

Mizell's Bill Becomes Law This Week Without Gov.'s Signature

Senator Beth Mizell's "Fairness in Women's Sports Act," becomes law this week after the Governor declined to veto or sign the measure. The new law, Act 283, will have the effect of prohibiting transgender females, those assigned as male at birth, from competing in traditional women's sports.

In a June 6 letter to the President of the Louisiana Senate, Governor Edwards, who had signaled that he would veto the measure, explained his reasons. "[...] after passing this legislation overwhelmingly in two consecutive regular legislative sessions, it is clearly the will of the legislature that this bill become law.

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Gov. Edwards Appoints Dr. Holcomb to LSBEP

In a July press release, Gov. Edwards announced his appointment of Matthew J. Holcomb, Ph.D. of New Orleans to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Dr. Holcomb is a clinical neuropsychologist with Jefferson Neuro-behavioral Group, nominated by the Louisiana Psychological Association, said the Gov.

Dr. Holcomb captured the majority of votes in a state psychology board election, receiving 152 votes of the 256 votes cast. Eligible

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Dr. Dickson Honored for Distinguished Service

Dr. Amy Dickson has been named recipient of the 2022 Award for Distinguished Service in Psychology by the Louisiana Psychological Association, announced at the spring convention. Dr. Dickson is Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, (LSUHSC), Department of Psychiatry, New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a license Clinical Psychologist, Infant Team Director, and Psychology Section Deputy Chief.

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Right: Dr. Amy Dickson
(courtesy photo)



Members of the state psychology board at a past meeting. L to R: Dr. Greg Gormanous, Dr. Koren Boggs, and Dr. Gina Gibson.

State Psychology Board Embarks on Major Overhaul of Rules & Regulations

In their February minutes, posted on July 11, the state psychology board outlined major changes and updates they intend to make to the regulatory law governing psychologists.

Central to these changes is the new section of administrative Rules on registration of assistants to psychologists, including regulations on who may be an assistant, their credentials, how the board will investigate complaints, and how to regulate supervision of the assistants.

According to the minutes, board members discussed numerous changes and additions to the rules and regulations for psychologists. The following excerpts (Italicized) were included in the reporting.

Chapter 11: Assistants to Psychologists (registration) –

Define "Assistant to a Psychologist" (ATAP), "General Professional Supervision", "Continuous

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Editorial Page – Opinions

New Level of Needless Red Tape

by J. Nelson

The state psychology board, which has let us know in both overt and covert communications that the real reason they want to register assistants is that they need the money, is planning a new level of micromanagement.

Last year they pushed through their own legislation giving themselves the right to create this new category of registration. Sadly, the state association supported this move, primarily because at that time the association president and the chair of the board were BFFs. No deep thinking or analysis was accomplished.

Also, tragically, leaders convinced young psychologists that without this legislation and new level of red tape the board would go belly up. A clever use of persuasion science — the best way to manipulate people is to create a “big fear.”

Now it looks like we’re not only going to have new fees/taxes on assistants, which unfairly impacts the entrepreneurial leg of our profession, but we’re going to have serious micromanagement.

Psychologists are completely capable of selecting and supervising their own assistants. But now, as usual in growing a bureaucracy, the board intends to have its nose stuck into people's business, all the way to new investigations.

The Board is poised to go forward, with a cry of, “We are protecting the public,” the mantra they always throw at everybody, regardless of the fact that psychology is a very safe profession. This is also regardless of how inefficient, ineffective, and costly their poorly designed and unscientific methods really are.

The only thing that can stop them now is if the citizens (psychologists) rise up and object to the absurd level of micromanagement that seems to be the Board’s plan for the Rules.

The Psychology Times

Member, Louisiana Press Association

Published monthly
by Nelson News, LLC.
psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

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Letters to the Editor

I must compliment you on your well-articulated editorial on the legislative audit of the LSBEP.

I was wondering how the LSBME addresses their complaint process and how the issues of utility, reliability and validity which you adroitly broached have been previously measured by other state boards of examiners of psychologists. No sense reinventing the wheel if possible.

It will be interesting if Dr. Gibson is up to the task, but the problem and solution(s) most certainly go(es) beyond her tenure. And therein may be the rub that the annual tenure/turnover may preclude significant ownership of change and outcome by the board.

Howard Blevins, Ph.D.
Lafayette, Louisiana

I just wanted to say how much I enjoy reading the *Psychology Times*.

I am amazed at the quality efforts of our peers both in scholarship and application.

I particularly enjoy your editorials and Al Burstein's very erudite, literary reviews. Al followed me as chair (head) of psychology at SLU. Great guy!

Thanks for all of your efforts in keeping us informed.

Thomas J. Lipscomb, Ph.D.
Professor, Educational Research
The University of Southern Mississippi
Professor Emeritus of Psychology
Southeastern Louisiana University
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[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, 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.]

Corrections & Clarifications

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

Gov. Edwards Appoints Dr. Holcomb to LSBEP continued

voters, those licensed under the state board as psychologists, total approximately 820 individuals.

Dr. Holcomb is from New Orleans and was originally licensed in 2015. His specialty is clinical neuropsychology. He earned his degree in 2012 from Ball State University in school psychology.

On his candidate statement he said, "The main function of our licensing board is to protect the people of Louisiana from the "unqualified and improper application" of psychology. That's a broad mission statement, which often puts our board in a position to affect change within the field of psychology. There can be no doubt that the next few years will see additional and potentially major changes in our field. Affecting change and having a voice when those changes are discussed are a motivation for serving on the LSBEP.

"Nationally, organizations like ABPP often push agendas that may not benefit psychologists or the public in Louisiana. Issues such as the EPPP-2 and PsyPACT could harm the practice of psychology in Louisiana. LSBEP has a history of standing against efforts which would not benefit our state, and I wish to continue that legacy. Locally, our board faces financial issues and concerns of over-reach. I want to serve on the LSBEP to be a positive force for change.

"I have served on LPA's legislative affairs committee for several years and am currently the Treasurer of the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) and a member of the Executive Committee. [...] I believe I am prepared to sit in the LSBEP."

Dr. Holcomb will fill the position to be vacated by Dr. Gina Gibson, who has been the chair and who finished her service in June this year. Dr. Gibson filled the unexpired position of Dr. Crouch when she had to unexpectedly relocate.

Louisiana Department of Health Launches New 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

In a July 18 press release, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) announced that they have launched the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The new 3-digit number that replaces the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to make it easier for people to receive assistance during a mental health crisis. The previous 10-digit number has answered tens of millions of calls and saved countless lives. Now 988 will be the same trusted resource for those who are dealing with suicidal thoughts, substance abuse or other mental health challenges, wrote officials. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need immediate crisis support.

The announcement also noted that when you call, text or chat 988, you will be connected to trained compassionate crisis counselors who will listen to your concerns, provide support and connect you with local resources, wrote officials. The chat feature will also be available through the Lifeline's website. All calls are confidential. The service is being provided 24/7, free of charge, said officials.

"It is so important that we have resources in place to help people when they need it most and having a lifeline like this one is vital," said Gov. John Bel Edwards. "Tragically, Louisiana experienced more than 600 suicides in 2020 and nationally there is a death by suicide every 11 minutes. This is a serious problem and being able to text or chat with a trained and compassionate crisis counselor who can

listen, provide support and connect people with local resources is going to make it easier for anyone to receive assistance during a mental health crisis. There is never any shame in reaching out for help and everyone needs help at some point in their lives. This is a very safe place to get that support."

