Bartlett, Addison Andrus, Jude Andrus, and Ruth Quillin.

Friend and colleague Dr. Pat DeLeon said, "Jim was proud of his accomplishments and especially his family. When the time felt right, he decided it was up to the next generation of warriors to engage in the battles. We talked quite a bit about his successes and subsequently his retiring from psychology; and eventually, about his increasing health difficulties. Jim was a wonderful friend, a masterful politician, and one of those rare individuals who truly 'made a difference' in the lives of many Americans."

Louisiana colleague Dr. Lee Matthews, said, "'There were giants in the earth in those days ... the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown,' Jim was certainly one of those."

Dr. Quillin was well-known for his efforts in advocacy.

Here, Dr. Quillin (L) attends the national meeting for neuropsychologists, in New Orleans, and speaks with Dr. Michael Chafetz.



Other News

New Office of Human Trafficking Prevention Created by Act 352

Senator Ronnie Johns' measure, SB 170, that creates the office of human trafficking prevention, was signed by the Governor in June 17 and became effective then as Act 352.

The new law retains prior law and, effective July 1, 2021, creates the office of human trafficking prevention (OHTP) in the governor's office for the purpose of coordinating resources of public and private entities engaged in providing assistance to human trafficking victims. It places the commission within OHTP.

Act 352 provides for an executive director of OHTP appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Adds the executive director to the commission. Provides for the executive director to employ necessary staff.

New law provides for the powers and duties of the office, including the requirement to develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan to prevent human trafficking and to address the needs of human trafficking victims. It requires the plan to be submitted annually to the legislature, the Department of Children and Family Services(DCFS), and certain other statutory entities.

Prior law required DCFS to make a current listing of safe houses for sexually exploited children available to courts, prosecutors, and other stakeholders.

Act 352 requires the list to be made available to OHTP as well and requires an annual report on their operations including formation on the services offered, a listing of credentials, training, and licenses specific to survivor-centered and trauma-informed services for human trafficking survivors.

The prior law required each private entity providing victims services pursuant to prior law and each safe house to submit annual reports to DCFS on their operations including information on services offered, training, or certifications received specific to human trafficking prevention, and required DCFS to compile data from the reports and provide the data to the legislature by February first.

Act 352 requires reports to be submitted to OHTP as well as DCFS and m oves the requirement for data compilation and transmission to the legislature from DCFS to OHTP.

Prior law required DCFS to create a coalition to develop a human trafficking victim services delivery model, giving consideration to the recommendations of and collaborating with the commission and advisory board. New law repeals prior law.

Act 352 retains the prior law provided for the crime of human trafficking. Makes it unlawful to use another person to provide any labor or service having economic value through fraud, force, or coercion or to facilitate or benefit from the prohibited activities. If the victim is under age 21 and providing some commercial sexual activity, the use of fraud, force, or coercion is not necessary.

Times Honored by Louisiana Press Association

The *Psychology Times* was honored with several awards for the 2021 Better Newspaper Competition held by the Louisiana Press Association in June.

The *Times* earned first place recognition in Community Service for its efforts to integrate and connect elements of the community.

Among this year's awards, Dr. Alvin Burstein was named second place for the prestigious Sam Hannah Award, for the Best Regular Column.

Dr. Burstein authors the *Times'* column, *Shrink at the Flicks*, movie reviews from the psychological perspective. Dr. Burstein's column is the most popular on the *Times'* website.

Publisher Julie Nelson was awarded a third place in the Sam Hannah Award for Best Regular Column.

The *Times* earned a second place for Best Overall Website, highlighting the video elements by animator Jake Nelson-Dooley and work of website manager Susan Brown.

The *Times* earned a third place in Best front page, an entry which showcased the *Times* February and September issues.

The *Advocate*, the *Daily Comet*, *St. Tammany Farmer*, *Pointe Coupee Banner*, and *Central City News* earned Newspaper of the Year honors in their respective divisions in the Louisiana Press Association Better Newspaper Competition for 2020. The *Maroon* (Loyola University) earned Newspaper of the Year in the Collegiate Division.

In the Freedom of Information Competition, *The Advocate* was the winner, writing about Victor White, who was shot while handcuffed in the back of a police car.

The coveted "Freedom of Information" award originally came from an idea that Gordon Nelson, long-time member of the Press Association and publisher of the *Coushatta Citizen*, and Bob Holeman, current *Psychology Times* journalism consultant, presented to the Louisiana Press Association in the 1980s.

The late Gordon and Lynn Nelson owned and operated the *Coushatta Citizen*, and were parents of the *Psychology Times* publisher, Julie Nelson. Gordon and Lynn won the first Freedom of Information (FOI) award almost four decades ago.

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[Congratulations to Dr. Burstein for his second place in Best Column at the 2021 Louisiana Press Association Awards!]

A Shrink at the Flicks

Quo Vadis, Aida?

A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

In Michael Ignatieff’s 1993 book, *Blood and Belonging*, he explores a phenomenon described by Freud in his 1921 essay, *Group Psychology*, i.e., the capacity for closely related peoples to hate one another. Ignatieff chose to examine that notion by interviewing individuals in several contemporary warring groups, including those in the conflict-ridden Balkans after the collapse of soviet Yugoslavia.

