



Veto Override Fails by Two Votes Women's Sports at Center of Political Clash in SB 156

In a clash of ideologies and efforts to discern whether the “Fairness in Women’s Sports Act” would promote discrimination or protect against reverse discrimination, the Louisiana House of Representatives failed to override the Governor's veto, sending SB 156 to the dust bin.

The measure, authored by Senator Beth Mizell, would have had the effect of prohibiting transgender females, those assigned as male at birth, from competing in traditional women’s sports.

In the 2021 regular legislative session, SB 156 easily passed both the Senate (29–6–4) and the House (78–19–8).

But on June 22, Gov. Edwards announced he had vetoed the bill, stating "... discrimination is not a Louisiana value, and this bill was a solution in search of a problem that simply does not exist in Louisiana." And, "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."

On July 20 the Legislature convened a veto override session for the first time since the 1974 constitution. Sources report a primarily reason for the session was to override the veto on Mizell's SB 156.

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Two Staffers Test Postive Governor Urges Precautions as Louisiana Hits Record Covid Cases

On July 27, the Governor said that COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Louisiana both hit records, and urged individuals to take immediate precautions for their own and others' safety.

The Louisiana Department of Health announced 6,797 new COVID-19 cases reported to the state since July 26, 2021, the second highest single-day case count reported since January 6,

2021 (6,882 cases reported that day). Also, 1,390 people have been hospitalized, the largest single-day increase since March 2020.

"To see this current rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations is becoming increasingly scary," said Gov. Edwards. "We reported nearly 6,800 cases today in addition to the nearly 8,000 that were

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Dr. Rizzuto Named Interim Director of the LSU School of Leadership & HRD

Dr. Tracey Rizzuto, expert in industrial–organizational psychology, has been appointed the interim director of the School of Leadership & Human Resource Development by the Louisiana State University College of Human Sciences & Education.

Dr. Rizzuto is the associate director of the School of Leadership & Human Resource Development at LSU. She is the Mary Ethel Baxter



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*Dr. Tracey Rizzuto
(courtesy photo)*

Dr. Amy Mikolajewski Honored as 2021 Early Career Psychologist by Louisiana Psych Assn

Amy Mikolajewski, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Tulane University School of Medicine was recently named the 2021 Early Career Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

"Amy is a first rate clinician and scholar," said Dr. Laurel Franklin, awards chair for the Association, "which is best evidenced by her ability to secure funding at such an early stage of her career. As a

postdoctoral research fellow at Tulane she secured a prestigious NIH K award- the first to be awarded at her facility since prior to hurricane Katrina."

Paul Frick, PhD, the Roy Crumpler Memorial Chair in the Department of Psychology at Louisiana State University, said, "Amy is an extremely well-deserving recipient of this award. Her research on the

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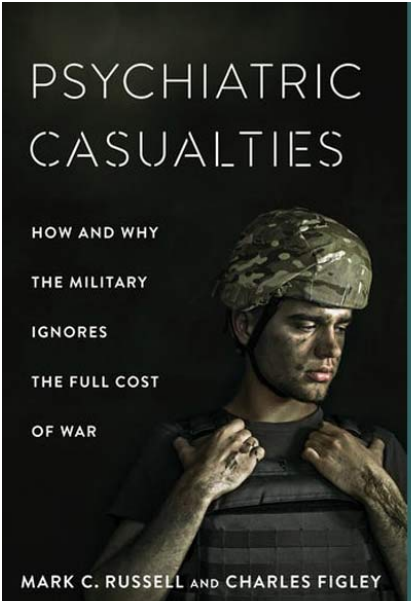
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Editorial Page – Opinions

Hope Lies in the Process...

by Julie Nelson

Usually I'm horrified by the legislative group process. However, the recent conflict over women's athletics leaves me with an unfamiliar feeling— that the checks and balances actually worked.

I was thankful to see a very complex and difficult topic discussed thoughtfully in most cases. The transgender issues are very delicate matters for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is the vulnerability and fragility of this group of people.

Despite this and other challenges to open discussion, I was impressed with many of the legislators who seemed to handle the matter with consideration, respect for both world views, and a regard for fairness of the law.

The process of checks and balances appears to have worked. The original bill was passed by both chambers with a supermajority, then vetoed by the Governor. An historic veto session was called where the Senate overcame the veto, barely. But in the end, the House failed to override by two votes. Basically a cliffhanger, with the outcome of no new law.

It was not wasted effort. People are thinking, paying attention. Both sides were heard even though the talk was extremely careful around the issue of biological sexuality, discrimination, and reverse discrimination.

Hope lies in the process. We are a little more desensitized to openly discussing the different perspectives. We are a little closer to developing a consensus—a shared view of reality. We are a little more patient with one another, with the time and energy needed for the therapeutic process of resolving conflicts.

But I was struck by one other thing in particular. In a committee meeting on transgender therapy issues a letter from a professional counselor was read. The author pointed to concerns about the mental health profession's culture:

"As it pertains to gender related issues, many mental health professionals feel stifled when it comes to advocating for the health and welfare of children and adolescents for fear of retribution from their employers, third-party payers, professional organizations, state licensing boards and colleagues.

"I've had many conversations over the course of two decades with mental health providers for an agreement of this type of legislation but do not express it for fear of retribution.

"Organizations like the ACA and the LCA have drafted letters that target your bill. These organizations do not necessarily represent all counselors regarding this issue., But only one side of the discussion. As a matter of fact, discussion regarding this issue isn't even entertained."

I couldn't agree more.

"Science can flourish only in an atmosphere of free speech." — Albert Einstein.

[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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Letters to the Editor

Good evening, Dr. Nelson.

I just read Vol.12, No. 7 of *The Psychology Times*. Thank you for the very well written article on Dr. Jim Quillin. Jim and I were friends for 50 years. Jim was a gifted leader who I greatly admired. He is greatly missed by his colleagues but will always be remembered with much fondness and gratitude. Would you mind if I shared your article with members of LAMP?

Thank you also for coverage of the legislative sessions in the *Times* through the years. This is very important information for all psychologists to remain up to date on.

Best regards,

Warren Lowe



Corrections & Clarifications

No corrections were received for last month's issue. Please send your corrections to:
psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

Governor Urges Precautions as Louisiana Hits Record Covid Cases

Continued

reported from the weekend. And today, there are close to 1,400 COVID patients hospitalized statewide ... approximately 90 percent of whom are unvaccinated. This is the largest single daily increase since March of last year.

"As I said recently, this surge is on us, and that means it is up to each of us to do our part to bring it to an end. It's within our power. Getting vaccinated is the best way to stay safe and healthy during this pandemic. It is the best way to put it behind us. In addition, I am recommending that everyone, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, wear masks while indoors if six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained."

"COVID is surging in Louisiana and it is not slowing down. As the dangerous and dominant Delta variant continues to spread and COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to skyrocket, we urge all individuals in Louisiana to protect themselves and their families," said Dr. Joseph Kanter, State Health Officer.

"Mask while indoors and get tested if you suspect you've been exposed to COVID-19. These are public health emergency measures that will limit death and suffering during this fourth surge."

In a press release on July 16, officials said:

- The number of new cases diagnosed each day in Louisiana has been increasing since June 16 and is now increasing in all nine regions of the state;
- The settings with the greatest outbreak increases included camps, child day cares, religious services and restaurants;
- In addition to the widespread circulation of the more transmissible Delta variant, insufficient masking and distancing, especially among unvaccinated individuals, are also contributing to the spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

On July 30, the Governor's office disclosed that two members of Gov. Edwards' team have tested positive for COVID-19, according to the press release.

Both are at home in isolation, per guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Louisiana Department of Health, according to the press release.

"The Governor's office has a high rate of fully vaccinated staff, including these staffers who were vaccinated against COVID earlier this year, according to the press release.

While breakthrough cases such as these do happen, they typically do not result in serious illness.