"One in five people above the age of 12 has a mental health condition in the U.S.," said LDH Secretary Dr. Courtney N. Phillips. "If you need help, know that you are not alone. It's OK to not be OK. Mental health impacts everyone and we need to make sure those who need help have access to it. This important initiative will make it easier for more residents to access critical mental health services when they need it most. A year in the making, Louisiana stands ready to join the nation for this launch."

LDH's Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) has contracted with two certified call centers to answer 988 calls in the state. The Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling, located in Bossier City, will field calls in area codes 318 and 337 covering north, central and southwest Louisiana. VIA LINK, located in New Orleans, will answer calls for southeast Louisiana, covering area codes 504, 225 and 985. Approximately \$2.5 million has been allocated to fund the program including existing state and federal grant dollars. If you have any questions, email OBH at 988@la.gov.

You can also visit the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) website, noted officials.



State & National News

Mizell's Bill Becomes Law This Week Without Gov.'s Signature continued

Further, it is clear to me, both from the support for this bill and from private conversations with legislators, that Senate Bill 44 would have become law regardless of my action on it."

Sen. Mizell's bill passed the Senate by 32 to 6 and the House by 72 to 21. A similar effort failed, by two votes, to override the Governor's veto in 2021.

According to the final digest, Act 283 requires 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 mens team or event only for students who are biological males. (2) A females, girls, or womens team or event only for students who are biological females. (3) A coeducational or mixed team or event for students who are biological males or biological females."

Also according to the digest, nothing in new law is intended to prevent any school from implementing or maintaining a coed athletic team or sporting event which is open to both biological males and biological females so long as a female athletic team or sporting event is not disbanded for the purpose of creating a coed team or event which would thereby result to the detriment of biological female students. And also nothing in new law shall be construed to apply to an intramural athletic team or intramural sport.

In his June 6 letter, Governor Edwards expressed his feelings about the legislation. "Despite it becoming law," he said, "I stand by my position on this issue over the last several years as it has been debated. This legislation unfairly targets vulnerable children who are already struggling with gaining acceptance in every aspect of their lives."

"It is unconscionable." Gov. Edwards wrote, "to have these organizations year after year continue to push the same legislation to capitalize on this issue at the expense of these children who are just trying to learn how to live their everyday lives," he said.

"It is my sincere hope that we as a state become more educated about our transgender community and the difficult and unique challenges they face. We should strive to be better and more understanding."

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 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 the 2021 SB 156 and the Louisiana School Psychological Association labeled the 2021 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."



Governor Signed More Bills into Law

ACT 408...SB 34 Allows advisory committees of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to meet using electronic platforms.

ACT 416...SB 255 Provides relative to court costs and fees in domestic abuse cases.

ACT 432...SB 112 Requires health insurers that utilize prior authorization to reduce burdensome delays in approving and in making payments for covered healthcare services.

ACT 457...HB 278 Provides requirements for the Psychiatric Collaborative Care Model.

ACT 461...HB 312 Enacts reforms to address workplace violence in healthcare settings.

ACT 466...HB 369 Requires public school governing authorities and public schools to post on their websites laws pertaining to parental access to instructional materials and the Parents' Bill of Rights.

ACT 493...HB 706 Creates the crime of menacing.

ACT 503...SB 213 Provides relative to specialized behavioral health rehabilitation services in the Louisiana medical assistance program.

ACT 513...HB 1061 Provides for procedures for victims of sexually-oriented criminal offenses.

ACT 529...HB 1083 Provides relative to hair discrimination in education,

employment, public accommodations, and housing options.

ACT 538...SB 115 Provides relative to mandatory training for peace officers related to human trafficking.

ACT 540...SB 147 Provides for sexual assault survivors to have access to certain documents from the forensic medical exam.

ACT 561...HB 909 Establishes a continuum of care program for certain pregnant women and parents of young children.

ACT 562...HB 914 Provides relative to treatment of students with seizure disorders and training of school employees.

ACT 563...HB 921 Provides relative to adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed education.

ACT 585...HB 1075 Provides relative to inspections of family child care providers and in-home providers.

ACT 589...SB 90 Provides relative to network adequacy for health insurer benefit plans.

ACT 607...HB 136 Requires dyslexia education as a component of teacher education programs.

ACT 614...HB 272 Provides for mental health evaluations in divorce and child custody proceedings.

ACT 622...HB 416 Provides relative to screening of students for dyslexia and other impediments to learning.

State Psychology Board Embarks on Major Overhaul of Rules & Regulations, continued

Professional Supervision", "Supervisor" or "Supervising Psychologist"

Establish minimum criteria for an ATAP to qualify for registration (age, high school diploma, Criminal Background Check).

Establish titles that may be used when identifying ATAP's.

Clarify the boundaries that establish the legal functional authority of the Supervising Psychologist, and the responsibility that the Supervising Psychologist has for their clients.

Establish clear criteria to ensure that the Supervising Psychologist is responsible for ALL activities (administratively, clinically, ethically, functionally and legally) of the ATAP including registration, renewal, directing the provision of psychological services, the outcome of work, the welfare of the client, general communication and disclosures to clients, services delivered by ATAP's, and advertisement.

Define the minimum criteria of general professional supervision (direct, in person) to ensure the welfare of the client, and the ethical and legal protection of the assistant.

Clarify that a registration is not a property right of the ATAP; shall not be construed to allow the ATAP to independently engage in the practice of psychology; or render any diagnosis; or sign any evaluations or reports as the provider of record; or independently advertise psychological services; or assign or delegate psychological duties to others;

Define those activities an ATAP may perform with regard to psychological testing/scoring.

Outline the statutory authority of the board to conduct investigations in matters involving the ATAP and/or their Supervisor; [...]

The minutes also included discussion and possible changes in numerous other chapters of the rules and regulations.

Chapter 3: Training Requirements –

Update language for identifying acceptable accrediting bodies for doctoral-level psychology programs. Update standards to ensure training equivalence in the nine profession-wide competencies equivalent to the current American Psychological Association (“APA”) Commission on Accreditation Implementing Regulations. The new APA training requirements include competence in supervision prior to graduation, which allow the board to eliminate the hurdle of additional experience post licensure prior to engaging in supervision.

Provide a clause in consideration of individuals trained prior to 2015, that they will be assessed under the training standards in place at the time of their graduation.

Classify specialty designations into “Health Service Psychology” and “General Applied Psychology”. Necessary to provide a fair and consistent review of individuals who are graduates of programs without APA Accreditation; necessary to provide an alternate route to licensure for individuals not trained in a Health Service area of psychology; and necessary to make clear that individuals who attend graduate programs without internship training do not meet the criteria for practice in a Health Service area of psychology.

Clarify current training requirements for the registration of a Clinical Neuropsychology specialty consistent with Houston Conference Guidelines; also clarifies those overlapping areas

that do not require the registration of a Clinical Neuropsychology specialty.

Chapter 7: Supervision Requirements –

Provide a definition for “General Professional Supervision” to clarify that which is the direct, in person supervision required as part of training.

Provide a definition for “Continuing Professional Supervision” as ongoing supervision which establishes the legal and functional responsibility of the licensed psychologist for the client and the services provided to a client by a supervisee.

Clarify that the Supervisor owns or is an employee of the entity employing the supervisee to quantify legal functional responsibility of the licensed psychologist for the client and the services provided to a client by a supervisee.

Chapter NEW: Telepsychology and Telesupervision –

Facilitate the process for a Louisiana Licensed Psychologist to provide psychological services via telecommunications.

