



September is suicide awareness and prevention month.

Dr. Claire Houtsma Recognized for Early Career Contribution in Suicide Prevention

Dr. Claire Houtsma, a research scientist in suicide prevention, was honored this spring by the Louisiana Psychological Association with their Early Career Psychologist Award.

Dr. Houtsma is the Suicide Prevention Coordinator at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System. She is a licensed Clinical Psychologist and the Core Investigator at South Central Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center.

Dr. Houtsma is also Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Tulane University, School of Medicine,

and Research Assistant Professor in Section of Community Population Medicine, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine.

The *Times* asked Dr. Houtsma what she views are her most important contributions at this point in her career.

"My most important contributions have probably been in the area of firearm suicide prevention," Dr. Houtsma said. "My research related to firearms has been designed to clarify contexts

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Business Psychologists Continue to Press State Board on Single Hurdle EPPP and Racial Discrimination

As follow-up to their January complaint that the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is inappropriately using the national licensing exam as a single hurdle, resulting in discrimination against Blacks and other minorities, a group of psychologists have submitted a position statement to the Board.

In the statement, the psychologists give seven ethical and legal points, and argue that using the EPPP is not only illegal but also inherently discriminatory," and that, "The test is racist, and its use must be restricted."

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Dr. Gormanous Drops His Lawsuit after Motion is Denied

Attorneys representing both sides agreed to a dismissal of the lawsuit by Dr. Gregory Gormanous that alleged the state psychology board, on which he serves, was failing to provide accommodations for his disability by denying him the opportunity to attend through virtual sessions.

A Stipulation of Dismissal with prejudice was filed on July 29, closing the proceedings after Judge Terry Doughty, United States District Court, denied Dr. Gormanous' Motion for Preliminary Injunction.

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Dr. Cunningham Gives Invited Address Psychologists Present at APA

The American Psychological Association held its convention last month in Minneapolis, Minnesota. According to the program and APA officials, Louisiana psychological scientists and researchers from Tulane, Louisiana State University, and LSU Health Sciences Center presented at the national conference.

Tulane University

Michael Cunningham, PhD from Tulane University gave an Invited Address on, "Research with Black Populations: Examples with Adolescents and Implications for Researchers."

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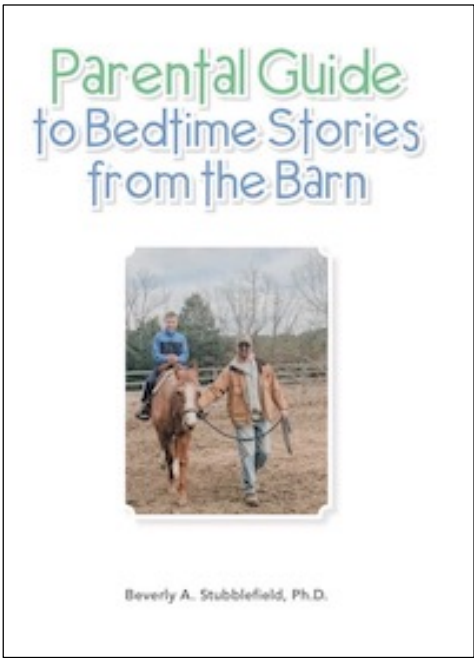


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Editorial Page – Opinions

Obsessed over Multicultural Issues but Ignoring the Elephant by J. Nelson

It was in October last year that the American Psychological Association took the highroad and told everyone to dismantle systemic racism.

So, in January I got together with some other psychologists and submitted a request for investigation to the psychology board, pointing out that the EPPP, used in the way it is used, causes adverse impact and racial discrimination. The board rejected the request but said they'd look at whatever we'd send them.

It is now September. We've sent enough information, and a particularly good position statement just recently. (For a copy go to <https://thepsychologytimes.com/psyc-times-pdfs/Position%20Statement.pdf>)

For an issue that in the private sector would call for an emergency meeting with the CEO that day, nothing much has happened.

The state board held a training event on multicultural issues and intends to require additional continuing education about the topic. However, the board is stymied when it comes to real change. It can't initiate efforts to protect the property rights of Blacks and other minorities from discriminatory use of the licensing exam.

My current list of problems with the state board, the EPPP tests, and/or the ASPPB is:

1. The improper use of a single hurdle with hard cut-off using percentiles, and in a group with restricted range. This is likely to drive up to adverse impact but it is a bad design to begin with.
2. They are over their head or ignoring the criterion validity problems, essential for all selection programs.
3. They ignore base rates. These rates bring into question the purpose of any test. Ignoring base rates also means they can ignore the test's inability to predict rare events—disciplinary events. This prediction, to "protect the public," is what the exam is for in the first place.

3. ASPPB is promoting a new test before they even know if it will be valid, which means to me that the thing is rigged.

Numbers #1 to #4 above suggest to me that the Board and ASPPB are operating outside their competence area. The next items have to do with ethics of client relationships and general ethics.

5. They ignore the possible harm done to others—high possible false negatives due to 50 percentile cut scores and fail rates.

6. The ASPPB is not open or transparent. They hold private, closed meetings with members of government bodies that make decisions about the public and profession.

7. They are overcharging. ASPPB has a monopoly on the national exam but fails to adjust to the situation with checks and balances that would help them with their financial conflict of interest. The current \$600 price is twice what the physicians charge for the same number of hours of testing and three times what the social workers charge.

8. ASPPB appears unconcerned with those who are helpless to protect themselves. They intend to double the price of a profitable product, and foist the increase on our most vulnerable group of young psychologists who have no voice in the matter.

9. ASPPB is not really a non-profit, not in the true sense of the word. ASPPB's main income producing product is the national exam generating about \$6M a year. They stand to double that with the EPPP2. All this extra goes into perks for themselves and state officials. They spend money to act like big-shots, rather than roll back costs to the young people.

10. The boards are too trusting, and follow ASPPB blindly.

These problems might start with the ASPPB, but legally and morally they land at the doorstep of every state psychology board. The situation hits Louisiana particularly hard. While only 4% of licensed psychologists nationwide are African-Americans, Louisiana has a 34% Black population, a group chronically underserved by mental health professionals. Louisiana is specifically in need of psychologists who understand the Black experience.

[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.]

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We welcome ideas for news, features, Letters to the Editor, photos, and other material related to psychological community of Louisiana. Editorials and commentary reflect the opinions of this newspaper. Columns and Letters to the Editor express the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of *The Psychology Times*. All materials copyrighted by J. Nelson unless otherwise noted.

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Corrections & Clarifications

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

Early Data Show Racial Disparities in Monkeypox Cases, Warns La Health

In an August 18 press release, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) said it has started reporting additional demographic data for Louisiana monkeypox patients on the LDH monkeypox dashboard. These demographic data show striking racial disparities: Nearly 60% of monkeypox cases in Louisiana have occurred among Black Louisianans, and about 27% have occurred among white Louisianans. Among the cases included in today’s demographic analysis, approximately 95% have occurred in males.

"We felt it was critical to release this analysis so we could shine a light on these disparities and the need for us all to do more," said LDH State Health Officer Dr. Joseph Kanter. "This requires a whole of Louisiana effort."

New VA Medical Facility Slated for Baton Rouge

According to press release last month, the U.S. House of Representatives advanced Congressman Garret Graves’ legislation to expand and improve Veterans health care in the Greater Baton Rouge area, and south Louisiana. The legislation is expected to be signed into law within weeks.

The Baton Rouge VA clinic has been identified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as one of the nation’s most urgently needed facility expansions due to limited space and separate buildings at the current Essen Lane location. The VA clinic has been unable to expand due to outdated bureaucrat budget restrictions over lease restrictions and deferred improvements, which ultimately denies Veterans the care they’ve earned.

Graves’ legislation would kickstart the urgent VA relocation process, which they were otherwise prohibited to do.

“Veterans in Baton Rouge and south Louisiana deserve medical care equal to their bravery. The cramped and jammed conditions of the current VA Clinic in Baton Rouge hamper the caregivers and deny the best we can offer our Veterans," Graves said. “Veterans across the US suffer due unnecessary, inexplicable bureaucracy. [...] "It's more like Veterans paying for ridiculous calculator gymnastics instead of focusing on getting their best care. It shouldn't take an Act of Congress to get veterans the care they've earned and deserve."