The Governor's Office practices all CDC and LDH-recommended COVID mitigation measures, including indoor masking, quarantine and isolation, and COVID testing after exposure, according to the press release.

Graves Demands Answers from ICE Director About Immigrants "Dropped Off" in Louisiana

In a July 20 press release, U.S. Congressman Garret Graves said he is demanding answers from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency regarding the number of immigrants and asylum-seekers that have been dropped off by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Louisiana. He said that what started as a crisis at the borders has now turned into a "crisis in our communities."

Graves wrote Acting Director Johnson, stating, "I am extremely concerned about emerging reports of federal authorities dropping off immigrants at airports and bus stops in Baton Rouge and across Louisiana. These detainees are reportedly being released from federal detention centers and transported across the state with little more than what ICE has called a 'temporary support plan.'

"This approach is not only disorganized and illogical, but it also blatantly disregards the well-being and safety of these individuals and the communities they are being bussed to. Given the strain placed on state, local, and non-governmental organizations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, transferring responsibility for these detainees onto unsuspecting communities is a gross miscarriage of justice."

Graves ask for information, including the following: 1) Information about the number of immigrants and asylum-seekers that have been dropped off; 2) Any planned future transfers to transit facilities in Louisiana, [...] 5) The cost to taxpayers associated with providing translators, food, water, clothing, housing, and other emergency support services to these detainees; [...]



Veto Override Fails by Two Votes

Women's Sports Center of Political Clash in SB 156

continued

The Senate narrowly overcame the veto with a 26–12–1 vote. However, the House vote, 68–30-6, fell two votes short of the super majority needed to override the Governor's veto.

Mizell's bill highlights the crossroads of transgender individuals' rights and the rights of biological female athletes. The issue has galvanized both the political left and right across the country.

The conflict is likely in response to the national level legislation, H.R. 5, "Equality Act," submitted in the US Congress and passed at the federal level by the House. The Equality Act would allow those assigned at birth as males to compete as females following gender reassignment. H.R. 5 is waiting a vote in the US Senate.

Idaho was the first state to react, passing a "Fairness in Women's Sports Act," in 2020, which requires transgender student-athletes to compete based on their gender assigned at birth. The American Civil Liberties Union has sued to block the law's enforcement, but a number of states have followed Idaho's example. These include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Montana, Tennessee, and West Virginia. According to the data from the Progressive Action Fund, 25 similar bills have been introduced at last count.

The American Psychological Association opposes these measures, stating, "Transgender children vary in athletic ability, just as other youth do. There is no evidence to support claims that allowing transgender student athletes to play on the team that fits their gender identity would affect the nature of the sport or competition."

The Louisiana Psychological Association opposed SB 156 and the Louisiana School Psychological Association labeled the bill as discriminatory saying, "SB 156 runs counter to our obligation to support all students' dignity and privacy, particularly those with transgender and gender diverse backgrounds."

The two sides presented their ideas in the committee. In the original Senate Committee hearing, during the spring legislative session, Senator Mizell opened her arguments by highlighting the advancements made by female athletes since Title IX and the 70s.

"The strides that have been made for women athletes to reach the pinnacle of where they are now is something that we should not take for granted and allow that to be lost."

Mizell gave the example of Chelsea Mitchell from Connecticut, where transgender athletes have captured 15 titles that previously belonged to nine different girls. Chelsea Mitchell reported it to be a "devastating experience" that impacted her college scholarship opportunities.

Sheila Thompson Johnson, high school and college player, coach and Athletic Director at Louisiana College said she was a product of Title IX and would never have gone to college without her scholarship. She said there are very few spots for girls at the top and she wants to "...preserve the fair and equal opportunities guaranteed to them by federal law..."

Glason Bernard, LSU graduate and track and field athlete also spoke. Both he and Johnson said they feel strongly that there are biological differences between men and women that cannot be dismissed.

Also speaking in support of Mizell's bill was a representative from Louisiana Association of Superintendents, and a football coach and member of Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA).

The Executive Director for the LHSAA spoke and stated that the Association has a policy and position paper



regarding this situation and the association is in support of the bill.

Senator Katrina Jackson asked if the policy includes those males who go through gender therapy and become trans females. "Can they then qualify to compete in the females group?"

He answered yes, "That's in the position paper." Jackson pointed out that LHSAA has a conflicting statement between the bylaws and the policy and Sen. Mizell's bill would clear that up. He agreed.

Sen. Jackson referenced a study noting that the transgender individual still has a 9% advantage over their biological female counterparts. "I've looked for studies, talked to physicians, and when I looked at this bill. I looked at affirming hormone therapy and would that change the athletic ability, [...] to basically level out the playing field. And what the journals are telling me is—no. That's where I get a concern."

Testifying in opposition to the bill was Dr. Clifton Mixon, member of the Louisiana Psychological Association's legislative committee, Sarah Jane Guidry, executive director of Forum for Equality, Dr. Melissa Flournoy, chair of Louisiana Progress Action, Dylan Waguesback from True Colors United, Alexis Canfield from STAR, and Chris Kaiser from the ACLU of Louisiana.

Dr. Mixon said, "I want to clarify some of the misstatements. First of all, this bill is about discrimination. It is about something that is not a problem currently. And I want to highlight a couple of statements I heard that evidences what underlies this bill. 'You don't get to play God.' I think is a direct attack against transgender persons," he said.

"Also, calling people biological males instead of identifying them as females inherently identifies your opposition and the authenticity of them being who they are." Dr. Mixon talked about the impact that this bill will have on the psychological development of all girls, not just transgender girls. He indicated that he worked closely with endocrinologists and encouraged Senator Mizel and others to "... continue to listen and learn."

Sarah Jane Guidry, Executive Director for Forum for Equality, Louisiana's LGBTQ human rights organization, also spoke in opposition. She cited statistics on how difficult and how much harassment transgender individuals experience in school.

Women's Sports at Center continued

Dr. Melissa Flournoy, chair of the Louisiana Progress Action, said that she does not feel that the legislation is necessary, that there has been no issues in Louisiana.

Dylan Waguespack, Director at Cindy Lauper’s nonprofit True Colors United, said the bill goes too far on these issues and needs further work.

Alexis Canfield, from STAR, discussed the psychological impact on transgender individuals and Chris Kaiser, with the ACLU of Louisiana, spoke on the potential for discrimination against transgender individuals.

During the testimony, Sen. Katrina Jackson suggested that Dr. Mixon had inferred that anyone who votes for this bill was "transphobic." Jackson said she did not want anyone thinking she was transphobic, that this was about protecting women’s athletics, and that people of certain faiths may see the issue differently.

Ultimately Jackson voted against overriding the Governor's veto. In a July 21 press release, she explained that she and others voted to sustain the governors veto "... based on a technicality that undermined the existing policy from the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. In the announcement, Senators Barrow and Jackson, and Representatives Johnson, Brown, Cormier, and Moore, jointly stated that, "The current LHSAA policy is more restrictive and allowing this bill to move forward would have undermined the current rules."



Dr. Clifton Mixon, on the right at the desk, provided testimony that helped Senators realize that SB104 could restrict access to care for transgender children. He also testified on SB156.

Former Gov. Edwin Edwards, Key Figure in 1964 Psychology Practice Act, Dies at 93

On July 12, former Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards passed away at the age of 93. He was the only four-term governor in the state and he was instrumental in the Psychology Practice Act, passed in 1964.

In their July newsletter, the Psychology Board noted, "Prior to his first term as Governor of Louisiana, Senator Edwin Edwards sponsored SB159 and ultimately signed on as Co-sponsor of HB569 by Representatives Mouton and LeBlanc of the 1964 Legislative Session. Governor McKeithen signed the legislation on July 16, 1964 officially making it Act 347 of the 1964 Legislative Session and creating the La. State Board of Examiners of Psychologists."