Chapters 8: Continuing Professional Development –

Add a requirement that (2) of the 40 hours that are currently required must be within the area of multiculturalism or diversity.

Remove the categorical requirement in consideration of the least restrictive requirements for license renewal.

Define activities that are "automatically approved" by the Board as Workshops, Conference Workshops/Training Activities that have Board approved sponsors.

Chapter 9: Licenses (Emeritus) –

Create a retired status for licensees: "Psychologist Emeritus: Retired".

Create definitions, criteria and a procedure for requesting the status.

Create a procedure to return to practice.

Provide that "Psychologist Emeritus: Retired" are exempt from Continuing Education requirements.

Provide a procedure and requirements for renewal of a Psychologist Emeritus.

Chapter 15: Complaint Adjudication process – Draft changes were not ready for presentation.

Chapter 19: Public Information (petitions to the board) –

Dr. Gibson presented draft amendments to Chapter 19 which establish a procedure for any interested person to petition the LSBEP to request the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule according to Title 49. Section 953.C(1).

Chapter 40: LSSP CPD Requirements –

Ms. Monic presented previously approved changes to Chapter 40 which will reduce the number of continuing education hours required for the renewal of a license from 50 to 40 hours.

[Editor's Note: Minutes are available at the board's website which include all notes on discussion of new rules.]

State & National News

The Psychology Times Wins Six Awards at Louisiana Press Assn Better Newspaper Competition

The Psychology Times captured six awards at this year’s Louisiana Press Association, with honors announced on June 30.

The Times won both second and third place in Best News Story competition. The judges commented on the balanced news reporting in the Times. “Good job detailing the legislative history of this bill. Well balanced and tells all sides of the story.” And, for the third place winning entry, judges said, “Another well-balanced story that tells all sides. It’s timely and important, as well as interesting. Easy to read writing.”

Psychology Times staff members Susan Brown and Jake Nelson Dooley received a second place for Best Overall Website. Jake Nelson Dooley also received a third place for Best Web Project for the educational video.

The Times garnered a second place in Best Special Section for its community awards. The judges said, “A special section on a mission. Psychology Times set out to create a gathering or uniting point for the counseling community. Nice design and interesting stories and columns. Mission accomplished.”

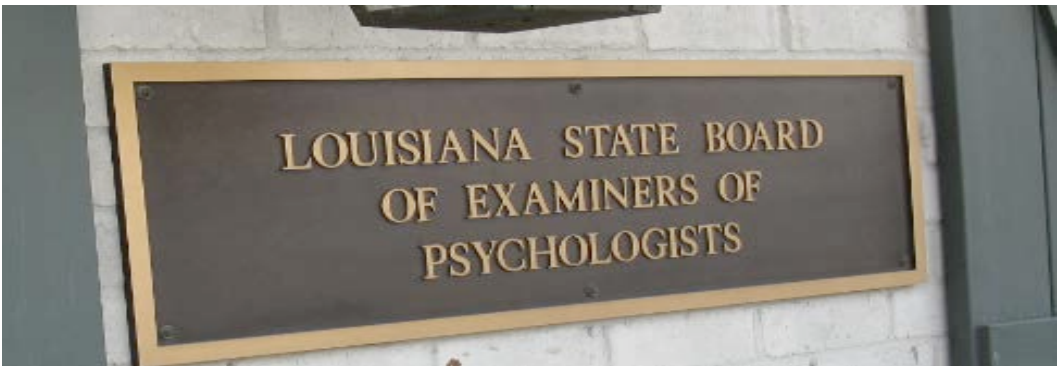
Finally, the Times captured a third place in Best Investigative Reporting and the Gibbs Adams award for the article, "Does psychology need this much criminal law enforcement? Invisible Changes in the 'Complaints Committee' of the State Board and the Rising Price Tag," published in the October 2021 issue.

The prestigious Freedom of Information Award went to The Advocate and reporter Adrea Gallo for reporting about a sexual harassment scandal in the Louisiana Attorney General's office.

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. The paper won the first Freedom of Information (FOI) award more than three decades ago, and also the Community Service Award for the paper’s effort to expose the clandestine activities of the KKK, during the racial tensions in the 60s in Red River Parish. [See special feature this issue.]

Times staff members Susan Brown and Jake Nelson Dooley earned awards for their work on the website and videos.



From the Minutes
Selected Items from Feb. & March 2022 Minutes of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP)

Friday, February 18, 2022
(Posted 7/11/2022)

3. Legal Issues and Strategy [LSA-R.S.42.17.A(4), 44:4.1] – Attorney-Client Privilege

a. Supervision by Medical Psychologists – Attorney Amy Groves Lowe provided legal analysis and options for addressing the regulatory issues presented by Medical Psychologists who do not retain their license with LSBEP, supervising LSBEP Applicants for Licensure, Candidates for Licensure, and/or Provisional Licensees. Following the discussion in Executive Session, Dr. Gormanous moved that the committee work collaboratively to prepare a statement of issues, prepared by Ms. Lowe, to be sent to all affected groups, with a request to discuss a collaborative approach to legislation to address the issues. [...] the motion passed

c. P21-22-09P Received 1/11/2022 – Following consultation with Assistant Attorney General Amanda LeGroue, this matter was docketed and reviewed by the Board in Executive Session with Attorney Amy Groves Lowe; through that discussion, it was determined that individual members of the LSBEP in their capacity as Board Members do not have jurisdiction to initiate a formal investigation or action against themselves under the authority of La. R.S. 37:2351 et al; [...] that Board Members are not engaged in that which is defined as the “practice of psychology” in their work as a Board Member. As a result, Dr. Gormanous moved to reject the matter as a complaint, but consider and review the concerns petitioned by the Complainants that do fall under the authority of the LSBEP, related to LSBEP’s use of/continued use of the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology and the concern of the Complainants “...that the EPPP has adverse impact against African American and Hispanic populations.” [...] the motion passed

2. Finance Committee – [...] Board Strategy Recommendations: Consider emergency rulemaking for the Registration of Assistants to Psychologists, particularly given the importance highlighted on this issue through the legislative process by legislators. Focus on rulemaking to implement CPD standards and begin revenue development; [...]

Rulemaking (Updates and Action Items): [Editor's Note: See news page one, this issue.]

10. Added discussion Item: ADA Request – Dr. Gormanous requested to discuss the potential to continue to attend meetings virtually in consideration of ADA Accommodations and how those would be considered and approved. Ms. Monic explained that there were statutory provisions that would need to be cleared once there was no longer an Emergency Order in place but that she would explore that option by consulting with General Counsel as well as the Attorney General’s [...]

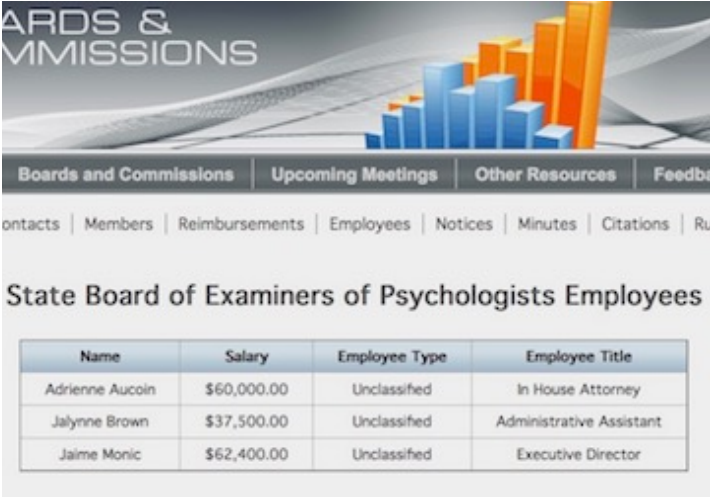
Friday, March 18, 2022
(Posted 7/11/2022)

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Interviewing Prospective Employees (procedures, dates, etc.) - Ms. Monic reported that applications for the Administrative Assistant and In-house Attorney positions are being received regularly. She requested assistance with interviewing candidates. Dr. Gormanous and Dr. Sam indicated their interest in participating in the hiring process.