Dr. Gormanous Drops His Lawsuit after Motion Denied

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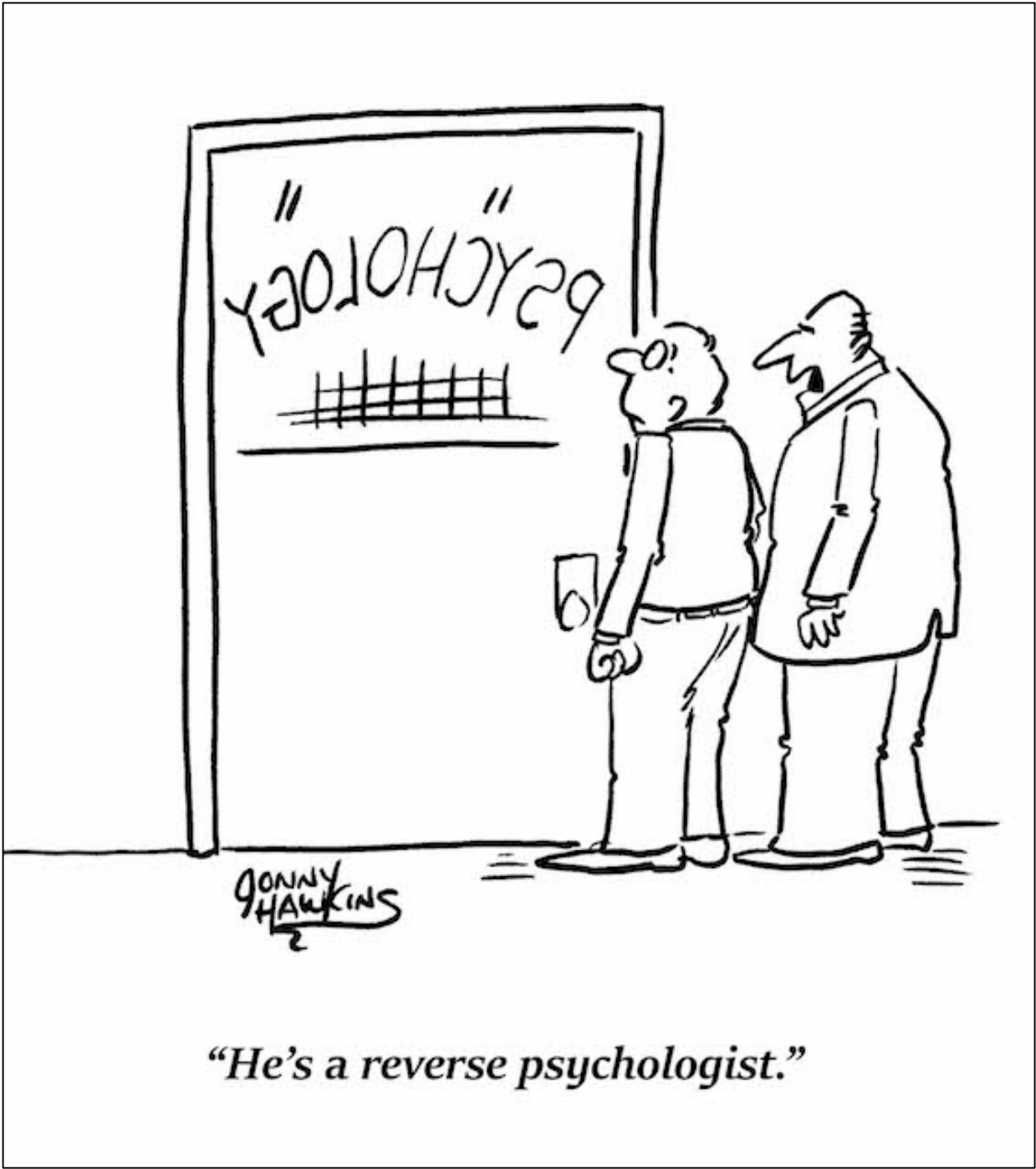
In Judge Doughty's analysis, he wrote: "This Court agrees with Judge Drell that the ADA would supersede Louisiana's Open Meetings Law but denies Gormanous' request for preliminary injunction in this case for other reasons. This Court finds that the accommodations offered by LSBEP to Gormanous were reasonable. The Governor's emergency COVID-19 order expired on March 16, 2022. LSBEP offered accommodations recommending social distancing and masks, a reserved table with a single seat at least six feet away from others only for Gormanous, and/or one-way broadcasting of meetings. These are reasonable accommodations that would protect Gormanous and allow him to attend the meetings in a manner that would not impede on his health issues. [...]"

"Additionally, LSBEP has valid due process concerns with respect to applicants and/or persons undergoing disciplinary procedures. LSBEP's powers include the power to examine for, deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the licenses of applicants, candidates, and psychologists. Conducting hearings by Zoom raises due process concerns for applicants, candidates, and psychologists. These important due process protections of applicants, candidates, and psychologists appearing before LSBEP shows a very valid concern by LSBEP of Gormanous' request.

In his June 6 filing in the United States District Court Western District of Louisiana, Dr. Gormanous asked for a Preliminary Injunction in his favor against defendants Jaime T. Monic, in her official capacity as Executive Director of the LSBEP, and the LSBEP as a political entity. He alleged that Ms. Monic and the LSBEP have unlawfully discriminated against Dr. Gormanous by (1) failing to provide a reasonable accommodation and (2) using eligibility criteria that tends to screen out people with disabilities.

Dr. Gormanous is 74 years old and has various medical conditions, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and a pacemaker, that make him highly susceptible to COVID-19, noted authors of the June 6 Motion.

In a June email to colleagues, Dr. Gormanous wrote, "Supporting discrimination does not align with the ideals of psychology. Throughout this ordeal, I have unsuccessfully tried to minimize LSBEP's expenditures of scarce limited human & financial resources. I tried to resolve issues with a civil inquiry beginning in JUN 2020. During the FEB 22, 2022 meeting, I was met with cognitively rigid replies. Statements like I was asking the ED to break the law by attending by Zoom. As a result, LSBEP's flawed decision-making process necessitated litigation that continues to result in their spending unnecessary legal fees."



State & National News

Business Psychologists Continue to Press State Board on Single Hurdle EPPP and Racial Discrimination, continued

In one conclusion they write, "The State Board must immediately offer an alternative path for licensing that relies on either a reduced cutoff score OR specific board supervision for individuals who are so marred by systemic racism that they perform poorly on standardized tests."

In January, the psychologists, Drs. William Costelloe, Julie Nelson, and Marc Zimmermann, business psychologists who have extensive experience with high stakes selection testing in the private sector, submitted "A Request for Investigation," stating that members of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists are operating outside of their area of competence in regard to selection-testing and racial discrimination. The request was rejected by the Board. In a letter dated March 7, Ms. Jaime Monic, the Executive Director, said that the members do not have jurisdiction over themselves. Also, she said, they are not engaged in the practice of psychology as board members.

However, they are open to reviewing this issue, Ms. Monic wrote. She said to send any information and they would review it. The psychologists have sent several documents.

In the most recent position statement, authors wrote:

"We have seven ethical and even legal concerns regarding the current Psychology licensing procedures and how they affect Black psychologists, other people of color, and many others from historically disenfranchised groups. These criticisms are noted explicitly for Black psychologists. They may also apply to people from linguistic, cultural, and religious minorities, including people who identify as nonbinary.

"First, although we are not lawyers, we note the overwhelming psychometric and legal problems with the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP). This test is used in all 50 states (though not Puerto Rico), and states use a criterion of 500 to pass. The test relies on content validity alone with no evidence of other validities. As Sharpless (2018) noted in a review, "It is unknown if scores are associated with relevant performance criteria" (p. 161). While this was acceptable in the 1980s (Kane, 1981), it is not acceptable now, as Kane (2016) notes.

"There is no evidence that the test predicts competency, adequacy, or professionalism. We are unaware of any evidence published in peer review sources that currently link this test to the objective performance criteria of licensed, professional psychologists.



Quite ironically, and perhaps hypocritically, the standards required of our profession for testing others, for example, in Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, are not applied to psychologists when they must regulate themselves. These include what courts consider minimally necessary: test stability, evidence of findings in peer-reviewed publications, and predictive error rate.