"Edwin personally introduced me to legislators in support of the recodification of the Louisiana Licensing Law for psychology in the late 80s when it was sunsetted," said Dr. Darlyne Nemeth. " As co-chair of the Board, I was assigned to re-write/update the law and to get it passed. As Edwin was one of the original sponsors, he was invested in its continuance. It was an amazing experience to watch him 'work' the legislators to his advantage. He was a master. All I had to do was

smile. The Governor would say, 'This is Dr. Nemeth from the psychology licensing board. She is here to renew the Psychology Practice Act. This is a good thing for Louisiana. Can I count on your help?'

"The Board did honor Edwin a few years ago at an evening ceremony. He was truly up to the experience with memories and humor," said Nemeth.

Gov. John Bel Edwards said, "Few people have made such an indelible mark on our state as Governor Edwin Edwards. At just 17, he joined the Navy during World War II, beginning a lifetime of service to his state and country. He represented Louisiana's 7th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives and served as the state's only four-term governor, leading Louisiana through pivotal years of growth including launching efforts to create the state's current constitution. Gov. Edwards was a fervent supporter of civil rights and ensured that his administration was as diverse as Louisiana, a commitment I have also made as governor. Edwin was a larger than life figure known for his wit and charm, but he will be equally remembered for being a compassionate leader who cared for the plight of all Louisianans."

Governor Applauds Supreme Court Ruling Upholding Obamacare

Gov. John Bel issued a statement on the United States Supreme Court in June, upholding the Affordable Care Act, which is a lifeline for Louisianans in lower wage jobs and those with pre-existing health conditions, said the Gov. Louisiana's Attorney General joined the politically motivated lawsuit from the state of Texas, which threatened health care for hundreds of thousands of Louisianans, without consulting with the Governor or any experts from Louisiana's Department of Health, noted the press release.

"It is my sincere hope that this protracted, politically motivated effort to overturn the Affordable Care Act can finally end and the millions of people helped by the ACA, including more than 849,000 Louisianans with pre-existing conditions and the nearly 640,000 in our state who receive health care through the Medicaid Expansion, can breathe a sigh of relief that their live-saving care will not be interrupted by politicians.

"Expanding Medicaid was my first official act as governor because it was the right thing to do then, and it is still the right thing today," said the Gov.

Governor Announces Appointments to Boards and Commissions

In July, Gov. Edwards announced his appointments to various boards and commissions.

Rep. Francis C. Thompson of Delhi has been reappointed to the Board of Control for Southern Regional Education. Thompson is a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives and will serve as a member of the Louisiana Legislature.

The Southern Regional Education Board works with states to improve education. They provide policymakers with reliable data to inform sound policies and help states collaborate and share resources. The SRED serves educators with training that transforms teaching to prepare students for what comes next.

Col. Carlos J. Stout of Lafayette has been reappointed to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice. Col. Stout is the chief deputy for the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office. Col. Stout will serve as a person having vital concern with law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice.

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice serves to improve the operations of the criminal justice and juvenile justice system and promote public safety by providing progressive leadership and coordination within the criminal justice community.

Jacqueline N. Grant of Baton Rouge has been appointed to the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund Board. Grant is a clinical professor for juvenile law at Southern University Law Center and will represent the university community.

The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund Board provides funds for non-profit and public agencies throughout the state for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The Acadiana Area Human Services District (AAHSD) was created by the Louisiana State Legislature to provide administration, management, and operation of behavioral health (addictive disorders and mental health) and developmental disabilities services to the residents of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermilion parishes.

David J. Merrill Jr. of New Iberia has been reappointed to the Acadiana Area Human Services District. Merrill is the assistant manager of GMC and sales at Musson Patout and will serve as an advocate in the field of substance-related and addictive disorders.

Quinta L. Thompson of Lafayette has been reappointed to the Acadiana Area Human Services District. Thompson is a math teacher and will serve as an advocate in the field of mental health.

Elizabeth F. West of Pine Prairie has been reappointed to the Acadiana Area Human Services District. West is the managing editor of the Ville Platte Gazette.

The State as a Model Employer Task Force's mission is to enhance the diversity of the public workforce, lead the business community, and highlight the State's position as a leader in the protection of civil rights for individuals living with disabilities.

Quintillis K. Lawrence of Baton Rouge has been appointed to the State as a Model Employer Task Force. Lawrence is a human resources attorney for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

In May and June the Governor made several appointments. Included were the following:

Yavonka G. Archaga of Kenner was appointed to the Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). Ms. Archaga is the CEO of Resources for Independent Living, Inc. She will serve as a director of a center for independent living, chosen by the directors of centers for independent living within the state.

The Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) was established by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to support the efforts of our citizens with disabilities to live independently in the community of their choice. SILC works to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence and productivity of

individuals with disabilities, facilitating integration and full inclusion into the mainstream of American society. SILC is composed of twenty-two members appointed by the governor. It is required that the majority of SILC members are individuals with disabilities and provide statewide representation.

De Ann Marie Gruber Ph.D. of Mandeville was appointed to the Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C Education, Prevention and Treatment. Gruber is the director of the Bureau of Infectious Diseases for the Louisiana Department of Health and will serve as a representative from the Office of Public Health who has knowledge of policies related to HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C.

Reshelle C. Marino, Ph.D. of Metairie was reappointed to the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Advisory Board. Marino is an assistant professor in the Counseling Department at Southeastern Louisiana University and will serve as a representative of the Louisiana School Counselors Association.

Daniel I. Waldman, M.D. of New Orleans was appointed to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. Waldman is an assistant professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at the LSU Health Sciences Center and will serve as the designee of the CEO of the LSU Health Sciences Center.

Angela R. Wiggins Harris of New Orleans was appointed to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. Ms. Harris is a senior market development professional with Humana, Inc. She will represent the National Association of Social Workers.

Interested persons can offer to serve on boards or commissions by contacting the Office of the Governor.

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

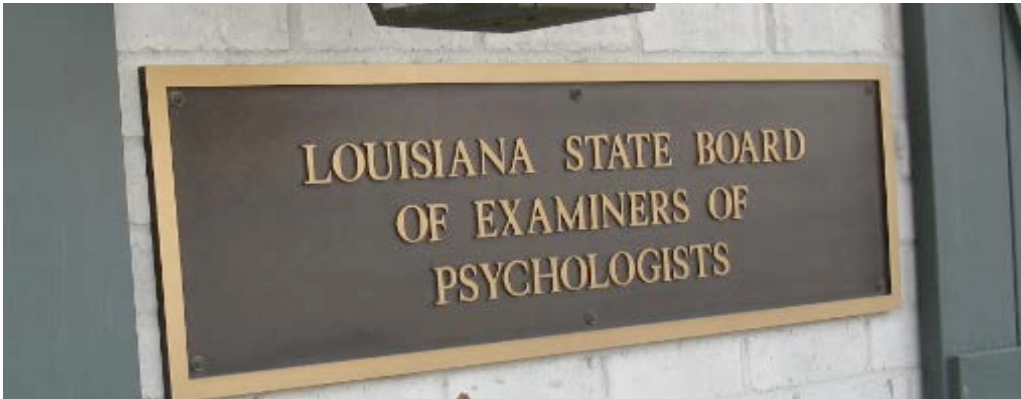
Services are available via telephone and video telehealth.

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.



From the Minutes

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

April (Posted in July)

Executive Committee Report – a. Status Marksbury vs. LSBEP – Ms. Monic gave a status report to the Board in this matter lodged with the Louisiana 1st Circuit Court of Appeals on April 27, 2021. Ms. Monic also noted that while researching information for this update, she noticed the December 11, 2020 minutes did not document the decision of the Board on that date to authorize the Board’s General Counsel to appeal the decision of the 19th Judicial District Court. Dr. Gormanous moved in favor of formally denoting the omission in the December 11, 2020 minutes to reflect this decision of the Board regarding the appeal.