2. LPA Presentation, Saturday, April 9, 2022, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. in New Orleans – The Board reviewed the Objectives and Goals for the LPA presentation prepared by Ms. Monic. [...] Goals: identify five areas of proposed changes to the Louisiana Administrative Code Title 46:LXIII. [...] identify the process for providing meaningful comments or concerns on the proposed rules for consideration by the LSBEP prior to filing.

ASPPB, New Orleans, April 21, 2022 – April 24, 2022 – The Board discussed attendance at the upcoming ASPPB meeting, including soliciting Welcome Letters. Ms.



In-House Attorney Hired at LSBEP

According to the Boards and Commissions website (see screenshot above), the state psychology board has hired Adrienne Aucoin for the position of in-house attorney. The posting indicated that her salary would be \$60,000 per year. Other internet information suggests that she has been licensed for approximately 13 years, although this could not be verified.

From the Minutes continued

Monic advised she secured a Welcome Letter from Governor John Bel Edwards and had requested a letter from Mayor Latoya Cantrell’s office, [...]

- 6. Contracts Expiring June 30, 2022:
 - a. LEGAL(General Counsel) - Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, LLC (Amy Groves Lowe) - The Board reviewed and discussed continuing a contract with Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips. Following discussion Dr. Gormanous moved for the adoption of the following resolution: [...] *to utilize the services of Amy Groves Lowe [...] and not to exceed a maximum of \$55,000 for that period.*
 - b. LEGAL(General Counsel2) – Roedel, Parsons, Koch, Blanche, Balhoff & McCollister (Larry Roedel) - The Board reviewed and discussed continuing a contract [...] moved for the adoption of the following resolution: [...] *not to exceed a maximum of \$12,000 for that period.*
 - d. COMPLAINTS COORDINATOR 2 – Mark P. Vigen, Ph.D. - The Board reviewed and discussed continuing a contract with Mark P. Vigen, Ph.D. Following discussion Dr. Gormanous moved for the adoption of the following resolution: [...] *for an amount not to exceed a maximum of \$5,000.*
 - e. INVESTIGATOR – Statewide Surveillance & Investigation, LLC (Tony McCoy/Henry Richardson) - [...] the adoption of the following resolution: [...] *for an amount not to exceed \$12,000, [...]*

EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH ATTORNEY:

- a. Supervision by Medical Psychologists – Dr. Gormanous moved to rescind his motion of February 18, 2022, with respect to collaboratively addressing issues with Medical Psychologists and that the board operate as they have in the past. The Board discussed the motion. This motion was rejected.

Dr. Gormanous offered a second motion to rescind his motion of February 18, 2022, with respect to legislation. The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed [...]

Request for Accommodations under ADA – Dr. Gormanous moved that the LSBEP empower the Executive Director and Board Chair the authority to grant reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed [...]

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

Stress as a Trigger of Autoimmune Disease

Autoimmune diseases are a rare and poorly understood group of diseases, affecting approximately 5% of Western population. Dr. Betty Diamond defined autoimmune disease in an article in the New England J. of Medicine (2001) as “a clinical syndrome caused by the activation of T cells or B cells, or both, in the absence of an ongoing infection or other discernible cause.” Almost all research papers on the topic of etiology start by saying that there is a multifactorial group of causes, including genetic, hormonal, some environmental and immunological factors. Despite the known causes, at least 50% of autoimmune diseases can be attributed to “unknown trigger factors.” And, that is where stress as a trigger fits in. Stress can affect immune function in individual ways. Subjects of many retrospective studies have identified that they experienced an unusual amount of emotional stress prior to onset of an autoimmune disease.

The bad news is that not only can stress trigger the onset of disease, the autoimmune disease itself can then cause significant stress in the patient. This sets up a vicious cycle. As the stress builds up, the major stress hormones are released, in particular, cortisol. The overproduction of cortisol and failure of the nervous system to regularly reduce it leads to immune dysregulation, which ultimately results in autoimmune disease by the changing of cytokine production.

Cytokines are little proteins that help control the immune system and inflammation response. Immune dysregulation is when your body can’t tell the difference between healthy cells and the invaders that should be attacked. In most cases of immune dysregulation, the person is living with an overactive immune system with joint pain and stiffness.

Since stress is so actively involved as both a trigger and a response to autoimmune disease, effective treatment of autoimmune disease should thus include stress management and behavioral intervention to prevent stress-related immune system imbalance. That brings us back to some thoughts on the role cortisol plays in the autoimmune patient.

Cortisol is essential to the production of steroids. In fact, all steroids are initially derived from cortisol. And, since steroids are often prescribed in the treatment of autoimmune disease, high levels of cortisol are helpful in reducing the symptoms of autoimmunity. When the levels are low, however, it is likely to aggravate autoimmune disease symptoms. Addison’s disease is a rare condition in which your adrenal glands do not produce enough cortisol.

Effective treatment of stress in the case of autoimmune disease requires a serious look at the patient’s life situation in terms of what kind of stressors (psychological, physical, or emotional stress), how the stress is affecting the body (overproduction or underproduction of stress hormones), and how that person best reduces daily stress. Then set up a daily routine and follow it slavishly.



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.

Legal Climate on Abortion Leaves Louisiana Psychologists Guessing

by J. Nelson & J. Glass

The overturning of *Roe vs. Wade*, shifting decisions to the state level, has left many in Louisiana mental health community guessing due to the tangled web of court challenges, procedural maneuvers, and new legislation. The legal, ethical and moral issues for those counseling women are anything but clear.

In 2006 Governor Kathleen Blanco signed a strict ban on abortion into law if *Roe v. Wade* was ever over turned, reported Sam Karlin of *The Advocate*. This June, Governor Edwards signed an updated version of the same measure.

However, after the Supreme Court decision, an Orleans Civil District Judge blocked the enforcement of that ban and then another Judge ruled in favor of the ban. In July another Judge granted a temporary restraining order blocking the state from enforcing the trigger ban, reported *The Advocate*.

Complicating issues even more, this year’s legislative session included Act 545 which notes that laws prohibiting or restricting abortion are not to be negated. But Act 548 may be even more important to those counseling women because it creates the crime of abortion by means of abortion inducing drugs. This includes delivery of a drug to a person in Louisiana by mail: "... prohibits delivery to a person in Louisiana by mail-order, courier, or as a result of a sale made via the internet in violation of new law."

The Times asked the liability professionals at The Trust* for their perspectives and they referred us to their review article.

"The Trust developed *Preliminary Risk Management Guidance in The Face of Dobbs*," said Dr. Jana Martin, CEO of The Trust, "to help psychologists while acknowledging the difficulties in providing such guidance given the variability in state regulations and the quickly changing information. We highlight practice considerations, provide examples of potential issues, and provide risk management advice. We will update the document as new developments arise," Dr. Martin said.