"Beyond this, in *Griggs v. Duke Power*, the Supreme Court ruled that if employment-related tests had a disparate impact on protected groups (illustrated below), the organization requiring the test must prove that the test in use is "reasonably related" to the duties performed on the job. There is no peer-reviewed evidence that the EPPP is reasonably related to the responsibilities of practicing psychologists. There is no published evidence that it measures skill knowledge and much less skills competency."

According to the June minutes from the Board, "Dr. Gibson reported that additional information has been sent to the Board, by the individuals raising concerns about the use of the EPPP. Dr. Gibson recommended that a committee be formed to comprehensively study the concerns addressed in the complaint about the EPPP and its bias against minority populations and that in order to avoid the perception of bias, board members with close ties to ASPPB should not be members of the committee."

For full position statement go to:
<https://thepsychologytimes.com/psyc-times-pdfs/Position%20Statement.pdf>

More New Laws; Bills Signed

ACT 626...HB 440 Provides relative to eating disorder instruction in schools.

ACT 634...HB 745 Provides relative to the officer bill of rights.

ACT 643...HB 495 Requires the implementation of suicide prevention and student safety and violence and social isolation prevention training and the creation of clubs at certain public schools.

ACT 650...HB 981 Requires instruction on mental health to be provided for students in grades kindergarten through twelve.

ACT 662...SB 63 Provides for the duties of the Department of Children and Family Services regarding victims of child sex trafficking.

ACT 668...SB 182 Provides relative to revocation of P.O.S.T. certification.

ACT 676...SB 116 Creates the office on women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health.

ACT 682...SB 192 Provides for the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund for funding programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

ACT 689...SB 297 Provides relative to power-based violence at public postsecondary institutions.

ACT 696...SB 348 Provides for a process for a prior authorization for a particular healthcare service, procedure, or prescription drug.

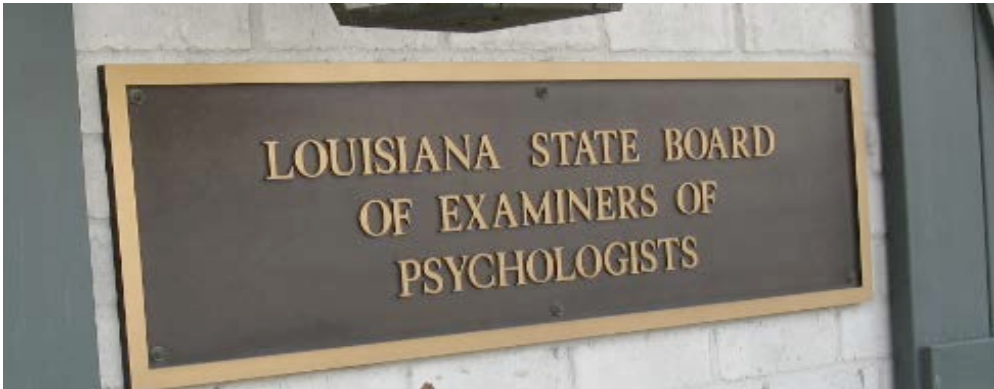
ACT 697...SB 358 Provides relative to acts of bullying.

ACT 706...HB 524 Establishes a program for needs assessment and coordination of services for people with disabilities affected by disasters.

ACT 709...HB 567 Creates the Lifestyle Choices pilot program.

ACT 727...HB 185 Provides relative to expressive activities at public postsecondary education institutions.

ACT 772...SB 489 Provides for suspension of certain licenses for failure to comply with subpoenas, or warrants, or court orders in paternity or child support cases.



Friday, June 30, 2022
(Posted 8/24/2022)

[Editor's Note: The board did not meet in April or May.]

2. Louisiana Psychological Association Letter to LSBEP 6-20-2022 – Ms. Monic reported that the Board reviewed this letter in Executive Session with Attorney Lowe.

3. Update from Ad Hoc Hiring Committee [...] Ms. Monic reported that Ms. Adrienne Aucoin had submitted her two-weeks notice and her last day would be July 1, 2022 which would leave the In-house Counsel position vacant. Dr. Gibson reported that the Ad Hoc Hiring Committee had met to discuss potential recommendations to the Board, however decided to docket an item for discussion since the position was previously filled and the duties of the originally established Ad Hoc Hiring Committee had been filled. [...] Mr. McNeely moved that the Board repost for the position; notify previous candidates who applied for the position to re-apply; and that rolling interviews be conducted until the Committee has a qualified Candidate to recommend to the Board for a hiring decision. The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed by roll call vote [...]

4. POLICY: The Board discussed the potential for moving forward with drafting and adopting policies as follows:
a. Policy for Accommodations under ADA – Mr. McNeely moved to table this discussion until next month. The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed by roll call vote [...]
b. LSBEP Future Meeting: format/live streaming meetings, in-person meeting requirements, scheduling, and mitigation measures. – The Board discussed future meeting formats specifically related to capability to electronically live stream meetings and also to consider setting a standard meeting date (e.g. the third Friday of every month).
c. Adopting the practice of recording open sessions LSBEP meetings. Dr. Sam moved in favor doing due diligence on adopting the practice of recording Open Board Meetings (storage, public record implications, destruction). The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed [...]

d. LSSP Self-nominations for term 7/1/2022-6/30/2025 – Ms. Monic reported that Dr. Katherine Chenier submitted a Self-nomination to serve the LSSP Committee for a second term. No other self-nominations were received prior to this meeting. The Board reviewed and discussed Dr. Chenier’s self-nomination. Dr. Sam moved in favor of reappointing Dr. Chenier for the term 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2025. The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed [...]

10. Jurisdiction Issues between Federal and State regulation of psychologists (G. Gibson) – Dr. Gibson presented this topic to highlight an issue that LA licensed psychologists who work for the federal government are being told that they cannot report another psychologist to the board, that only a VA hospital director can do this. Dr. Gibson noted an example of concern for this policy would be an impaired psychologist, who refuses treatment and the conflict created for a Louisiana Licensed Psychologists obligation to Louisiana licensing laws and ethical code. VA psychologists have been instructed that they are able to consult with VA lawyers about ethical concerns.

11. Reviewing the continued utilization of the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology to fulfill the requirement of to assess professional knowledge under R.S. 37:2356. (G. Gibson/G. Gormanous) – Dr. Gibson reported that additional information has been sent to the Board, by the individuals raising concerns about the use of the EPPP. Dr. Gibson recommended that a committee be formed to comprehensively study the concerns addressed in the complaint about the EPPP and its bias against minority populations and that in order to avoid the perception of bias, board members with close ties to ASPPB should not be members of the committee.

Executive Committee Report – Ms. Monic reported on operations as follows: The Board hired In house Attorney Adrian Aucoin – Start Date was May 4, 2022 and Administrative Assistant – Jalyne Brown started on April 29, 2022. Meetings/appearances: ASPPB, New Orleans, April 21, 2022 – April 24, 2022 - Dr. Gormanous, Dr. Moore, Dr. Sam and I attended ASPPB from Thursday April 21 to Sunday April 24, 2022. On Thursday, April 21st Ms. Monic attended the Board Administrator and Registrar’s meeting where Janet Orwig

From the Minutes

Selected Items from June 2022 Minutes of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP)

gave an update on Psypact. Noteworthy is a change to their fee structure where jurisdictions will only be paying \$10 per licensee that has obtained their IPC or Telepractice Certificate. Jurisdictions are looking for a way to assess a fee to those individuals to pay for their participation in the program. Matt Turner also presented to the group regarding the EPPP2, and reported that 80 applicants have taken the EPPP2 as of the date of his report, no data was offered on pass rates for those persons.

BUDGET

The last amended budget on November 12, 2021 took into account COVID19 related savings, and current downward trends in contract spending. With the recommended budget amendments, there is an anticipated increase in the fund balance (cash on hand) to be carried over to 2022-23 now estimated to be \$92,078 (up from \$67,733). However, the fund balance has continued to decrease from past Fiscal Years and the revised unreserved fund balance is still anticipated to be a negative amount of \$-262,363.