Financial Statements – The Board reviewed financial statements for March 2021 prepared by Valerie Dominique. “We budgeted a Net Loss of -\$100,525, with three months to go we currently have Net Income of \$59,704.33. Total Income is \$330,682.26 which is \$12,755.74 under budget. Total Expense is \$270,977.93 which is 172,985.07 under budget. We currently have \$223,110 in Cash/Savings. [...]. We will end the year with around \$144,314 in cash. (We ended the Prior year with \$123,400 in cash).” Ms. Monic concurred that the board would end the year with cash; however felt the projection was generous given the number of complaints and continuing litigation.

Guidance related to Board Member participation in professional associations – Ms. Monic reported on informal guidance received from Mr. Charles Reed of the Louisiana State Board of Ethics related to Board Member participation in meetings

and votes in professional associations. [...] Mr. Reed responded that this would not be prohibited and explained that board members have a constitutional right to free speech and could participate in a vote of this nature. No one can prohibit an individual’s free speech. However, a board member could not lobby for legislation.

Request to review standard language for disciplinary orders - Dr. Gormanous discussed the need to review language utilized in consent orders/IPPA’s or other agreements for standardization. Ms. Monic agreed to facilitate this and incorporate the review into Complaint Adjudication workgroup for recommendations.

Consideration of a reduction in fees for medical psychologists – Dr. Gormanous proposed consideration of reducing fees for medical psychologists who retain their license with the LSBEP in order to retain psychologists who continue their education and are licensed with the Board of Medical Examiners for prescriptive privileges. The Board discussed this matter noting the current financial difficulties the Board is experiencing and that concerns that others dually licensed would want similar privileges. Dr. Gormanous pointed out that medical psychologists are different from other professionals in that they are required to come through our Board for vetting as a Psychologist prior to becoming a Medical Psychologist. No further discussion was had on this topic.

2021 Contract Review – The Board reviewed and discussed contracts. Ms.

Monic presented the following contracts that would continue and not need to be renewed at this time as follows:
a. Roedel Parson Koch Blanche - \$12,000 through 7/31/2022
b. Office of the Attorney General - \$5,000 through 6/30/2022
c. Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips - \$45,000 through 6/30/2022
d. CERTEMY - \$27,750.00 through 8/31/2025

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Board contract with Mark P. Vigen, Ph.D. to provide services as Complaints Coordinator II, for a fiscal-year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 for an amount not to exceed a maximum of \$5,000.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board contract with Statewide Surveillance & Investigations for an amount not to exceed \$12,000, to provide investigatory services beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board contract with Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Murray, Recile, Stakelum & Hayes, LLP. to utilize the services of Courtney P. Newton to provide legal services including, but not limited to, prosecutorial functions, for a multi-year contract beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024. The contract to commence at the rate of \$190 per hour plus travel and expenses that are preapproved in accordance with Policy and Procedure Memo 50, and not to exceed a maximum of \$180,000 for that period.

Voluntary Participation

Act 399 Creates Occupational Licensing Board Review Program with Attorney General Oversight of Boards' Rules and Disciplinary Actions

Representative Butler’s House Bill 398 was signed by the Gov. into Act 399. The new law creates the Occupational Licensing Board Review Program within the Department of Justice.

The text of Act 399 notes, "It is the policy of the state that where the state finds it necessary to displace competition, occupational licensing boards shall use the least restrictive regulation to protect the public from present, significant, and substantiated harms that threaten public health, safety, or welfare. Active state supervision of occupational regulatory actions is a method of ensuring adherence to participating boards and board members will avoid liability under federal antitrust laws."

The program’s purpose is to provide review of occupational regulations and relevant proposed disciplinary actions of a state occupational licensing board and is voluntary and optional for occupational licensing boards. Boards and/or commissions may submit administrative rules and regulations and proposed disciplinary actions to the AG’s office for review.

The new law provides that occupational licensing boards shall use the least restrictive regulation to protect the public from present, significant, and substantiated harms that threaten public health, safety, or welfare when the state finds it necessary to displace competition.

Boards and board members participating in the Occupational Licensing Review Program will avoid liability under federal antitrust laws.

The attorney general shall have the authority to enter into an agreement to provide active supervision of proposed occupational regulations and proposed anti-competitive disciplinary actions of a state occupational licensing board.

Participating licensing boards shall pay to the Dept. of Justice (the department) annually the amount set forth in the agreement. The new law provides that the dollar amount in the agreement shall be equal to or less than the number of licensees multiplied by 10.

Several Laws Enacted to Combat "Power-Based Violence" and Enforce Reporting on Louisiana's College Campuses

"This is an opportunity for legislators to take a stand to protect the women on our college campuses," Senator Beth Mizell, author SB 230, testified in the House Education Committee. "What has happened has been through the inner workings with everything with higher ed, the university systems, to the LSU admin, to the board of regents, It's students themselves."

Mizell's SB 230, Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman's HB 409, and Senator Regina Barrow's SB 232 have been signed by Gov. Edwards reflecting the issues having to do with the Louisiana State University scandal disclosed last year.

In November 2020 *USA Today* published an article titled "LSU mishandled sexual misconduct complaints against students, including top athletes" which lays out several incidents where Louisiana State University was described as mishandling reports of sexual and related misconduct.

In that article, by Kenny Jacoby, Nancy Armour, and Jessica Luther, the authors said, "For more than a year, people at the highest levels of the Louisiana State University athletic department fielded complaints about their prized running back, Derrius Guice."

"LSU's failure to adequately address sexual misconduct goes beyond one star running back, a *USA TODAY* investigation found. Officials in the university's athletic department and broader administration repeatedly have ignored complaints against abusers, denied victims' requests for protections and subjected them to further harm by known perpetrators."

The University retained Husch Blackwell to conduct an independent review of various Title IX-related incidents, In a March 3 report by Husch Blackwell, they found:

"1. The University did not handle various items identified in the USA Today article in a manner consistent with obligations under Title IX, widely recognized best practices, and/or University policy.

"2. Various incidents of athletics-related misconduct have not been appropriately reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator. We are especially concerned about a lack of reporting prior to November 2016 [...]. It is worth noting, though, that our concerns about reporting are not limited to Athletics. Institutional reporting policy and training have been unclear for years.

"3. The University's Title IX Office has never been appropriately staffed or provided with the independence and resources to carry out Title IX's mandates."

In response bills were submitted in the 2021 session and passed including the following:

ACT 472 (HB 409) —Reporting abuse

Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman's HB 409 has been signed by the Governor into Act 472. The new law uses the term "power-based violence" and provides the following: (1) Requires employees to report to the institution's Title IX coordinator upon witnessing or receiving a direct statement regarding an incident of power-based violence. Provides that reporting is not mandated if information is received during a public forum or awareness event, in the course of reviewing academic work, or indirectly, such as in the course of overhearing a conversation; (2) Requires the Title IX Coordinator to report to the chancellor; (3) Requires the chancellor to report to the management board; (4) Requires the system president to submit a system-wide summary report to the management board; (5) Requires the management board to submit a system-wide summary report to the Board of Regents; (6) Requires the Board of Regents to submit a report to the governor, House Speaker, Senate President, and House and Senate education committees.

ACT 439 (SB 230)— Campus Accountability and Safety Act

Senator Mizell's Measure addresses power-based violence on college and university campuses and makes numerous changes to the law. For example, the new law requires each institution and law enforcement maintain a written memorandum of

understanding to clearly delineate responsibilities and share information in accordance with applicable federal and state confidentiality laws, including but not limited to trends about power-based violence committed by or against students of the institution. It requires that each person designating a person as a confidential advisor under new law, shall complete a training program that includes information on power-based violence, trauma- informed interactions, Title IX requirements, state law on power-based violence, and resources for victims. It requires completion of annual training relative to power-based violence and Title IX developed by the attorney general in collaboration with the Board of Regents, and be provided through online training materials.