Included in their review, available online, authors note, "At this point, several states have already made abortion illegal or strictly regulated its practice. Other states may follow. Those with known legal risks include: abortion providers; those who recommend or who help others to obtain abortions; and women who seek abortions. For the most part, psychologists are not included in this group and are not at immediate risk. However, there are several possible scenarios which may put psychologists at risk in the future.

"Currently, due to the uncertainty about how matters will proceed in the wake of *Dobbs* and the many yet-unanswered questions, it is not possible to give detailed or specific guidance to psychologists about particular *Dobbs*-related risks. Each state that chooses to ban abortion will have to pass additional legislation, issue regulations or judicial decisions, or exercise prosecutorial discretion before the specific risks can be ascertained. These actions are likely to be challenged in court. Licensing Boards will have to weigh in when they get complaints against psychologists. All of this will take some time--months rather than weeks.

"It is unlikely that psychologists will immediately have to change the way they are practicing, but *psychologists should avoid giving direct recommendations regarding abortion or engaging in activities such as driving clients across state lines or financing such trips.*"



The Trust authors give the following Risk Management Advice:

1. Avoid the above-discussed boundary violations with patients/clients.
2. At this time, it is hard to imagine that psychologists will be at serious risk by listening to a client discuss their thoughts and feelings about what to do regarding an unwanted pregnancy. However, it is important for psychologists to be aware of and careful about their own personal reactions. The safest option is for psychologists to remain neutral about the subject. Patients/clients, even those who are not considering an abortion, may want to discuss what *Dobbs* means and may press psychologists for their opinions on the decision.
3. Consulting with colleagues will be very important for all of us when we are faced with abortion-related situations that engender powerful feelings, or when dealing with novel situations where legal and other related ramifications are not yet clear.
4. Take careful notes about conversations you have with patients/clients on the topic of abortion. You may want to consider noting these discussions in your “psychotherapy notes” (a second set of notes kept apart from the required chart notes), which can provide an extra level of privacy protection in states that recognize such notes.
5. Be mindful of what you choose to post on social media sites.
6. If you are practicing under PSYPACT, be aware of the laws of any states you are practicing into and be prepared to obtain consultation on abortion-related issues that may arise in doing interjurisdictional work.
7. When faced with difficult situations, call *The Trust Advocate 800 Program* (800-477-1200) for a consult.
8. Try not to condemn colleagues who disagree with you.

The complete article can be found at:
<https://www.trustinsurance.com/Resources/Articles/preliminary-risk-management-guidance-in-the-face-of-dobbs>

*[Editor's note: The Trust is a paid advertiser of *The Psychology Times*]



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Dr. Amy Dickson Honored for Distinguished Service in Psychology, continued

"This award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the professional field of psychology in Louisiana and beyond by their professional service, particularly in the area of diversity, or demonstrated community involvement in support of less privileged or oppressed groups," said Dr. Amanda Raines, spokesperson for the Association.

"Dr. Dickson works to support some of the most vulnerable populations in our community," said Dr. Raines. "She works with the Department of Child and Family Services where she provides services to families involved in the court due to suspected abuse and neglect of children. In her previous role as Director of the Victims Assistance Program for the Department of Psychiatry at LSUHSC, Dr. Dickson managed a crisis hot line to assist families in the New Orleans area impacted by violence. In addition, she has worked as the co-director for the Harris Infant Mental Health program at LSUHSC for the past 17 years where she has trained social work interns, psychiatry fellows, and psychology interns to have a deeper understanding for the mental health needs of young children," said Dr. Raines.

Dr. Dickson is the Psychology Section Deputy Chief and the Child Coordinator of the Psychology Internship Training Program at LSUHSC. She is a Child-Parent Psychotherapy trainer and she is the Director of the Orleans Parish Infant Team which treats children ages 0-5 years in the foster care system. She is part of a Safe Baby Court and trains around the country on infant mental health and court team work.

Dr. Dickson also consults to local child protection agencies, and sees clients at the Behavioral Sciences Center and at a federally qualified health clinic.

Dr. Dickson considers the training of others to be one of her important contributions. "Training the police to respond to incidents of violence involving children was incredible work," said Dr. Dickson. "I was able to ride along on shifts with police officers, often at night and attend their daily staffings. I got to know many officers on a personal level and could hear the stress of their job and their helplessness, at times, when confronted with various scenarios. The officers truly wanted to help the families and often did not know how. Getting to work with these families, who would not have come to the attention of mental health professionals, was immensely rewarding," she said.

Dr. Dickson co-directs the Harris Infant Mental Health training with Dr. Joy Osofsky. According to their website, the LSUHSC Department of Psychiatry began the Harris Center for Infant Mental Health over a decade ago. The Center offers training to predoctoral psychology interns (through an APA approved infant-child internship), child psychiatrists (as a required part of their residency training program), post-doctoral psychologists, social workers, and other professionals seeking infant mental health specialization.

The officials note that the program is multidisciplinary and unique in fulfilling requirements for psychology and child psychiatry training programs, being the first predoctoral internship in infant mental health recognized and approved by both the American Psychological Association (APA) and Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). The child psychiatry rotation began as a six-month experience, explained officials. However after learning how much residents were benefitting from the rotation, the child psychiatry faculty at LSUHSC made it a mandatory part of training. All trainees, from all disciplines, consistently rank their experience in the Harris Center for Infant Mental Health a top part of their training, according to officials.



Dr. Dickson noted her role after Hurricane Katrina. "The police reached out to our team as they were so traumatized during and after the hurricane and they had built trust in us after working together for so many years. They let us come and hear their stories and provide support. That is a tough group to get to open up and we all felt honored to join those brave individuals on their healing journey," she said.

For the Orleans Parish Permanency Infant and Preschool Program, Dr. Dickson has conducted extensive relationship-based evaluations to assess whether parental rights should be terminated, or children ages 0-5 years should be reunited with their biological parents as part of a state funded multidisciplinary team. She also conducted out-patient relationship-based family therapy with all available caregivers and their infants, individual therapy with the young children and their parents, psychological evaluations with the caregivers, and/or developmental evaluations with the children if needed. Her services include providing court testimony as an expert witness as needed and supervising the trainees. She presents to local child protection agency staff on a variety of mental health topics. Dr. Dickson has been a provider to Zero to Three funded Court Team since 2007. She has been the Program coordinator since July 2002 and Director since March 2004.

"I was able to provide evaluations when I saw undiagnosed learning disabilities or disorders," said Dr. Dickson, "work with the children's teachers to help them understand that the child's response was often due to their trauma versus oppositional behavior, and helped change the way each family functioned as they understood the impact of their life events on them and could treat each other in a more compassionate and supportive manner. The program enabled me to build connections with so many people who never would have connected to someone like me before."

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Dr. Amy Dickson Honored for Distinguished Service in Psychology, continued

Due to our grants, we were able to see people free of charge. I still keep in touch with some of my earliest clients as they call to tell me about their own children now and they have referred friends and family members. It's so wonderful to hear from them."

In her work at the Harris Infant Mental Health Program, Dr. Dickson has been co-director since 2010. Her services include conducting out-patient family therapy with parents and their infants. She assists in the coordination and teaching of a weekly didactic seminar on infant mental health to a yearly group of fellows. She supervises trainees and has been part of the Harris Professional Development Network since 2008. She has also been part of the Child Welfare Professional Development Network within the Harris network and the Fatherhood Engagement Committee.

"I enjoy watching people make substantial, positive changes in their lives and seeing the ripple effects of those changes as ensuing generations and family members and friends benefit from the clients' greater emotional health and positive functioning," she said. "Learning from each other, we all benefit."