As of May 2022, our budget is stable. Although we did not achieve the revenue budgeted, conservative management, underspending on expenses (including Board Travel and Meeting Expenses), and delayed hiring of employees has offset the loss of revenue. However, there were unanticipated legal expenses requiring attention from the Board’s General Legal Counsel in the matter Gormanous vs. LSBEP and Jaime T. Monic. Although the Office of Risk Management has assumed the defense of the Board and Ms. Monic, General Legal Counsel continues to advise the Board on issues, challenges and conflicts with this regard.

\$20 Million Federal Grant to Boost Biomedical Science Collaborations Across Louisiana

According to an August 17 press release, the LA CaTS Network, which has built a statewide research infrastructure based on a collaborative partnership involving 11 major Louisiana academic, research and healthcare delivery institutions, has been selected by the National Institutes of Health to receive a \$20 million, five-year grant to continue its work to make Louisiana healthier by addressing health disparities and improving health outcomes in the state’s underserved population with chronic diseases.

"The new \$20 million award will bring total NIH grant support for the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science (LA CaTS) Network to \$60 million over a 15-year period. The additional \$20 million will enable the LA CaTS partner institutions across Louisiana to continue their collaborative work, with the long-term goal of building a healthier Louisiana," said John Kirwan, Ph.D. Dr. Kirwan is Pennington Biomedical Research Center’s Executive Director and the NIH grant Principal Investigator. Program Co-Directors are Steve Nelson, M.D., Interim Chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, and Lee Hamm, M.D., Dean of the Tulane University School of Medicine.

In addition to directly funding biomedical research, the NIH grant will also help boost the number of scientists in Louisiana who conduct biomedical research as well as facilitate a grassroots effort to increase community input and involvement in clinical and translational research studies, Dr. Kirwan noted.



Dr. Michael Cunningham. (Tulane photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Dr. Cunningham APA Invited Speaker

Michael Cunningham, PhD delivered an Invited Address, “Research with Black Populations: Examples with Adolescents and Implications for Researchers,” at this year’s American Psychological Association convention. Dr. Cunningham is Professor of Psychology at Tulane University, and holds a Joint Appointment as Provost in the African and African Diaspora Studies Program at Tulane,

Dr. Cunningham’s work is uniformly esteemed and he was honored in 2013 with the Distinguished Contributions Award from the prestigious Society for Research in Child Development, among others. He is Editor for *Research in Human Development* (2018-2024), Associate Editor for *Child Development* (2007 – present), and on the Editorial Board Member *Journal of Negro Education* (2011 – 2017), among many other scholarly activities where his expertise in the psychology of racially diverse individuals is utilized.

His research focuses on resilience and vulnerability in adolescent populations and context specific phenomena associated with mental health and academic outcomes among African Americans. He has authored an extensive list of research on areas of importance for understanding young African Americans.

Psychologists Present at APA Convention, continued

J. Glass, staff reporter

Dr. Cunningham's presentation covered theory, research, and translational work with African American adolescents. The presenter also provided empirical examples which focused on resilience and vulnerability in youth as well as the outlets for this work.

Anneliese A. Singh with Tulane University, coauthored, “Supporting Trans and Nonbinary Black, Latinx, and POC Communities—Liberatory Research and Practice.”

Presenters reviewed the findings of studies important to understanding the resilience, risk, identity development, and well-being experiences of Black, Latinx, and POC communities in order to advance research and practice.

David Chae with Tulane University, coauthored, “The Future of Science on Racism: Psychology and Public Health at the Intersection.”

Authors said: Population health requires researchers to think about the systems and institutions that shape health, namely the Social Determinants of Health. This session brought together four experts in psychology and public health to discuss the intersection of psychology and population health on people of color.

Evan A. Krueger, PhD at Tulane University coauthored, “Cannabis Vaping Among LGBT+ and Cisgender Heterosexual Young Adults in Southern California.”

Sarah A.O. Gray, PhD, Hilary Skov, BS, Anna R. Wilson, BS, and Victoria Parker, BS, all from Tulane University collaborated on, “RSA Reactivity and Exposure to COVID-19 Stressors Co-Contribute to Children's Subjective COVID-19 Stress.”

Sarah A.O. Gray, Hilary Skov, BS, and Allison Pequet, BA, all from Tulane University collaborated on, “Child Maltreatment and Emotion Regulation: Examining Household Chaos During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

Louisiana State University

Matthew Calamia, PhD from Louisiana State University, coauthored, “WIN/JCEN Sneak Peek into the Special Issue on Mentoring in Neuropsychology.” *The Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology* (JCEN) is collaborating with Women in Neuropsychology (WIN; APA Division 40, Society of Clinical Neuropsychology, SCN Committee) for a forthcoming special issue on mentoring in neuropsychology.

Raymond Tucker, PhD and Emma Moscardini, MA both from Louisiana State University presented with coauthors on, “A Psychometric Evaluation of the Interpersonal Hopelessness Scale.”

Erin M. Todd, PhD, MS at Louisiana State University presented with coauthors on, “Negative Affect Moderates Emotional Job Engagement on Creative Job Performance During COVID-19.”

Erin M. Todd, PhD, MS with Louisiana State University also presented with coauthors on, “How Changes in Telecommuting and Feedback Impacts Creative Job Performance.”

Louisiana State Health Sciences Center

Sebastián Del Corral Winder, PsyD from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center--New Orleans presented with coauthors on, “Recognizing Whiteness: A Qualitative Exploration.”

Dr. Zhang Wins National Science Foundation Award

The National Science Foundation has awarded Dr. Don Zhang, LSU Department of Psychology Assistant Professor, its Career Award, reported Sarah Keller from *LSU News*, for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The career award is Foundation's most prestigious grant for early-career faculty, reported Keller. The award is given to those who exhibit potential to serve as academic role models in research and education. Zhang's research is in the field of industrial and organizational psychology. "This highly competitive grant supports an individual's research helping build a firm foundation for a lifetime of research and academic leadership," explained Keller.



Dr. Don Zhang

"We congratulate Dr. Zhang on this exceptional honor and his tremendous accomplishment," said LSU College of Humanities & Social Sciences Dean Troy Blanchard. "This is a testament to Dr. Zhang's cutting-edge research and the impact he has already made in the field of industrial and organizational psychology."

According to the report, Zhang's NSF Award will further his research on how risk-takers at work impact organizations. "In the workplace, risk takers are typically thought of as reckless and irresponsible. Multiple corporate catastrophes, such as the financial crisis of 2008 and Enron scandal, can be attributed – in part – to employees and leaders who took excessive risks. However, risk taking is also essential for innovation, courage and the fight against social injustice."

Dr. Zhang said, "For these reasons, risk takers at work can be a liability and asset and it's critical that we understand how to leverage employees' appetite for risks toward virtue rather than malice,"

According to the report, Dr. Zhang's goal is to provide organizations with a valid measure of workplace risk taking to help their assessment and selection efforts. He hopes to help organizations with high-risk occupations, such as the chemical and manufacturing industries, to understand how to prevent safety problems and accidents caused by recklessness and risk taking.

"With the support of this five-year \$430,000 grant, Zhang will develop a workplace situational judgment test to assess risk propensity relative to the population as well as vocational guidance based on their level of risk tolerance. The instrument he will develop will be available to researchers, industry professionals and the general public," Keller wrote.

"Zhang is currently a co-principal investigator on the NSF-funded Louis Stokes Center for Promotion of Academic Careers, or LS-PAC MODELS, at LSU. LS-PAC MODELS is a data-driven center of excellence dedicated to broadening participation in the STEM professoriate through mentoring, networking and professional development."