ACT 441 (SB 232) – Creates the "Louisiana Power-Based Violence Review Panel"

Senator Regina Barrow's SB 232 creates the Louisiana Power-Based Violence Review Panel under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents composed of members that include a licensed psychologist with experience related to power-based violence, appointed by the chair of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Also included:

- (1) The president of the Louisiana Senate or his designee.
- (2) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives [...]
- (3) The chair of the Louisiana Senate Select Committee on Women and Children or his designee.
- (4) The chair of the Louisiana House Select Committee on Women and Children or his designee.
- (5) The attorney general or his designee.
- (6) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.
- (7) The president of each public postsecondary education management board or his designee.
- (8) A student representative [...]
- (9) The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police [...]
- (10) The president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police or his designee.
- (11) A member of the Domestic Violence Prevention Commission appointed by the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.
- (12) A licensed social worker with experience related to power-based violence appointed by the president of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Chapter, National Association of Social Workers.
- (13) A licensed psychologist with experience related to power-based violence, appointed by the chair of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.
- (14) The executive director of the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault or his designee.
- (15) The president of Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response or his designee.



HR 174 –Rep. Miller Seeks Help to Improve Mental Health Services in State

Representative Gregory Miller put forth House Resolution 174 on June 7 which passed unanimously.

Miller's Resolution requests the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice to form a joint subcommittee comprised of members of the two committees to solicit input, advice, and recommendations from representatives of certain mental healthcare and criminal justice organizations concerning care for persons receiving mental health services in community-based and institutional settings.

The resolution, filed late in the session, includes a clinical psychologist from the Louisiana Psychological Association to be included in the 34 groups that are represented in the Committee.

Resolution included the following excerpts:

WHEREAS, the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) provides statewide authority and accountability for behavioral healthcare including mental health treatment services and substance use disorder treatment for Louisiana citizens; and
WHEREAS, the rise in local mental health issues, treated and untreated, and the impacts resulting therefrom have become a public health crisis; and
WHEREAS, one-third of Americans between the ages of fifteen and fifty-four will develop a mental illness in their lives; and
WHEREAS, according to data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, one of every five people experiences a diagnosable mental disorder in any given year; and
WHEREAS, in Louisiana, an estimated six hundred fifty thousand adults and two hundred forty-five thousand children experience mental health disabilities and incapacities throughout the course of their lifetimes; and
WHEREAS, identification of gaps in the provision of mental health treatment at the local level is vital to the overall improvement of mental health within the community; and
WHEREAS, conducting a study to identify such gaps can provide the legislature with the requisite information to better address the state of mental health in Louisiana.

Act 72 Adjusts Time Limits for Persons with Infirmities

Act 72 provides that the time limitations established by existing law (C.Cr.P. Art. 572) shall not commence to run as to any crime wherein the victim is a person with infirmities until the crime is discovered by a competent victim or, in the case of an incompetent victim, by a law enforcement officer.

"Person with infirmities" shall mean a person who suffers from a mental or physical disability, including those associated with advanced age, which renders the person incapable of adequately providing for his personal care.

The term "person with infirmities" may include but is not limited to any individual who is an outpatient or resident of a nursing home, facility for persons with intellectual disabilities, mental health facility, hospital, or other residential facility, or a recipient of home or community-based care or services.

Act 72 notes these exceptions to the existing law time limitations shall include the following existing law crimes: simple battery of persons with infirmities, cruelty to persons with infirmities, exploitation of persons with infirmities, sexual battery of persons with infirmities, and abuse of persons with infirmities through electronic means.

Act 123 Limits Fees Assessed By Courts in Juvenile Cases

According to the digest of Act 123 as finally passed by the Senate—Under present law, courts are required or allowed to assess administrative fees, costs, and taxes in juvenile delinquency cases. Courts impose these fees, costs, and taxes on juveniles or their parents or guardians.

Act 123 eliminates certain fees, costs, and taxes in juvenile delinquency cases including costs for juvenile detention centers, fees imposed for transcript requests, fees imposed for an order for a physical or mental examination, and other fees as provided by present law.

These laws include R.S. 15:910, 1086, 1093, 1094.7 and 1097.7, R.S. 47:299.1, Ch.C. Arts. 320, 321, 335, 405, 607, 774, 781.1, 783, 793.4, 809, 811,2, 839, 848, 868, 888, 896, 897, 899, 901.1 and 924, and C.Cr.P. Art. 887.

The language of Act 123 includes the following, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, from July 1, 2021, until June 30, 2026, no court exercising juvenile jurisdiction in any parish in the state of Louisiana shall tax or assess costs in a juvenile delinquency proceeding against any juvenile delinquent or defendant, or the parents or guardians of the juvenile delinquent or defendant, for any judicial expenses or to cover any operating expenses of the court; including but not limited to any salaries of court personnel, the establishment or maintenance of a law library for the court, or the purchase or maintenance of any type of equipment or supplies [...]

Act 79 – Insurance Claims Easier for New Providers

The Governor signed Representative Dustin Miller's HB 595 into Act 79, making insurance claims easier for new providers. The new law requires a health insurance issuer or managed care organization to consider a new provider as an in-network or participating provider for the purposes of utilization management or prior authorization processes required by the issuer for the provider group.

Proof of the new provider's membership on a hospital medical staff is required. New law adds an exception, that proof of membership on a hospital medical staff is not required if a new provider is an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant licensed in the state of Louisiana and such provider submits a written attestation identifying the collaborating or supervising physician, if a physician relationship is required by law.

Act 5 Offers Help to Offenders Who Work Toward Education

The new law allows certain offenders to earn additional credits toward the reduction of the projected good time parole supervision date.

Prior law provides that an offender may be awarded up to 360 days toward the reduction of the projected good time parole supervision date for participation in certified treatment and rehabilitation programs. Prior law further provides that offenders who participate in a workforce development release program shall be eligible to earn an additional 180 days of credit toward the reduction of the projected good time parole supervision date.

The new law allows offenders who earn a bachelor's degree or a master's degree from a regionally accredited and a Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections approved educational institution to earn an additional 90 days of credit toward the reduction of the projected good time parole supervision date.

Senator Luneau's Act 204 Tightens Requirements on Managed Care Organizations

The new law, Act 204, decreases the maximum length of time for a managed care organization (MCO) to complete a credentialing process once it receives all the information needed for credentialing from 90 days to 60 days.

The new law also decreases from 60 days to 45 days the time limit after an MCO makes a request for any needed verification or verification supporting statement for the MCO to inform an applicant that the requested documentation has not been received.

The new law provides that a healthcare provider shall be considered credentialed, recredentialed, or approved and will receive payment according to the Medicaid fee schedule if an MCO fails to act within 60 days of receipt of all information needed for credentialing.

New law requires that employees, contractors, and subcontractors of MCOs performing work or services related to the performance or supervision of audits, prior authorization determinations, and clinical reviews of mental health rehabilitation services providers shall receive annual training on all of the following:

- (1) The state's Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Manual.
- (2) The relevant state laws, policies, and regulations related to the state's mental health rehabilitation program.

The new law requires that employees, contractors, and subcontractors of MCOs shall take all necessary steps to ensure mental health rehabilitation services providers are rostered, credentialed, or otherwise eligible to provide and be reimbursed for mental health rehabilitation services in accordance with prior law.

Prior law provided that any individual rendering psychosocial rehabilitation (PSR) services who does not possess the minimum bachelor's degree required in prior law, but who met all provider qualifications in effect prior to July 1, 2018, may continue to provide PSR services for the same provider agency.

Prior law required that prior to the individual rendering PSR services at a different agency, he must comply with the provisions of prior law relative to eligibility for receiving Medicaid reimbursement effective on and after July 1, 2018.

The new law revises prior law to provide that any individual rendering PSR services who does not possess the minimum bachelor's degree required in prior law, but who met all provider qualifications in effect prior to July 1, 2018, may continue to provide those services for any licensed and accredited provider agency.