"My work in child protection is also immensely rewarding," Dr. Dickson said. "These caregivers rarely have a supportive person in their life and many later thank the team for all they have learned. It is always hard to see a child injured, but it is also hard to see a parent who was not protected themselves. Child abuse work is hard, and all the professionals who choose to work in this area truly want to help. Building shared knowledge, learning from one another, and providing emotional support not just to my team and the families- both biological and foster- but also my foster care caseworkers and the attorneys has made us all better at our jobs and better able to find new ways to keep families together or connected to one another in healthier ways."

Her many accomplishments and recognitions include:

Featured Poster Presentation at the Annual ISTSS Conference: Childhood Maltreatment and Developmental Delay in Miami, Florida November 6, 2014
One of New Orleans City Business' Power Generation for 2003
YLC: Volunteer of the Year 2002
Project Leader of the Year 2001
Project (NRP) of the Year 2000
Commendation from Total Community Action for work with local Head Starts
Commendation from CASA for volunteer teaching to incoming classes
Commendation from NCTSN for work given on published materials

Dr. Dickson's publications include:

Zeanah, P., Larrieu, J., Osofsky, J., Dickson, A., & Zeanah, C.H. (2021). *Enhancing Developmental Trajectories: The Critical Importance of Increasing & Supporting Evidence-Based Services for Louisiana's Most Vulnerable Citizens*.

Hines, E.N., Thompson, S.L., Moore, M.B., Dickson, A.B., & Callahan, K.L. (2020). Parent-child separation due to incarceration: Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment considerations. *Zero to Three*, 40(4), 22-29.

Family Time Resources: A Series of Publications for Foster Care Workers, Foster Parents, CASAs, Judges, Parents, and Attorneys- in collaboration with the Harris Professional Development Network committee members, October 2020.

Hines, E., Thompson, S., Moore, M., Dickson, A. & Callahan, K. (2020) Parent-child separation due to incarceration:

Assessment, diagnosis & treatment considerations. *Zero to Three Journal*, 40 (4), 22-29.

Dr. Dickson said she is grateful to the many people who have trained her over the years, but she is most thankful for Dr. Joy Osofsky.

"I have been taught by many fabulous people who are so good at what they do," Dr. Dickson said. "I have had the incredibly good fortune of being mentored by Dr. Joy Osofsky who has exposed me to so many wonderful learning opportunities and provided the grants and vehicles to be able to do such meaningful work. LSUHSC is involved in great community work, and I feel so grateful to have landed here to be exposed to such wonderful opportunities and people who keep the work challenging and interesting and relevant to society."

Dr. Dickson believes you should never stop training. "Listen to the community members," she said. "Learn that despite your advanced training, we can always learn from others. Our team has never entered a system thinking we know the answers. Even when called into help, we learn the most from listening and observing and then partnering with others to see what will be beneficial. We co-create wonderful interventions together when we do this. I have definitely learned more from my clients and colleagues than they have learned from me," Dr. Dickson said.

Dr. Dickson said, "I love going to work each day. My colleagues and trainees are awesome, and you never know what will happen that day. Kids, in particular, are so unpredictable and can bring such joy. I love to watch people heal from their traumas and fully engage again and find joy, meaning and happiness. It is a humbling experience to be a part of someone's journey and I feel grateful every day that I get to do the work I do."



Freedom Summer and a Lesson in the First Amendment

by J. Nelson

I was nine years old when I received my earliest lesson in the First Amendment. It was the 1960s, and my father took on the Ku Klux Klan. He was the editor/publisher of a weekly newspaper in what was surely the poorest, most backward place in God’s green creation—Coushatta, Louisiana, the county seat of Red River Parish. It was a long battle over secrecy and ignorance, with lots of skirmishes to protect the public's right to know what was really happening in their community.

One evening just after dark, our family was sitting at the dining room table, finishing supper. As was typical, my father was talking and everyone else was listening, or at least pretending to listen. My mother and father were both classically trained journalists in the small, sleepy little parish. They always talked about the human dramas that unfolded in this backwoods, rural community, the people and the news. This night was no different.

Our dinner table was situated in front of three large windows and I had a view of our large, half-acre yard, now black with night. I was finishing dinner when a small light flickered out in the dark and caught my attention. I squinted. I waited and watched the light grow brighter and brighter. Finally, I pointed to interrupt my father, and asked, “What is that?”

Everyone at the table turned to look. Then we all saw it. The light grew larger and took shape. In the middle of the yard was a burning cross. Not just any cross, but one of those famous KKK crosses, now fully ablaze. The wood was burning away and the flames were dripping down to the grass. The yard was catching on fire and flames marching to the ditch and down the highway.

What seemed to be only minutes later, the local fire department truck roared into our driveway, and slammed to a stop. Men jumped down and began to water down the fire.

We discovered later that the KKK members had waited across the road in a cow pasture to see my father’s reaction. But when no one in our family noticed the cross, fire, or how it was spreading, the Klan members, who were also members of the fire department, had to call for help themselves. Coushatta was a very small town.

It was not a particularly successful cross burning. The next day my father had me draw up a sign that said, “See genuine KKK cross, 25¢” and we placed the sign next to the burned cross. He took a photo of the cross, the sign, and the yard, and put the photograph and the whole story of what had happened on the front page of the newspaper for the next week’s edition.

It was just the beginning of the 60s Civil Rights era.

In 2014, I had the honor of meeting W.C. “Dub” Shoemaker who spoke to attendees at the joint Mississippi–Louisiana Press convention in Biloxi on the topic, “Freedom Summer – 50 years later.”

“Freedom Summer” is the name given to 10 weeks in the summer of 1964, depicted in the movie *Mississippi Burning*. Dub called this the "Pearl Harbor" of the Civil Rights era. He covered the events as a reporter for the Jackson *Daily News*.

Almost 60 years ago in Philadelphia, Mississippi, near Meridian and not far from Jackson, three Civil Rights volunteers were murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Two young white men and one African-American man had come from New York to register Blacks to vote. In a planned attack, aided by members of the local sheriff’s office, the men were killed and their bodies hidden.

Dub told the audience that he felt the 1960s Civil Rights era held the same significance in our country’s history as the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and Industrial Revolution.

Only after the presentation did it dawn on me the timeline connecting the Freedom Summer and what my father called “The Klan Wars.” — my fathers efforts to challenge and expose the Klan in Red River Parish.

It was not 1964, but February 1961, when my father snuck into the trees surrounding a Klan organizing event. The Klan had marched from Shreveport to rally members in a field not too far from Coushatta and the next day my father published his front-page editorial, “Against the Fall of Night.”

The editorial was a bold shot across the bow. He wrote that the Klan was a subversive group, that its members operate “in the

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Freedom Summer and a Lesson in the First Amendment

continued

shadow of darkness,” and that they were capable of murder. He wrote that there was no vacuum in the law for the Klan to fill in the parish and for them to “... get the Hell out of Red River Parish.”

Letters poured in both supporting and condemning his editorial and him. He lost advertisers. One wrote in his ad, “Please forgive Gordon, he knows not what he did.” And, “... if the Klan does something I don’t like, I hope I have the sense enough not to antagonize them.”

The *Citizen* received a letter from the National Imperial Wizard of the “Invisible Empire: Original Ku Klux Klan,” who wrote, “... your statements were made only from the fact that you are dominated with the eternal hatred that comes from Communists, the NAACP, and the ADL” And, “No amount of smears, slander, and misrepresentation by all these groups, plus your own little nonsensical epithets, will stop the Klan in her ride for Americanism, Christianity, and the right to be free men.”