For information Contact Sarah Keller, LSU College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

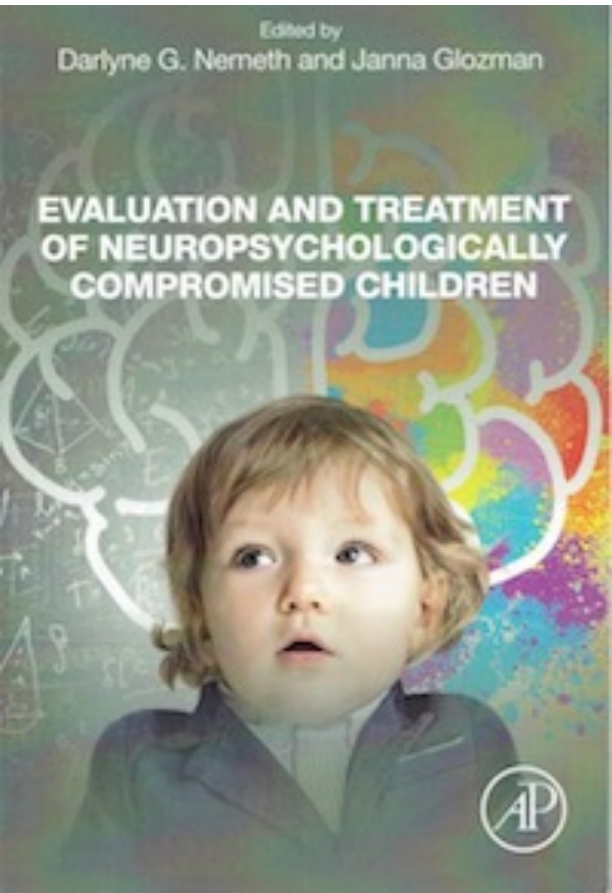
Dr. Nemeth Honored by Am. Board of Prof. Neuropsychology

The American Board of Professional Neuropsychology has named Dr. Darlyne Nemeth for the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in recognition for Leadership, Training, Practice Innovations and International Relations. Dr. Nemeth is a psychologist and medical psychologist and founder of the The Neuropsychology Center of Louisiana in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Paula Cooper, past-president of the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology noted, "Nemeth has been a pioneer in the area of Clinical Neuropsychology for over 30 years and was the first in Louisiana to establish a private practice Neuropsychology Laboratory in 1977. She also established the first Neuropsychology Laboratory at the Louisiana State University Student Mental Health Service in Baton Rouge.

"Dr. Nemeth was instrumental in the movement to have Clinical Neuropsychology recognized as a specialty area in the State of Louisiana," said Dr. Cooper.

"Dr. Nemeth is currently serving as Co-Secretary General for the World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP) and has been a WCP/DPI/NGO Delegate to the United Nations. Dr. Nemeth has been nationally and internationally recognized for her Hurricane Anniversary Wellness Workshops, which, in cooperation with many government, religious, and professional organizations, were offered to the victims/survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Summer 2006 and was offered in August, 2015 for the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina," said Dr. Cooper.



Cont next pg

Dr. Nemeth Honored continued

"Dr. Nemeth recently hosted an International meeting in Moscow that described the contributions of Luria and Reitan to child Neuropsychology. We congratulate Dr. Nemeth for all her accomplishments in the field of neuropsychology."

"I can tell you that I was quite surprised to receive this award," said Dr. Nemeth. "Typically, such awards are given to people who are board certified. When I was young, however, board certification was not something that was emphasized. In fact, my mentor, Ralph Reitan, Ph.D., did not encourage board certification at all. Of course, at the end of his life, he appeared to have many, many credentials. For me, this was indeed a great honor. It certainly reflects the many years I have mentored students, presented at national meetings, and even published a few articles," Dr. Nemeth said.

"One such article was 3q29 Deletion Syndrome and Neuropsychological Functioning: Fraternal Twin Case Study, which was published in *Applied Neuropsychology Child*, of which I serve on the Editorial Board. Another important presentation was on the role of the treating psychologist: Nemeth, D.G., Olivier, T.W., Whittington, L.T., & May, N.E. (2010, February). *The role of the treating neuropsychologist in forensic cases*. Poster session presented at the 38th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Acapulco, Mexico. I wrote this because, at that time, too many treating neuropsychologists wandered into the realm of forensics. They didn't stay in their role. I found this very frustrating," Dr. Nemeth said.

Dr. Nemeth has presented at the International Neuropsychology Society, National Academy of Neuropsychology, APA, as well as other professional meetings. Dr. Nemeth has co-edited/co-authored five books. Her book, *Innovative Approaches to Individual and Community Resilience: From Theory to Practice* was published by Elsevier Press in July 2017 and was awarded the PROSE Award in February 2018. Dr. Nemeth's most recent book, co-edited by Janna Glozman, Ph.D., D.Sc., titled, *Evaluation and Treatment of Neuropsychologically Compromised Children: Understanding Clinical Applications Post Luria and Reitan*, was published by Elsevier/Academic Press in April 2020.

At its 106th Annual Convention, Dr. Nemeth was elected to Fellowship status, having been nominated by Drs. Gerry Goldstein, Linus Bielauskas, and Stanley Berendt, making her the first Clinical Neuropsychologist from the State of Louisiana to have been elected as a Division 40 Fellow. At that time, of the more than 4500 Division 40 members, including 108 Fellows, only 11 Fellows were women.

Stress Solutions
by Susan Andrews, PhD

Children Suffer from Stress, Too

Just like all adults, children suffer from stress, too. Often it happens that the stresses experienced by children seem insignificant to adults. Or, worse, the parent may completely miss the fact that the child is stressed. Childhood stress can be caused by any situation that requires the child to adapt or change to a new situation. Change often produces anxiety because we don't always know what to expect in the changed situation. You don't have to be grown up to fear the unknown.

Stress can even be caused by positive changes, such as starting a new activity, but it is most commonly linked with negative changes such as divorce, illness or death in the family. But, because children have few previous experiences from which to learn, even situations that require small changes can have an enormous impact on a child's feelings of safety and security.

Some parenting styles and parent expectations can be very stressful. Children want to please their parents. I know that seems like a "no-brainer." However, those among you who treat children might now think that that everyone knows that. I have heard parents complain about their children in terms that make it sound like they believe the child is going out of his or her way to upset or defy them. And, before you object, of course some children can reach a point where they become oppositional. Usually that happens only after the child becomes resistant to being over-controlled.

Children with learning problems are often seriously stressed. They know they are not meeting their parents' or teachers' expectations for school success. They feel stupid and like a failure. Unfortunately, the main "job" that our children have is to succeed in school. Children learn how to respond to stress by what they have seen and experienced in the past. If the adults in their social environment are not good at dealing with stress, they are not likely to be either. Another major factor to consider is that a poor ability to deal with stress can be passed from the mother to the child during the prenatal months if the mother is very anxious or chronically stressed (Andrews, 2012).

Children probably will not recognize that they are stressed. Parents may suspect stress if the child has experienced a stressful situation and begins to have physical or emotional symptoms, or both. Some behaviors or symptoms to look for can include, changes in eating habits, new onset of headaches, changes in sleep pattern (nightmares, bedwetting, middle of the night awakening, resistance to going to sleep), upset stomach or vague stomach symptoms, anxiety, worries, inability to relax, fears that are either new or return (of being alone, of the dark, of strangers or new situations), clinging to you, and easy tears. Aggressive, stubborn or oppositional behaviors are also possible signs of stress in children.



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. Claire Houtsma Recognized for Early Career Contributions in Suicide Prevention, continued

under which risk for firearm suicide is heightened, as well as to develop and test interventions that reduce risk for firearm suicide. I am particularly proud of my projects that have involved active collaborations with Veteran and civilian firearm owners," she said.

"Through my work with the Veteran-Informed Safety Intervention and Outreach Network (VISION), I collaborated with firearm owning Veterans and civilians to create a suicide prevention learning module, including a PowerPoint slide deck and brief video, that can be used in Louisiana firearm training courses," said Dr. Houtsma. "I am currently working with a number of firearm course instructors to test the acceptability and effectiveness of this learning module."

Spokesperson for the Louisiana Psychological Association, Dr. Amanda Raines, said, "The impact that Dr. Houtsma will make on the field of psychological science is best reflected in her timely and innovative program of research. At a time when suicide remains the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, her program of research aims to identify and examine risk factors that underlie firearm suicide," Raines said. "In addition, her body of work focuses on the development and dissemination of novel methods of prevention and intervention. To date, Dr. Houtsma has published 28 peer-reviewed articles and presented her work at various local and national conferences. Further, she serves as a co-investigator or principal investigator on six federally funded projects."

Dr. Houtsman's work is ongoing. "I am also in the midst of recruiting for a study that will examine the feasibility and acceptability of peer-delivered lethal means counseling among firearm owning Veterans," Dr. Houtsma said. "This study will evaluate whether conversations about implementing safer firearm storage practices are acceptable among Veterans and whether they actually lead to behavior change. I feel these projects are among the most important contributions I have made so far because they focus on a population at high risk for firearm suicide, use a partnered approach in research design and implementation, and provide practical outcomes that may help save lives now," she said.