The new law requires that a mental health rehabilitation services provider has a right to an independent review of an adverse determination taken by a managed care organization that results in a recoupment of the payment of a claim based on a finding of waste or fraud.

Act 4 Repeals "Notice" on Boards' Websites

Prior law required a board or commission authorized to issue a license, permit, or certificate pursuant to present law provisions in Title 37 of the La. Revised Statutes of 1950 to notify licensees and applicants for licenses that complaints about actions or procedures of the board or commission may be submitted to the board or commission or to the House and Senate governmental affairs committees. Prior law further required each such board or commission to submit to the House and Senate governmental affairs committees and to the appropriate legislative oversight committees quarterly reports containing specified information regarding complaints. Prior law additionally required legislative committees, members, and employees having access to confidential, personally identifiable, or otherwise sensitive information in those reports to protect the information from unauthorized use and disclosure.

Act 4 repealed that law.

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Legislative News

Act 329 Makes Changes to Civil Involuntary Outpatient Treatment

Existing law, Part III-A of Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the La. R.S., provides relative to civil involuntary outpatient treatment for persons suffering from mental illness; for petitions for court orders authorizing involuntary outpatient treatment; and for procedures of courts with respect to such petitions. Act 329 makes changes to prior law, including the following as described in the Digest:

New law changes the term "patient" to "respondent" throughout existing law.

New law deletes prior law which required that a person's history of noncompliance with mental health treatment result in certain outcomes in order to qualify him for court-ordered involuntary outpatient treatment.

New law provides that the person's history of noncompliance with mental health treatment, ipso facto, qualifies him for court-ordered involuntary outpatient treatment pursuant to existing law and new law.

Prior law provided that a petition to obtain an order authorizing involuntary outpatient treatment may be initiated by several authorized persons including any interested person through counsel with written concurrence of the coroner in the jurisdiction in which the person is found. New law deletes from prior law the requirement for written concurrence of the coroner.

New law requires the coroner in the jurisdiction in which the respondent was found to provide a written concurrence to the allegations for the respondent's involuntary outpatient treatment if ordered by the court.

New law defines "interested person" as anyone of legal age who has an interest in the outcome of a particular case, which may include but shall not be limited to any adult relative or friend of the respondent, any official or representative of a public or private agency, corporation, or association that is concerned with the respondent's welfare, or any other person found suitable by the court.

New law adds to existing law items of information to be included in petitions to the court for orders authorizing involuntary outpatient treatment.

New law requires that as soon as is practical after the filing of the petition for an order authorizing involuntary outpatient treatment, the court shall review the petition and supporting documents and determine whether there exists probable cause to believe that the respondent is suffering from mental illness which renders him unlikely to voluntarily participate in the recommended treatment and, in view of the treatment history and current behavior of the respondent, he is in need of involuntary outpatient treatment to prevent a relapse or deterioration which would be likely to result in him becoming dangerous to self or others or gravely disabled as defined in existing law.

New law requires that if the court determines that probable cause exists, it shall appoint a physician, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or psychologist to examine the respondent and to furnish a report provided for in existing law (Physician's Report to Court) and testify at the hearing.

New law requires that the report set forth specifically the objective factors leading to the conclusion that the person has a mental illness that renders him unlikely to voluntarily participate in the recommended treatment and, in view of the treatment history and current behavior of the respondent, he is in need of involuntary outpatient treatment to prevent a relapse or deterioration which would be likely to result in harm of self or others or him becoming gravely disabled defined in existing law.

New law stipulates that the report shall also include recommendations for a treatment plan.

New law revises existing law concerning procedures of courts with respect to petitions for orders authorizing involuntary outpatient treatment.

New law adds a requirement stating that when a physician, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or psychologist determines the respondent has failed to comply with the ordered treatment, the local governing entity, case manager, or treatment provider shall make reasonable efforts to solicit the compliance of the respondent.



Act 3 Allows for Donations to Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response Org

The governor signed HB 12 into law creating Act 3, which allows for an individual income tax checkoff for donations to the Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR) organization.

An individual can donate all or a portion of his state income tax refund to the Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR) organization in lieu of that amount being paid as a refund. Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response® is a nonprofit organization committed to serving youth and adult survivors of sexual trauma and building institutional capacity to prevent and respond responsibly to sexual violence in the community, according to the website.

Officials state: "Our organization's roots are in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where we began as the Stop Rape Crisis Center, a division of the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office, in 1975. In 1979, the center was recognized as "An Exemplary Project" by the U.S. Department of Justice and what began as a grassroots initiative comprised of several volunteers, advocates and allies committed to establishing support services for rape survivors quickly became nationally recognized."

STAR® currently serves a wide population of survivors, including children who have been sexually abused, adults who were sexually abused as children, and those who have faced sexual harassment, sexual battery and assault, rape and attempted rape.

Act 29 Helps Youngsters Falling Behind Due to Covid-19 Issues

Act 29 requires public schools, for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, to provide expanded academic support to each student in grades four through eight who failed to achieve mastery on any statewide assessment administered pursuant to the state's school and district accountability system during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

New law requires each city, parish, or other local public school board to develop an education plan and supporting budget to provide expanded academic support to students using federal funds provided for educational relief relative to COVID-19.

The new law allows a student identified as needing expanded academic support to be provided accelerated instruction or prioritized placement in a class taught by a teacher labeled as "highly effective" pursuant to the state's teacher evaluation system, if a highly effective teacher is available in the school.

Dr. Rizzuto Named
Interim Director
Continued

Lipscomb Memorial Endowed Professor of Human Resource, Leadership, and Organizational Development.

"Rizzuto has taken an active role in research that benefits local and state interests, such as workplace disaster recovery through the Katrina Aid and Relief Effort (KARE), the Baton Rouge Choice Initiative, and smart policing and prosecution initiatives like the Baton Rouge Area Violence Elimination (BRAVE) program and Crime Strategies Unit (CSU)," noted officials.

Dr. Rizzuto is associated with over \$9M in grant from state and federal sources including NSF, the U.S. Department of Interior, and Department of Education and Department of Justice, said the officials. "Her research is published in journals across disciplines including psychology, management, information systems, sociology, and education, and has been featured in popular media outlets such as *The New York Times*, National Public Radio's *Market Place* and American Public Radio Works. She was also a 2015 TEDxLSU speaker."

Dr. Rizzuto received her PhD from Pennsylvania State University in industrial and organizational psychology, with a minor concentration in information systems and technology. The overarching focus of her research program is on developing human capital and organizational capacity through technology-mediated processes, with the goal of increasing access to the knowledge, expertise, and resources needed to manage change in the modern workplace. Her secondary research interests include workforce aging issues and understanding change reactions to workplace disasters.

"The School of Leadership & Human Resource Development is critical in achieving the college mission to improve quality of life across the lifespan, and I am confident that our students, programs, and faculty research will thrive under her leadership during this time of transition," said Dean Roland Mitchell.

In her current role, Dr. Rizzuto is hoping to recruit additional professionals to help her with growing research responsibilities. According to the job announcement, she is recruiting a social science researcher as a project coordinator/post doc for several NSF-funded, multi-year, multi-institutional projects that study and enhance the diversity of graduate students and professionals across a variety of workplace settings.

Stress Solutions
by Susan Andrews, PhD

How Long is Your To-Do-List?

"Breathe. Let go. And remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure." Oprah

My mother used to be famous for telling our family: "It's hard work having a good time." I was remembering that as I sat nursing a bump on the head from forgetting to duck under an open cabinet door while rushing around setting up camp this weekend. At the same time, I was thinking about writing this column and wondering what to write about.

We used to laugh when mom said "it is hard work having a good time" but the more I live life, the more I realize the truth of it. Life seems to be all about hurrying to DO things. We seem to try to pack in as much as we can into each day. The more we put into the schedule, the more stressful the day becomes. For one thing, nothing ever goes as quickly or as easily as we plan, thanks to things like traffic, the weather, the unexpected phone calls or unplanned things we simply have to deal with. The meeting we planned doesn't happen because the Zoom connection was bad, or the other person forgot, or they had an emergency or something.