A local reader addressed his envelope to “Know All Nelson,” and asked, “Where do you get the right to tell an organization ‘to get the Hell out of Red River Parish?’ Better make it good.”

Another wrote, “Your big mouth will be the means of your hide winding up in a tan yard and some woman will be toting it around made into a big hand bag.”

But support was just as strong. “It was wonderful and expresses our sentiments exactly. Just wish there were more like you” And another, “It was brilliant and brave....”

The editorial was taken up and reprinted around the state and elsewhere, more letters coming in. “Dear Sir, In main editorial of B. Rouge *State Times* about mid-week I read with Joy of your article & a few quotes therein. To me, yours is first, & B.R. second to come out boldly against K.K.K.”

An editorial in the Lafourche *Comet*, said, “He minced no words in telling subscribers of his dislike for any man who hid under a bedsheet while attempting to subvert the laws of the state and the country,” and the *Comet*’s editorial reprinted in the Opelousas *Daily World*.

Ronnie Hicks, the then assistant director of the La. Press Association wrote, “It is the editor with guts who has made the community newspaper of this country the most powerful voice in the life of its citizens.” [...] “It made me awfully damn proud to read that editorial...”

The editorial and later reporting of news, polarized the community and aggravated the Klan. Crosses were burned, including the one on our yard. Threatening calls and letters were on-going. The Klan’s night rides continued.

My father wrote his brother that the joke on the street was, “Who would be the

newspaper’s publisher after Gordon?” The FBI sent two agents down and our family was put under guard.

The Klan Wars in Red River parish continued for a while and then ended, not with a bang, but a sputter. Somewhere along the way the Klan took all their files, flags, and icons south to Natchitoches Parish and set up shop in the small township of Campti. Years later my father told me that many of the members resigned after he threatened to put their names in the paper. Most were businessmen and depended on the African-American community’s patronage.

The editorial became a catalyst for retaliatory actions against my father, the *Citizen*, and our family. The KKK burned crosses and sent death threats. J. Edgar Hoover sent two men in black suits to help ensure the safety of our family. The paper’s efforts to expose the secretive activities of the Klan lead to state and national awards and even an informal Honorable Mention from the Pulitzer Prize judges.

But did anything really work? Was it a good thing or a bad thing that my father polarized the community, kicking over the beehive?

After Dub Shoemaker’s presentation, I studied more closely the letters my father received after his "Fall of Night" editorial. This time, one in particular stood out.

The editor-publisher of the *Deer Creek Pilot*, the newspaper in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, wrote telling my father the editorial was a “darn good job” and important.

Then he said something that in hindsight stands out. “Luckily, we do not and have not had any such activity here. For that matter, I know of no place in the state where the Klan is active in any way.”

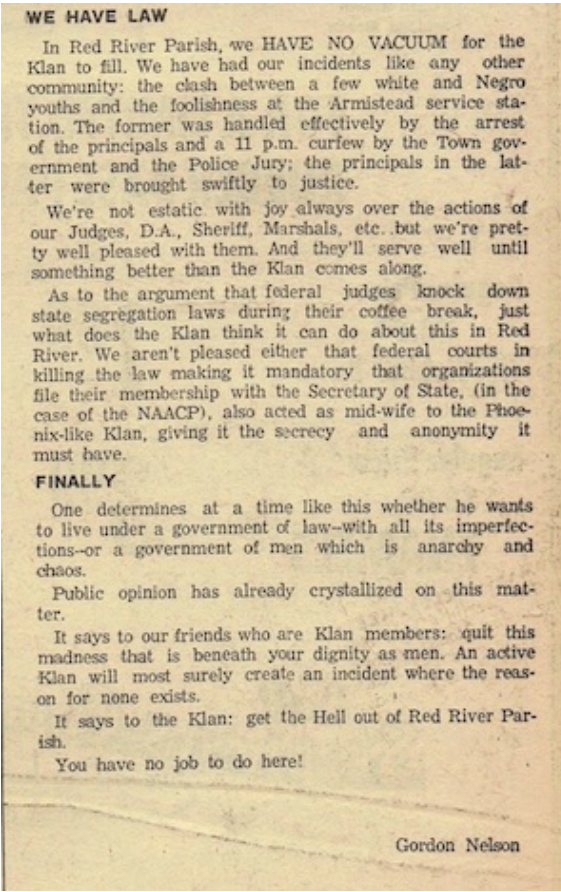
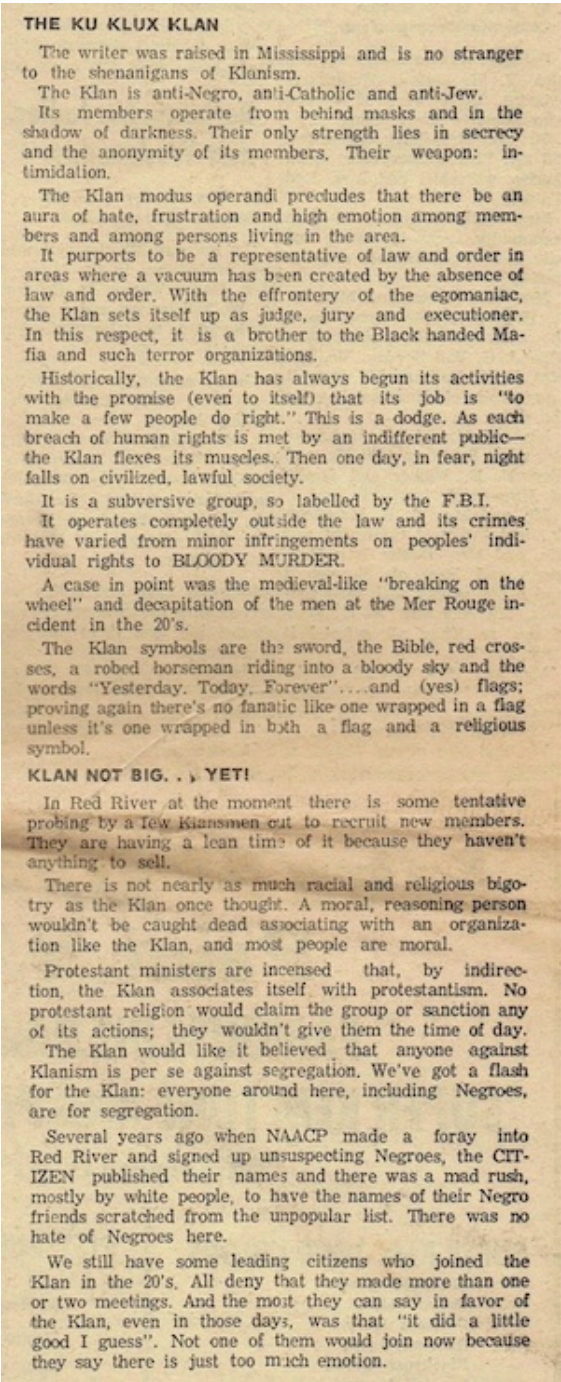
Rolling Fork was only 125 miles from where the Civil Rights workers were killed three years later. When the 200 FBI agents sent by J. Edgar Hoover combed through 10 Mississippi counties, searching for those three missing volunteers, they uncovered the bodies of eight other murdered Black men.

Are there bodies buried in Red River Parish? Or did my father successfully chase the Klan away?

My father was certainly no paragon, he was as flawed as the rest of us, maybe more so. But he understood the nature of secrecy and what it can do, and I think he’d seen some things growing up in Mississippi that impacted him.