Dr. Houtsma has authored numerous important studies. For her article, "The Association Between Gun Ownership



and Statewide Overall Suicide Rates," the aim was to "expand on extant research by examining the extent to which gun ownership predicts statewide overall suicide rates beyond the effects of demographic, geographic, religious, psychopathological, and suicide-related variables." According to the abstract, "By extending the list of covariates utilized, considering those covariates simultaneously, and using more recent data, the study sought to present a more stringent test. Gun ownership predicted statewide overall suicide rates, with the full model accounting for more than 92% of the variance in statewide suicide rates. The correlation between firearm suicide rates and the overall suicide rate was significantly stronger than the correlation between non-firearm suicide rates and the overall suicide rate."

Another article by Dr. Houtsma, "The Association Between State Laws Regulating Handgun Ownership and Statewide Suicide Rates," examined the impact of three state laws—permit to purchase a handgun, registration of handguns, and license to own a handgun on suicide rates. According to the abstract, "They used 2010 data from publicly available databases and state legislatures to assess the relationships between the predictors and outcomes. The Results largely indicated that states with any of these laws in place

exhibited lower overall suicide rates and suicide by firearms rates and that a smaller proportion of suicides in such states resulted from firearms. Furthermore, results indicated that laws requiring registration and license had significant indirect effects through the proportion of suicides resulting from firearms. The latter results imply that such laws are associated with fewer suicide attempts overall, a tendency for those who attempt to use less-lethal means, or both. Exploratory longitudinal analyses indicated a decrease in overall suicide rates immediately following implementation of laws requiring a license to own a handgun."

In Dr. Houtsma's "Moderating Role of Firearm Storage in the Association Between Current Suicidal Ideation and Likelihood of Future Suicide Attempts Among United States Military Personnel," researchers hypothesized that how soldiers store their firearms would moderate the relationship between suicidal ideation and the self-reported likelihood of engaging in a future suicide attempt, and that this relationship would be explained by fearlessness about death, noted the abstract. "There were 432 military personnel who endorsed current ownership of a private firearm and who were recruited from a military base in the southeastern United

Dr. Claire Houtsma Recognized for Early Career Contributions in Suicide Prevention, continued

States (94.5% National Guard). Firearm storage moderated the relationship between suicidal ideation and the self-reported likelihood of engaging in a future suicide attempt, but this relationship was not explained by fearlessness about death. Individuals who reported keeping their firearms loaded and stored in an unsecure location exhibited higher mean levels of fearlessness about death. Findings highlight the need for research examining contributors to suicide risk in the context of firearm storage and provide support for suicide prevention efforts involving restricting means."

Dr. Houtsma regularly shares information and research at conferences across the country. Examples include:

Houtsma, C., Powers, J., Raines, A. M., Bailey, M., Constans, J. I., & True, G. (November, 2022). *Adaptation and evaluation of a lethal means safety suicide prevention module for concealed carry courses*. Symposium talk submitted to the National Research Conference on Firearm Injury Prevention, Washington, D.C.

Houtsma, C., Sah, E., & Constans, J. I. (November, 2022). *The firearm implicit association test: A validation study*. Symposium talk submitted to the National Research Conference on Firearm Injury Prevention, Washington, D.C.

Houtsma, C., Tock, J. L., & Raines, A. M. (November, 2022). *When safe firearm storage isn't enough: Comparing risk profiles among firearm suicide decedents*. Symposium talk accepted at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT), New York City, New York.

Houtsma, C., Anestis, M. D., Gratz, K. L., Tull, M., Butterworth, S. E., Richmond, J., & Forbes, C. (November, 2021). *The role of opioid use in distinguishing between suicidal ideation and attempts*. Symposium talk presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT), Virtual Conference.

Houtsma, C. (August, 2021). *Feasibility and acceptability of Caring Contacts for suicide prevention among veterans recently separated from military service*. Symposium talk presented at the Mississippi Health Disparities Conference, Biloxi, Mississippi.

Dr. Houtma is the investigator or coinvestigator for numerous grant projects including: Demonstration Project – Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) Title: Measuring Feasibility and Effectiveness of a Lethal Means Safety Suicide Prevention Module in Concealed Carry and Firearm Safety Classes, and Veterans Rural Health Resource Center FY22 Project – Office of Rural Health (ORH) Title: Preventing Firearm Suicides Among Rural Veterans by Engaging Military Caregivers.

In her career so far, what is she most thankful for?

"I am endlessly thankful for the mentors who have helped me reach my goals," Dr. Houtsma said. "My graduate school mentor, Dr. Michael Anestis, provided me with the skills, encouragement, and support I needed to become a successful, research-oriented graduate student. He has continued to be a mentor to me after graduate school and I am so grateful to know I can reach out to him for guidance as I navigate my career. I am also thankful for the amazing mentors I gained during my clinical internship year. Drs. Amanda Raines, Laurel Franklin, Gala True, and Joseph Constans were critical in

helping me transition from trainee to early career psychologist," she said.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is a fantastic workplace," Dr. Houtsma said, "however, it is not always clear how to forge a research career in this setting. My mentors at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System have provided invaluable assistance, reassurance, and support in moving my research program forward within VA. I feel very lucky to have such amazing people on my team and I wouldn't have achieved success as an early career psychologist without them," she said.

Does Dr. Houtsma have any advice for other early career psychologists?

"I would encourage other early career psychologists to stay in close contact with their mentors," she said. I have found it immensely helpful, not only in navigating the minutia of research studies, but also in determining how to balance work-life priorities. I realize not everyone has the opportunity to gain desired mentorship in a naturalistic way, so I would encourage early career psychologists to reach out to others in your field who have careers you admire. I have gained mentorship from individuals at other institutions, simply by reaching out via email or Zoom. It's very hard to make it on your own in this field and the good news is, you don't have to!"

What has Dr. Houtsma enjoyed the most?

"Working with and learning from Veterans and firearm owners," she said. "My work with VISION has exposed me to the world of community-engaged research and I have found this to be an extremely informative and rewarding experience. Being able to connect with individuals for whom firearm suicide is a very real and personal experience reminds me why I'm doing this work and reinforces my passion to find solutions," said Dr. Houtsma.



Dr. Claire Houtsma
(courtesy photo)



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Supervised Visitation and Exchange Services for Separated Families

by Leslie Todd, LCSW, ACSW
AFCC Correspondent

Private practitioners are needed to fill a crucial role that too few social service agencies offer. Supervised visitation and exchange services are niche services in the Family Court arena. If you’ve ever thought about the harm done by exchanging children at the police station, please consider the benefits of these roles.

When there has been a rupture between the parents, a hostile game of “keep away” may arise. Every exchange may be an opportunity for drama. Once allegations are made—valid or otherwise, the Court is compelled to act in “an abundance of caution,” which often leads to curtailed parenting time.

The 2014 Louisiana Law Revised Statutes Title 9, RS 9:364 states that if the Court finds a parent has a history of perpetrating family violence, that parent must complete a court-monitored domestic abuse intervention program and then may have supervised visitation.

However, not all supervised visitation cases are about domestic violence: many are for returning military parents or others whose relationships have been disrupted by baseless or overblown allegations by the other parent. The custodial parent may have malevolent intent, or just be over-anxious, needing to see objective proof that the child is safe in the presence and care of the feared parent. The child may have fear of the supervised parent independent from the custodial parent’s feelings.

All parties are protected by a good Supervised Visitation plan: the child is protected from possible physical or emotional harm; the supervised parent has a witness who can document the quality of their parenting engagement during the visit; and the at-home parent does not have to interact with the other parent and can be assured that the child is safe. Continued contact serves the purpose of reducing a phobic response from the anxious child (or domiciliary parent).

Unfortunately, the Court is often satisfied with a family member being the supervisor, as a cost-saving measure. This is a bad idea. Allowing the fearful parent’s family to be supervisors is disaster out; allowing the feared parent’s relatives to be supervisors is foolish and possibly dangerous. A trained and neutral third-party who answers to the Court will cut out both positive and negative bias and allow the visiting dyad to relax and show “true colors.”