Jasmila Zbanic provides a riveting representation of the havoc that the phenomenon wrought in her 2020 war film, *Quo Vadis, Aida?*, now available on Amazon Prime. A fictional account, it memorializes the tragedy that unfolded when, in 1995, an element of the Serb army stormed into the “safe haven” that the United Nations had established in Srebrenica, and carried out an ethnic “cleansing” of the largely Muslim refugees there. Over eight thousand men, women and children were killed over the next few days.

Zbanic focuses on Aida Selmangic, an erstwhile schoolteacher, working as an interpreter for the UN forces policing the supposed safe zone. The film opens on a meeting of the UN colonel, Karremans, with the mayor of the city. The UN commander is attempting to reassure the mayor that the UN and NATO are committed to ensuring the safe status of the city by instituting air strikes if the Serbian forces violate the UN designation of the city’s safe zone status. Thousands of refugees, including Aida’s



husband and two sons, are pouring into Srebrenica and pleading for admission to the already overcrowded UN compound. Aida manages to locate her family in the crowd and uses her status to get them admitted into the facility, persuading Kerremans that her husband, multilingual and highly educated, would be useful as a negotiator with the leader of the Serb army forces, General Mladic.

As Mladic is leading his marauding forces through the city and toward the UN encampment, Kerremans tries vainly to have the UN/NATO forces initiate the promised airstrikes. His entreaties fall on deaf bureaucratic ears. Mladic meets with local negotiators, including Aida’s husband, and promises to help the refugees find a safe place elsewhere. The general sends a team to examine those in the UN encampment to make sure that none there are armed and, ultimately, sends buses to collect the refugees, separating the women and children from the men. Realizing that Mladic’s assurances are lies, Aida tries frantically to have her husband and son included with the UN staff evacuating the facility. The UN leaders refuse to help her, even when she falls on her knees to plead.

Her husband and sons are bundled onto a carrier with other men and herded into a building where they are machine-gunned.

Years later, after the war and the grisly genocide has run its course, Aida returns to Srebrenica and her role as a teacher. She returns to her old apartment to find it occupied by a young Serbian woman. Aida asks her if she found any of her pictures in the apartment and is given a packet of photos. She tells the new tenant that she intends to resume her residency.

Later, we see Aida walking through a room containing the remains of bodies found in mass graves. She is able to recognize what is left of her family and collapses in grief. Later still, we see her at her school teaching her class and watching her students—pre-teens—in a dramatic presentation in which they dance and alternately cover and expose their eyes. Seeing and not-seeing seems fraught with a meaning that the film’s audience must construe. What occurred to me was this: Some things are so overwhelming that they can only be glimpsed, not stared at. This is not an easy film to watch, but it is one that is important to see and to remember.

Guest Columnist,
Dr. Alvin Burstein

Burstein, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, is a professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and a 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. Burstein has published flash fiction and autobiographical pieces in e-zines;



courtesy photo

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.

Up-Coming Events

Summer Symposium July 14 - 16 Online

Professional Training Resources and Dr. John Simoneaux, will present the 19th Annual Mental Health Summer Symposium, to be held July 14 through July 16 online.

This year's topic is Mental Health: Balancing the Pandemic.

Featured this year are John C. Simoneaux, PhD & Alan Taylor, PhD, who will present "Diagnosing and Treatment: Preserving the Past/Embracing the Future."

Presenters will help participants predict the changes that may emerge in diagnosing and treating minors and adults secondary to the global pandemic.

Also featured is Leslie Todd, LCSW, ACSW, speaking on "The Pandemic and Professional/ Personal Self-Care." She will help participants be able to list and describe three ways (compassion fatigue, social supports, internet misuse) that interpersonal neurobiology affects well-being.

Byron Simoneaux, PhD will also be among the presenters and will speak on "Pandemic Related Traumas." He will help participants describe how the pandemic involves "mass trauma" and provide examples for the significance relating to the diagnoses and treatment of trauma disorders across age spans, explain emerging research..

Dr. John Simoneaux will also be speaking on "Ethical Hazards Post Pandemic."

Dr. Simoneaux will help participants predict how fundamental ethical principles such as confidentiality, boundaries, and standards of care have been altered as a result of the worldwide pandemic, demonstrate, through clinical examples and reviews of published ethical codes, trends and conflicts faced by mental health clinicians.

For more information, go to PTR website.

APA Virtual in August

The American Psychological Association will hold its virtual convention for 2021, August 12 – 14, and will feature three days of scheduled interactive and live sessions. Officials note that there will be more than 1,000 on-demand presentations that are available for three months. The association will offer continuing education activities for a variety of topics including the following:

- An Introduction to Transference-Focused Psychotherapy
- Conducting Psychological Assessments for U.S. Immigration Cases
- Parent Training for Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders and Disruptive Behaviors
- Validity Methods, Estimates, and Test Interpretation: Guides to Ethical Test Interpretation Practices
- Diabetes Education for Mental Health Providers
- Ethical Decision-Making in Rural and Small Communities
- Community-Based Participatory Research in Psychology: Theory, Process, and Ethical Considerations
- Supervisors in a Competency-Based Era
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy With Sexual and Gender Minority People: A Live Demonstration
- Equitable Identification of Gifted Students in the Era of Black Lives Matter



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