It’s just part of history now. Many these days may not even understand the role of the small town publishers of weekly newspapers, and the public’s right to know.

But to my mind, from all these years later and the luxury of a perspective that my father and mother did not have, it seems it was a fine example of when to kick over the beehive.



A Shrink at the Flicks

Everything Everywhere All At Once A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

Spring break at the University of Texas at Austin has become the occasion for a conglomeration of presentations of interactive media, music and films called *South by Southwest*. Five films were featured at the 2022 festival. One, *Everything Everywhere All At Once*, dominated the awards, winning Best Picture, Best Director (Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert), Best Actress (Michelle Yeoh), Best Supporting Actor (Ke Huy Quan), Best Screenplay (The “Daniels” again) and Best Indie Film.

I watched the film on Amazon Prime. It’s a wild, wild ride. Over two hours of special effects whipping the viewer through multiple alternate universes of the same set of characters and a complex set of realities threatened by possible total collapse of the entire multi-verse system being sucked into the black hole of a cosmic everything bagel.

That blend of self-mockery and high style science fiction physics is a heady blend that kept me engaged for the two-hours plus screening.

The film has three parts. In the first part we meet Evelyn Wong, who with her husband, Waymond, run a laundromat struggling with an IRS audit, cultural conflicts with their teenage daughter, Joy, who wants them to accept her lesbian attachment to a non-oriental partner, topped off by an impending visitor from Cnina, Evelyn’s highly traditional and very critical father, Cong Gong.

While Waymond and Evelyn are meeting with the IRS auditor, who is irritated and impatient with Evelyn’s disorganized stacks of papers, Waymond’s body is taken over by a visitor, Alpha Waymond, from another universe, called the Alphaverse. He



tries to explain to a bewildered Evelyn that the people of the Alpha universe have developed techniques to jump from one universe to another. Alpha Evelyn’s daughter, Alpha Joy, driven to excessive verse-jumping by her mother, now has a splintered mind. She has become Jobu Tupaki and can verse jump and manipulate physical matter at will. She has also created the everything bagel that has the potential to destroy the entire multiverse.

Alpha Waymond believes that Evelyn, the least impressive of the many Evelyns in the multiverse, has the potential to defeat Jobu Tupaki. Alpha Cong Gong urges Evelyn to kill Joy in order to disable Jobu Tupaki. Evelyn, however, decides that she must verse-jump in order to acquire the ability to confront Jobu Tupaki directly. In a series of jumps Evelyn battles minions of both Jobu Tupaki and Alpha Cong. When Alpha Waymond is killed by Jobu Tupaki, Evelyn’s mind splinters.

In part 2, Evelyn discovers a variety of strange universes. She finally defeats the minions of both Alpha Cong Gong and Jobu Tupaki, not with a display of her mastery of martial arts. Recalling an occasion on which Waymond had called for kindness and hope, she defeats her enemies by empathic openness to the source of their pain, thereby offering them relief.

In part three, we revisit the family in their home universe and find them, not transformed, but more content.

In one sense, this film feels like a revved up romantic comedy. The characters are more flawed than admirable, and boy loses girl, finds girl. It adds a dollop of L. Frank Baum. Dorothy, too, wanders into the surreal wonderland of Oz, defeating evil witches, only to learn there’s no place like home.

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.

10 Years Ago ... What *The Psychology Times* was reporting on in August 2012

Two Years Later

“Real Recovery Far from Over”

It’s been over two years since officials finally capped the well that killed 11 men and dumped 5 million barrels of crude, and to some people’s alarm, 700,000 plus gallons of dispersants, into the Gulf. In 2010 during the crisis, the distress was evident. Psychologist Dr. Anthony Speier, then Deputy Assistant Secretary at DHH, (now Assistant Secretary) had told the *Times*, “We have had 11,000 contacts and 23,000 crisis counseling interventions.” He noted the increased frustrations and weariness among people “who have a tradition of living off the land.”

LSUHSC Professors Lead Mental and Behavioral Health Project

BP Funds Health Projects in LA Coastal Community

A legal settlement for health issues will provide \$105 million to projects aimed at increasing the availability of healthcare to the coastal communities in Louisiana and four other states. The “Mental and Behavioral Health Capacity Project,” will receive \$36 million to address “behavioral and mental health needs, expertise, capacity, and literacy in the Gulf Coast communities ...” Dr. Howard Osofsky and Dr Joy Osofsky are project leaders for the Louisiana project through LSU Health Sciences Center and the Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics.

APA Cranks Up in Orlando This Week

The American Psychological Association will hold its annual convention in Orlando, Florida, August 2 to 5, 2012. Louisiana psychologists and researchers will present a number of presentations and research projects, including Dr. Darlyne Nemeth, Dr. Michael Cunningham, Dr. Glen Ally, and students of Dr. Stacy Overstreet. Dr. Janet Matthews, attending with husband Dr. Lee Matthews, pointed out that people can attend the APA Task Force on drafting guidelines for telepsychology practice. Dr. John Robinson, previously from New Orleans, now living in Washington, D.C., is the 2011 winner of the Matarazzo Award, will give an invited address.

Members Named to BA Group

The “Behavior Analysts Licensure and Regulation Study Commission,” a group created by a 2012 Senate Resolution, is scheduled to meet this Friday, Dr. Cheryl Knight, OCDD, Coordinator, Autism Initiative, will represent the Department of Health and Hospitals, Lacey Seymour, PhD, is representing Louisiana Psychological Association, Dena Matenzbacher, PhD, is representing the Psychology Department at McNeese State University, and Jodi Kamps, PhD, is representing Autism Center at Children’s Hospital.

Psychology Gumbo

COMMENT: Dr. MKay Bonner, Industrial-Organizational Psychologist, Monroe:
COMMENT: Dr. Susan Dardard, Media Psychologist:
COMMENT: Dr. Laurie O'Brien, Associate Professor□
Department of Psychology, Tulane, research interests include perceptions of prejudice and discrimination:
COMMENT: Dr. Dan Lonowski, Forensic and Clinical Psychologist, and author.



April 2010 -- “In-situ burn” to attempt to prevent the spread of oil following explosion at Deepwater Horizon.
(Photo by Navy Specialist 2nd Class Justin Stumberg)

Dr. Lee Matthews New Chair
Gov Appoints Dr. Burnett to LSBEP

Governor Jindal announced his appointment of Dr. Darla Burnett to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists for a five-year term. Dr. Burnett is a self-employed clinical and medical psychologist from the Baton Rouge metropolitan area. She is past president of the Louisiana Psychological Association.

LSU Education Professor Psychologist Dr. Rita Culross Speaks in London on Talent Development in Olympic Athletes

Dr. Rita Culross, LSU College of Education professor and licensed psychologist, spoke at the Oxford Roundtable at Harris Manchester College in the University of Oxford in Oxford, England in July 22-26, 2012. Dr. Culross presented her paper, “Talent Development and Talent Enhancement of the Olympic Athlete.” The event was just prior to the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

BOOKSHELF
Handbook of Clinical Psychopharmacology for Psychologists

Mark Muse and Bret A. Moore, Editors

The Handbook of Clinical Psychopharmacology for Psychologists provides the foundations of knowledge that readers will want for comprehensive understanding in clinical psychopharmacology, located in the broader context of biology, psychology, and social environment. For the prescribing psychologist the book will prove a user-friendly, efficient training tool, and for consulting healthcare psychologists, an essential desk reference.

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