In less inflamed cases, it may just be that exchanges need to take place in a safe, neutral environment. Commercial parking lots and police stations are hardly conducive to a civilized exchange—especially when one or both parents are trying to record it to bolster their case.

Training and support is offered by the Supervised Visitation Network (www.svnworldwide.org), which also hosts an annual conference. There are minimum practice standards that address safety, critical incidents, and various types of supervision.

There are various types of SV, including “supportive” and “therapeutic” supervision, which can enhance the parenting skills of the supervised parent. It’s a great service to offer, and since it’s private pay, it’s a great option for clinicians who are trying to establish themselves.

Therapeutic supervised visitation is an excellent role for clinicians dedicated to helping a less-skilled parent learn better attachment and parenting behaviors in a safe and supportive setting. Since these parents are often demonized in other settings, this type of supervision allow for positive experiences



and coaching. Think of a parent on the autistic spectrum, or one with a history of substance abuse who missed out on the child’s younger years. Parents with anger management problems can be taught that they have unrealistic expectations for children’s behavior. A good professional supervisor can do this in a relaxed and supportive manner that will help the adult be less defensive. These session also allow the child to experience the parent in more positive interactions.

The visitation supervisor provides reports to the Court regarding the client’s progress or lack thereof. The length of supervision of course differs with every case, but six months is probably the average. The Court can terminate or extend the supervision at any time.

Safety concerns for the setting should be considered. Your office should have these in place in any case. If the visitation is to take place in another setting, safety protocols should be set up in advance. Since many of these sessions will be requested for weekends, you can charge a premium rate for this service.

Leslie Todd, LCSW, served as President of the Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts at its founding and again in 2018-2020. She is the 2022 recipient of the international organization’s Tim Salius President’s Award for her contributions. Learn more about the La. Chapter at www.afccla.org.



The Psychology Times' BOOKSHELF

Who's Writing What?

Parental Guide to Bedtime Stories from the Barn

Beverly A. Stubblefield, PhD

This companion volume to Dr. Beverly Stubblefield's *Bedtime Stories from the Barn* and *More Bedtime Stories from the Barn*, lays out basic psychological principles embedded in her delightful stories. She guides parents and caregivers in how to help youngsters through psychological experiences of distress. The *Parental Guide* explains the metaphor of the horses' conversations in her two storybooks and outlines approaches and methods that adults can use to soothe, teach, and encourage the youngster through difficult times.

The contents cover topics of anger management, depression, listening, a chapter on anxiety, fear, and phobias, and chapters on abandonment, grief, divorce, bullying, obedience, disability, caring and compassion, and forgiveness.

For each chapter and topic, Dr. Stubblefield references the stories to be highlighted by the parent in the goal of therapeutic communications and interactions. She explains the nature of the emotions, points out how they are worked through productively, and what behaviors parents might need to avoid.

Techniques mentioned in the bedtime stories are presented in the *Guide* to help parents and children learn effective coping skills in order to deal with today's issues in a practical, common-sense manner. These techniques include Active Listening, Anger Management, Calming Imagery, and Relaxation Skills Training, for example.

In the chapter for "Anger Management, Dr. Stubblefield explains that anger and frustration are normal feelings but it is how we manage them that is most important. "As a parent," she writes, "it is important to maintain your calm even when angered. As an adult, you are to be an example of anger management and appropriate behavior." She defines all or nothing thinking and how it can lead to a dysfunctional parenting style, as well as blaming and how it affects a child's self-esteem. And, she asks the parents to stop and think and to see things from the child's perspective.

For the chapter on "Depression," Stubblefield explains that children do not exhibit depression in the same way as adults. Children can exhibit frustration, irritability, and anger when depressed, she writes. Referencing two stories from her bedtime storybooks, "Camp Bearable" and "Trust," she gives the parent guidance on how to spend more time listening, how to model good coping skills, how to show affection, how to deal with stress, and how to keep a positive point of view.

For the chapter "Listen," and the stories, "A New Trainer" and "A Cowboy," Stubblefield writes that communication is essential in establishing relationships, whether it is between a parent and child or a horse and its rider. She goes into depth on how the parent can develop skills in active listening. She instructs and explains how the listener must turn themselves off and tune into the child. She explains reflecting, paraphrasing, drawing out, and clarification. Among other recommendations, she includes tips on nonverbal communication, voice tone and gestures.



In the chapter on "Anxiety, Fear, and Phobias," Dr. Stubblefield uses the examples from numerous stories. In the story "Test Anxiety," she explains the fear from a child's perspective. The story proceeds to tell how the student, Gail, uses thought-stopping, positive thinking, calming imagery and diaphragmic breathing to overcome test anxiety regarding math tests at school.

In the *Guide*, information about diaphragmic breathing aims to enable the parent to teach the technique to the child. Examples of thought-stopping and positive thinking are given for the parent to model. Since Gail attends a Christian school, she is encouraged to use prayer as a form of positive thinking. The *Guide* reminds the parents and caretakers of scripture verses and especially focuses on parents modeling the behaviors desired in their children.

Not only is the *Parental Guide* a useful tool for parents, it is also a helpful resource for family therapists who can utilize and recommend to their clients ways to facilitate the therapeutic process at home. Reading a story in a therapy session about a specific problem addressed in one of the *Bedtime* storybooks could be an effective way to break the ice, form a connection with a child client, and introduce therapy techniques that otherwise might be ignored.

Children are often fascinated by horses and have many questions about the stories. Therefore, a glossary of "horse" terms is included to better understand the horses' world depicted in the stories.

From the book: "Dr. Beverly Stubblefield has always loved horses. She loves psychotherapy, too. In 2006 she combined the two through The Equestrian Therapy Center of Slidell. After 30 years of clinical practice, Dr. Stubblefield has again combined her two loves, this time through writing.

"Dr. Stubblefield received her Ph. D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Mississippi. In retirement, she obtained a Diploma in Biblical Studies from Samford University. Dr. Stubblefield and her husband, Edgar Burton Kemp, IV, reside in North Mississippi, where she continues to write and ride horses."

Bedtime Stories from the Barn, *More Bedtime Stories from the Barn*, and *the Parental Guide to Bedtime Stories from the Barn* may be purchased through Xlibris at www.xlibris.com or by contacting the author, Beverly A. Stubblefield, PhD, at basphd2019@gmail.com.

A Shrink at the Flicks

Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

This is a frankly feel-good movie, one that promises that dreams can come true. It is based on a novel, one of a series by Paul Gallico, featuring the protagonist, Mrs. Harris, a cleaning woman in London in the late nineteen forties. Its theme seems an odd one for the author.

I had first become aware of him while he was a sportswriter for the *New York Daily News* in the late nineteen thirties. Gallico was quirky then, known for gimmicks like getting in the ring with Jack Dempsey—who knocked him out in two minutes. Gallico was also notorious for his racial slurs, less remarkable in that era, and his mockery of tennis players, golfers and women athletes.

But as a writer, Gallico had a keen sense of what sells, what people like to read, and he later became famous for his novels. In his usual acerbic way he said of himself, "I'm a rotten novelist. I'm not even literary. I just like to tell stories and all my books tell stories...." This movie showcases that talent.