Life in the fast lane. There is an explosion in one part of the world, and it is world news within the same hour. What precautions do you take to erase some of that stress daily? Or, do you just let it build up until you realize you are exhausted.

How long is your To Do List? The busier we are the more we think we can add to the daily To Do List. After all, we are very fast and efficient at getting things done. Or, at least, that is what we tell ourselves.

To change this pattern, you have to be conscious of (aware of) so much from minute-to-minute in your day. Start by becoming aware of not over-booking yourself and not underestimating how long it takes to do things. That is a tough one for most of us. If you are honest with yourself, you will recognize that you underestimate most everything from how long it takes to drive to work to how long it takes to write that report. I spent years estimating my drive to the office from Mandeville to Metairie was 30 minutes. It is and always has been 40 minutes – even with no traffic or bad weather.

And, most important, I will bet that none of you think about putting a real break into your To-Do-List, a period where you can just BE for a few minutes, breathe, stretch, drink some water, and STOP THINKING! Why not put the paper down and take a few minutes right now to just BE.



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. Amy Mikolajewski Honored as 2021 Early Career Psychologist by Louisiana Psychological Association

continued

temperamental and parental influences on childhood behavior problems is extremely important and earned her a prestigious K-award from the National Institute of Mental Health. The state of Louisiana is lucky to have her in the state and her work will greatly advance both science and the potential well-being of Louisiana families."

Dr. Mikolajewski's research focuses on externalizing disorders over the lifespan, with a particular interest in biological, dispositional, and environmental correlates. She is the recipient and PI of the NIH/Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development grant for her project, "Psychophysiology and Social Processes in Very Young Children with Externalizing Problems."

"My current research is focused on understanding the biological and social processes underlying early childhood disruptive behaviors," she said. "I hope to build upon this work to examine the stability and predictive ability of these factors over time. In other words, are the biological and social processes that we're identifying useful for predicting later behavior? And how can we use that information to tailor treatment for young children with disruptive behaviors and prevent negative outcomes?"

"In the meantime, I will continue to use our best empirically supported treatments to treat children with disruptive behaviors. I know my clinical work informs my research and hopefully, down the road, my research will also provide insights into ways to further strengthen our empirically-based treatment approaches"

Examples of Dr. Mikolajewski's publications include:

"Employing the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model and predicting successful completion in an alternative drug court program: Preliminary findings from the Orleans Parish Drug Court." In *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, with Allan, N., Merrill, L., Carter, M., Manguno-Mire, G.;

"An epidemiologic study of COVID-19 patients in a state psychiatric hospital: High penetrance rate despite following initial CDC guidelines." In *Psychiatric Services*, with Thompson, J.W., Kissinger, P., McCrossen, P., Smither, A., Chamarthi, G. D., Lin, Z., Tian, D.;

"Psychometric properties of a semi-structured interview to assess limited prosocial emotions." In *Assessment*, with Walker, T. M., Frick, P. J., Matlasz, T., Robertson, E. L., Mitchell, C, Lopez-Duran, N., Monk, C., Hyde, L. W.;

"The Developmental Propensity Model extends to oppositional defiant disorder: A twin study." In *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, with Hart, S. A., & Taylor, J.; and

"Examining the prospective relationship between pre-disaster respiratory sinus arrhythmia and post-disaster posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms in children." In *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, with Scheeringa, M.

Dr. Mikolajewski's work also includes book chapters on "Antisocial Personality Disorder" in *Encyclopedia of Adolescence*, and numerous presentations including, "Trauma type, baseline respiratory sinus arrhythmia, and oppositional defiant disorder dimensions," presented at the Society for Research in Child Development; "Risk assessment in the context of conditional release decision-making: Outcomes and future directions," presented at the American Psychology and Law Society; and "Pre-disaster salivary cortisol prospectively predicts post-disaster posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms in children," presented at the Society for Research in Child Development.

Included in her poster presentations are topics such as, "Differences in substance use trajectories across treatment tracks in the Orleans Parish Drug Court," presented at the American Psychology and Law Society, and "The developmental propensity model extends to oppositional defiant disorder," presented at the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

She is the recipient and PI of the NIH/Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development grant for her project, "Psychophysiology and Social Processes in Very Young Children with Externalizing Problems."

How does she feel about this award? "To receive recognition for my work in this group is such an honor," she said. "I am so grateful for the encouragement and support," said Dr. Mikolajewski.

"For me, all the steps along the way to becoming a clinical psychologist have been meaningful accomplishments, from getting into grad school, to publishing articles, to getting licensed, to getting hired as faculty. You have to celebrate all the good stuff! The accomplishment I am most proud of is being awarded an NIH Career Development Award. It is very rewarding to work hard on a grant application and have experts in your field see the value in your plans and ideas. That said, I could not have done it alone. My mentors, Dr. Michael Scheeringa and Dr. Paul Frick, as well as numerous other consultants and colleagues have been incredibly helpful and generous with their time. Building an amazing network and being surrounded by brilliant scholars has been one of the best parts of the job."

Amy Mikolajewski, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Tulane University School of Medicine was recently named the 2021 Early Career Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

(courtesy photo)





The Psychology Times' BOOKSHELF

Who's Writing What?

Psychiatric Casualties

How and Why the Military Ignores the Full Cost of War

Mark Russell and Charles Figley

Dr. Charles Figley, the Paul Henry Kurtz 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 a new book, co-authored with Dr. Mark Russell, military and trauma expert.

Psychiatric Casualties: How and Why the Military Ignores the Full Cost of War courageously explores the dark side of military mental health and the paradoxical nature of, and challenges in, this tragic situation.

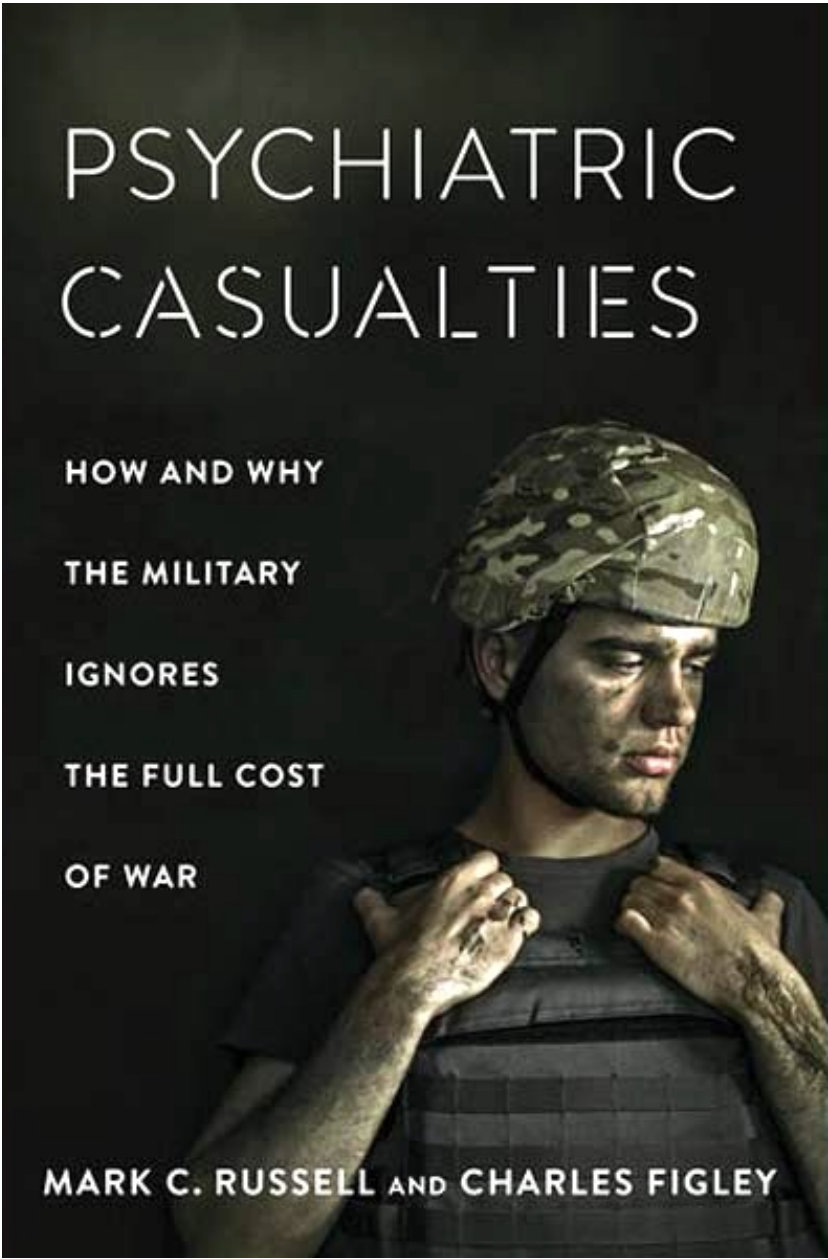
The authors point out that the toll of war is huge and the prevalence of post traumatic stress is underestimated, covered over by stigma and fears of being diagnosed, contributing to a culture with excessive waiting times for veterans, high rates of suicide and addictions, inadequate treatment and organizational scandals.