Mrs. Harris is a war-widowed London cleaning woman, someone who has an upbeat personality and a generous soul. As the movie follows her moving from house to house in her cleaning assignments, we watch her straightening out messes created by her customers with her perky nature never flagging. One of her clients is an exploitative, self-centered upper class woman who, while falling behind in her cleaning

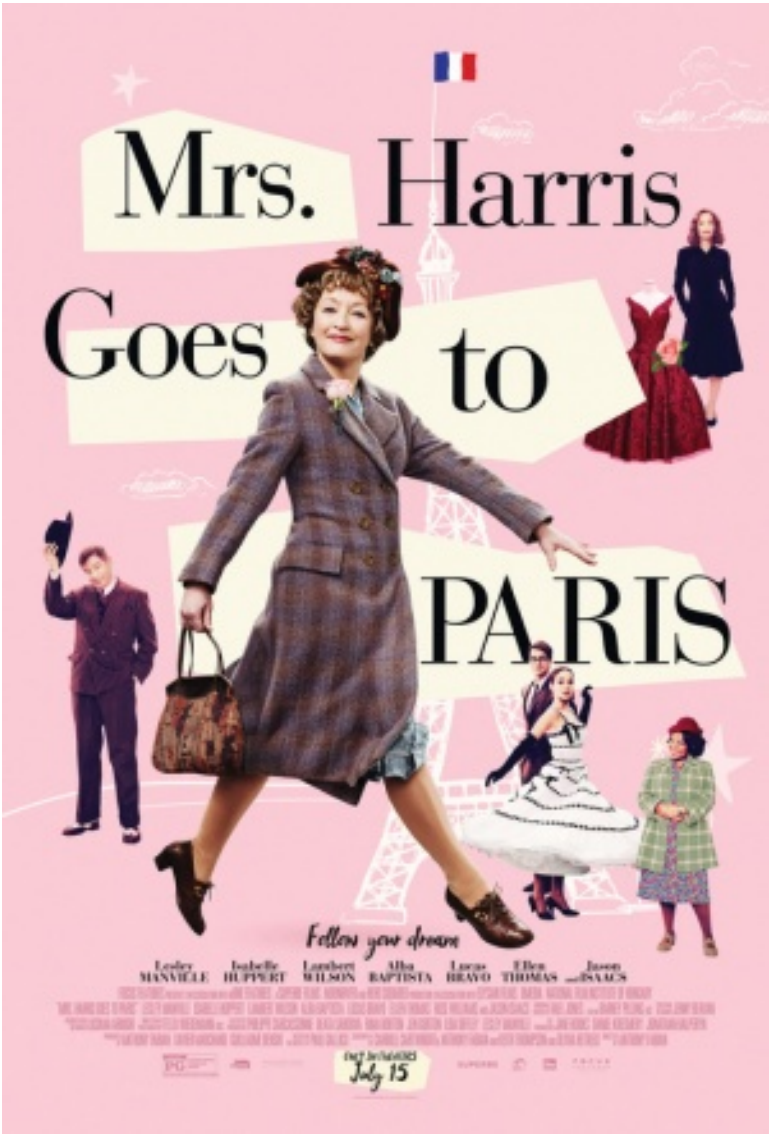
Guest Columnist,
Dr. Alvin Burstein

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;

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.



courtesy photo



woman's payments, has managed to purchase an original Dior evening gown. Mrs. Harris becomes enraptured with its beauty and determines to buy one for herself, scrimping to scrape up its cost—five hundred pounds.

She journeys to Paris and visits Dior's *haute couture* establishment introducing us to its over-privileged clientele, the front of the store toadies, and the behind the scenes slaves whose labor underpins the establishment. Mrs. Harris' sunny persistence permits her to surmount the social biases that characterize the establishment and make her dream of acquiring a Dior original come true. In a subplot, she meets and wins the heart, though not the hand, of a French nobleman.

Returning with her prize to London, and before she has an opportunity to wear the gown to the local dance hall, she foolishly lends the gown to one of her clients, a thoughtless showgirl striving to sleep her way to success. The budding starlet manages to stain and burn the dream gown beyond any possibility of repair. The ruin of this marvel of fashion catches the attention of the sensational press and a picture of the starlet wearing the ruined garment makes the front pages.

Mrs. Harris' Parisian acquaintances thus learn of the unhappy event and send a replacement to her, one even more wonderful than its predecessor.

Gallico may call himself a lousy writer, but he knows how to tell a story that people want to hear, read and see. This movie is incontrovertible proof of that. I guarantee that. If you are wondering what became of her French admirer, I won't tell you. If and when you see the film, you will see why.

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

Dr. Stacy Overstreet Appointed Tulane Psychology Chair

Dr. Stacy Overstreet has been appointed Chair of the Department of Psychology at Tulane. Dr. Overstreet is a professor, licensed school psychologist, and has served as Director for the APA-accredited School Psychology Doctoral Program for Tulane. She took over the duties of the Chair in July.

Dr. Overstreet explained to the *Times* that her goal will be to help support the faculty in order for them to continue to build areas of excellence in research and practice. “I hope to continue to collaborate with my colleagues to further develop our areas of strength,” she told the *Times*, “which include research programs in aging, stress, and health and gender disparities. Many of our faculty are also actively involved in the development of innovative models for school-based mental health. We recently welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Courtney Baker, who will continue to place this work on the cutting edge with her focus on implementation science.”



Dr. Stacy Overstreet
(Courtesy photo)

Public Comments Due by Sept 10

New Regs for Psychologists’ Continuing Education Proposed

In the August issue of the *Louisiana Register*, the state psychology board published their “Notice of Intent” to change the rules governing continuing education for licensed psychologists. The psychology board has proposed two main changes. They intend to increase continuing education hours from the present biannual requirement of 30 hours, to 40 hours. They will also expand the types of activities that can be submitted for credit.

Three Years Later

Who Paid for Act 251 and Why?

July 2012 marked three years since the passage of Act 251. Act 251 repealed the landmark 2004 Act 11 that gave Louisiana psychology prescribing privileges, an achievement requiring a decade of effort and by some accounts, a million dollars of funding. Act 251 not only repealed Act 11, it moved medical psychologists and their practice of psychology under the authority of the medical board. The secretly lobbied legislation, when discovered, launched a civil war in the Louisiana Psychological Association [...] fueled by suspicions that Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists (LAMP) members had inappropriately used LPA resources to lobby the Act.

Psychology Gumbo

Comment: Dr. Linda Brannon, McNeese Professor, Health Psychology. Does Personality Play a Role in Cancer? [...] " So, where does all that controversy leave the concept of personality factors in cancer? [...] What is the real role of personality in cancer? We just don't know."

Talent Development for Olympic Athletes Can Be Complex and Challenging, Says LSU’s Dr. Culross

Dr. Rita Culross, LSU College of Education professor and licensed psychologist, spoke at the Oxford Roundtable at the University of Oxford in Oxford, England, this past July. In an invited address, “Talent Development and Talent Enhancement of the Olympic Athlete,” she explained the complex psychological patterns in talent development for Olympians. Culross is the Ellen Levy Yates Endowed Professor of Gifted Education in the Department of Educational Theory, Policy & Practice at LSU, and teaches courses on the social and psychological aspects of human talent development.

WE REMEMBER

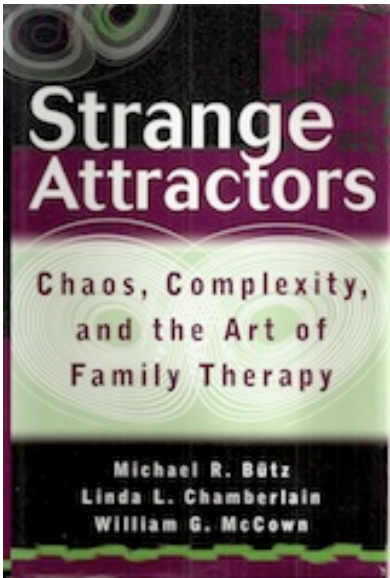
Dr. Ray Houck

Dr. Ray Houck died at his residence in Baton Rouge on August 24, 2012, following a long illness with pulmonary fibrosis. He was 76.

Dr. Raymond Leslie Houck, had been a member of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, was a clinical psychologist, a president of the Louisiana Psychological Association, President of the Louisiana Mental Health Association, and long-time member of the psychology and religious communities.

He was a deeply caring, conscientious man with genuine concern for the welfare of others and an ability to apply himself to assisting them with sincerity, dedication, and perseverance. He was a person others could trust without question.

“He was as fine a man as I have known,” colleague and friend of thirty years, Baton Rouge psychologist, Dr. John Pickering said.



BOOKSHELF

Strange Attractors: Chaos, Complexity, and the Art of Family Therapy

Michael Butz, Linda Chamberlain, and William McCown

In *Strange Attractors: Chaos, Complexity, and the Art of Family Therapy*, William McCown, PhD, Louisiana psychologist and Provost of the Graduate School at University of Louisiana Monroe, stretches readers’ minds to the edges of the galaxy.

A fun, inspiring, and seriously theoretical look into connections between the “Third Revolution in Science” and psychotherapy concepts, *Strange Attractors* is at the same time surprisingly useful. “It’s become so mainstream in physics,” said Dr. McCown to the *Times*, “and well accepted in psychology.” There is an organization for this area of study, the Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology & Life Sciences, he noted. “The area is now usually called non-linear dynamical theory,” he explained.

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