The two trauma experts offer a courageous critique of the ongoing failures in military mental health care in the United States. They take a hard and honest look at the war culture and the denial of the mental health crisis in the military and the suffering of service members.

In *Psychiatric Casualties* 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."

The contents:

- Introduction: The Genesis of the Military's Mental Health Dilemma
- 1. A War to Die For: Casualty Trends of Modern Warfare
- 2. The Dark Side of Military Mental Health: A History of Self-Inflicted Wounds
- 3. Cruel and Inhumane Handling: The First Dark-Side Strategy
- 4. Legal Prosecution, Incarceration, and Executions of Mental Illness: The Second Dark-Side Strategy
- 5. Humiliate, Ridicule, and Shame into Submission: The Third Dark-Side Strategy
- 6. Denying the Psychiatric Reality of War: The Fourth Dark-Side Strategy
- 7. Purging Weakness: The Fifth Dark-Side Strategy
- 8. Delay, Deceive, and Delay Again: The Sixth Dark-Side Strategy
- 9. Faulty Diagnosis and Backdoor Discharges: The Seventh Dark-Side Strategy
- 10. Avoiding Responsibility and Accountability: The Eighth Dark-Side Strategy
- 11. Inadequate, Experimental, or Harmful Treatment: The Ninth Dark-Side Strategy
- 12. Perpetuating Neglect, Indifference, and Self-Inflicted Crises: The Tenth Dark-Side Strategy
- 13. Toward a Resilient and Mentally Healthy Military
- 14. Transforming Military Mental Healthcare: Three Options for Change



"We are eager to reach military members and families as well as military veterans to join our cause and help improve the situation significantly," Figley said in a Tulane interview with Barri Bronston..Figley served a tour of duty in the Vietnam War as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. And later, as a noted professor at Purdue University, he had a front-row seat to the failures of military mental health in the United States, reported Bronston.

"Military mental health is mismanaged, disorganized and often ignored and misunderstood," said Figley. "The prevalence of conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder is often underestimated, with the military dismissing or concealing the significance and extent of the mental health crisis."

So far, he said the response to the book has been positive, he told Bronston. "Among other good signs: A documentary has emerged and will be released in September; *Military Times* interviewed us, and the article should be out shortly; there has been no negative response so far."

As part of their mission to raise awareness of the problem, Figley and Russell appeared in June in a Facebook Live show titled "Championing Mental Health." Featured were clips from the documentary "Stranger At Home: The Untold Story of American Military Mental Health," which will be released in September.

Figley 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.

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.

Another of Figley's books *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 has had far-reaching influence. Recently, he was named the 2021 Distinguished Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

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

A Shrink at the Flicks

Undine/Ondine A Double Feature

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

Antedating contemporary concerns about extra-terrestrials, many cultures have some variant of fascination with sea-dwelling humanoids, and feature tales about interactions between them and earthlings. Often they focus on sexual allure and associated danger. Examples are the Sirens that require Odysseus' crew to bind him to a mast to keep him from succumbing, and there are the Scotch-Irish Selkies, seal folk that tempt Hibernian fishermen. In psychoanalytic terms, the sexual appeal of the exotic, noted as far back as Havlock Ellis's writings on the psychology of sex, may have its roots in an incest taboo; be that the case or not, one cannot fail to be impressed by the trans-cultural ubiquity of mermaid tales in which desire and danger are linked.

It has been almost a quarter of a century since the movie *Splash*, a rom-com, introduced Tom Hanks to the public as fishmonger. As a child he had been rescued from being drowned by a mermaid played by Daryl Hannah, and years later, she returns to lure him into joining her in her maritime world. The film was popular, earning Oscars; it is one I have seen and enjoyed more than a few times.

In that context, it is unsurprising that I would want to see a new German/French drama by Christian Petzold, *Undine*. More, I decided on a double feature. I chose to view it along with *Ondine*, a 2009 Irish film. These are variant spellings of the same being: a female sea-creature that is attracted by and to male lovers, and poses a danger to them.

With very similar basic plots, the two films are very different in style and in emotional tone. The earlier, Irish film has a streak of



humor that makes its male star, Colin Farrell, appealing as a recovering alcoholic fisherman, Syracuse, who pulls Ondine, played by Alicia Bachleda, out the water in his trawling net. She brings him astonishing good fortune in his hitherto marginal fishing efforts and supports his efforts to help his precocious young child deal with her serious kidney disease. All the characters, including a surprising tolerant priest, are appealing, but the selky magic is abruptly dispelled in its ending.

Undine has little humorous relief. Played by Paula Beer, we meet Undine outside the museum where she works as a docent. She is at a café, as her lover, Johannes, played by Jacob Matschenz, is letting her know that he wants to end their relationship. She warns him that if that happens, she will have to kill him. She must leave the meeting to begin her lecture about the reconstruction of post-war Berlin, but she warns him to stay at the café to await her return. She returns to find him gone. While searching for him she meets a man, a deep sea technician, Christoph, played by Franz Rogowski, who attended her talk. He wants to strike up a relationship with her. She is not interested, but, in a murkily surreal series of events, they manage to destroy a large aquarium containing, along with fish, a deep sea diver figurine. Undine is injured by a shard of the aquarium glass, and Christoph gives her first aid.

Undine and Chistoph become lovers, and she accompanies him in some of his undersea adventures. They include encounters with a nightmarishly huge catfish. Their relationship deepens, but a catastrophic underwater accident leaves Christoph in a coma which is said to be irreversible. A distraught Undine, whom Christoph has confronted about her lingering interest in her former lover, is driven to carry out her threat to kill Johannes, and to end her earthly life.

Eventually, Christoph recovers, and after fruitless efforts to find Undine, begins a new life. The tragedy takes another turn when Johannes tries again to make contact with Undine.

A dark, stormy and unsettling tale, a striking counterpoint to the wit and romance of *Ondine*.

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

American Psychological Assn Convention to be Held Virtual This Month, August 12 to 14

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

Gathering to Celebrate Dr. Tom Hannie, Thursday, September 2, in Baton Rouge

There will be a celebration of life gathering in honor of Dr. Tom Hannie on September 2 at 7 PM, said Trey Hannie, Dr. Hannie's son. The gathering will be at Serop's on Corporate Boulevard in Baton Rouge.

The gathering will be informal and everyone is invited, and encouraged to bring their stories and enjoy time together, said Trey. Trey also said that Tom asked for this specifically in his will.

Trey Hannie said that he expects that friends, family, and colleagues will all enjoy the time together and the stories of his father.



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