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Legislators Filing Bills for April 10 Start of 2023 Regular Session

The 2023 Regular Legislative Session will convene at noon on Monday, April 10, 2023. Final Adjournment is no later than 6:00 pm on Thursday, June 8, 2023. The deadline for pre-filing bills is March 31. Legislators have begun to file their bills. Among those are the following:

Representative Selders is proposing in House Bill 55 to improve treatment of incarcerated individuals with mental health

needs, referred to as "The Mental Healing Justice for Incarcerated People Act."

The proposed law states that legislative intent is access to high-quality mental health services, regardless of the setting, and that the state wholly supports efforts to assist incarcerated individuals suffering from severe and persistent mental illnesses, including post-incarceration

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Dr. Ledet's Innovations Aim to Reach Women Experiencing Stress

Dr. Sumer Ledet, licensed clinical and medical psychologist, and expert in anxiety disorders, is using innovative, psycho-educational methods to reach women who struggle with being overwhelmed due to their responsibilities as mothers, partners, and breadwinners.

Dr. Ledet's education and experience has provided her with extensive evidence-based training in a variety of anxiety disorders including PTSD, OCD, Panic Disorder, and Generalized Anxiety Disorder. She has depth training in Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy. Following years of training and experience in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy methods she has immersed herself in the theory and practice of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy.

Dr. Sumer Ledet's psycho-educational training is a comprehensive, multi- method

Cont pg 11

Ψ *We Remember* *Dr. Ron Boudreaux*

Dr. Ronald F. Boudreaux died February 4, 2023, at the age of 79. He had struggled with complications of Parkinson's for two decades.

Over his 40-year career, Dr. Boudreaux lead the state in establishing a comprehensive system of public health services for children and youth who suffered from severe emotional problems. Dedicated to the practice of public mental health, he built coalitions to integrate services across the state for serving children and their families, created advocacy groups such as the Federation of Families, and spearheaded innovative programs which embraced the scientific evaluation of effectiveness for the benefit of the citizens. Dr. Boudreaux created the standards of child and adolescent care for Louisiana and did it

Cont pg 7

Volunteering Expert, Dr. Richard Flicker, Takes Lead for Baton Rouge Area Society Psychologists

Dr. Richard Flicker, an industrial–organizational psychologist who is heavily involved in his community and volunteering, will serve as president of the Baton Rouge Area Society of Psychologists, known as BRASP. This will be the second term for Dr. Flicker, who also served as president in 1998.

He was elected while being absent from the meeting for the first time in two years, he explained to the *Times*. Even so. Dr. Flicker is a strong advocate of community involvement.

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PHOTO: Dr. Richard Flicker (L) with Dr. Curtis Vincent at BRASP meeting. (Courtesy photo)

Editorial Page – Opinions

Chatting with Hal

by J. Nelson

At the urging of our son who is in the software field, I signed up with ChatGPT to experience artificial intelligence. I asked two questions that are often on my mind.

Q: Is being a psychologist still a good profession?

Yes, being a psychologist is still a good profession. Psychologists play an important role in helping people overcome mental health issues and improve their overall well-being. They work in a variety of settings, including schools, hospitals, clinics, private practices, and research institutions.

There is a growing demand for mental health services, and this trend is expected to continue in the coming years. In addition, the field of psychology is constantly evolving, with new research and discoveries being made all the time. This means that psychologists have the opportunity to learn and grow throughout their careers, and to make a real difference in the lives of their patients.

That being said, like any profession, being a psychologist also has its challenges. It can be emotionally demanding, and requires a significant



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investment of time and resources in education and training. However, for those who are passionate about helping others and have a strong interest in the workings of the mind, being a psychologist can be a rewarding and fulfilling career.

Q: What are the most important remaining achievements for those in psychology to take on in order to improve the society?

While psychology has made significant contributions to society, there are still many important achievements that those in psychology can work towards in order to further improve society. Here are some examples:

1. Addressing mental health disparities: Despite progress in reducing stigma and increasing access to mental health services, there are still significant disparities in mental health outcomes for certain groups, such as racial and ethnic minorities and those with lower socioeconomic status. Psychologists can work towards understanding and addressing these disparities through research and clinical practice.
2. Advancing technology and innovation: Technology has the potential to revolutionize mental health care by making interventions more accessible and personalized. Psychologists can work towards developing and testing new technologies and interventions, such as virtual reality therapy or teletherapy.
3. Increasing diversity and inclusivity: Psychology has made strides towards increasing diversity and inclusivity in the profession, but there is still work to be done. Psychologists can work towards creating a more diverse and inclusive profession, both in terms of the professionals themselves and the clients they serve.
4. Addressing the effects of trauma: Trauma is a pervasive issue that can have long-lasting effects on individuals and society. Psychologists can work towards understanding and addressing the effects of trauma through research, clinical practice, and advocacy.
5. Promoting social justice and equity: Psychologists can work towards promoting social justice and equity by advocating for policies and programs that reduce inequality and discrimination. This can include working towards systemic change, as well as addressing individual biases and prejudices.

These are just a few examples of the important achievements that those in psychology can work towards in order to further improve society. By continuing to advance the field through research, clinical practice, and advocacy, psychologists can make a positive impact on individuals and communities.

I had some follow-up questions but Hal was too busy to chat.

While AI seems to have better critical thinking than many people I come in contact with these days, it is in the box thinking. Real vision, the kind that produces sea level change, is usually out of the box, outside of the system.

Hal does not seem to be thinking in systems. Yet. Skynet might be still a ways off. So for now, we human beings are still in play. Maybe.

[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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Corrections & Clarifications

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

Legislators Filing Bills for April 10 Start of 2023 Regular Session, continued

syndromes, in their efforts to navigate incarceration and reentry into society.

Present law (R.S. 15:830) provides that the department may establish resources and programs for the treatment of inmates with a mental illness or an intellectual disability, either in a separate facility or as part of other institutions or facilities of the department.

House Bill (HB) 55 amends present law to make the establishment of resources and programs mandatory.

The proposed law provides that the qualified mental health persons within the multi-disciplinary service team shall establish a training program to be conducted annually. The responsibilities of the multi-disciplinary service team include the following:

- (1) Prompt screenings of the entire inmate population for post-incarceration syndrome through the use of computer-administered interviewing technology.[...]
- (2) Use of computer-administered interviewing to conduct screenings [...]
- (3) In-prison and outpatient services for all of the following:
 - (a) Methods for accessing mental health staff during a mental health crisis;
 - (b) Implementation of prevention interventions for suicide and self-injurious behavior;
 - (c) Procedures for placement of a patient in a level of care in accordance with his mental health needs;
 - (d) Detection, diagnosis, and treatment of post-incarceration syndrome, among other mental illnesses, with medication management or counseling. [...]

HB 31, authored by Representative Romero provides for additional offenses that require registration as a sex offender. The proposed law changes the definition of "criminal offense against a victim who is a minor" to include the present law offenses of cruelty to juveniles (R.S. 14:93) and second degree cruelty to juveniles (RS. 14:93.2.3).

Representative Boyd is putting forth HB 40 which prohibits intentional employment discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Present law provides that it shall be unlawful for an employer to discriminate against any individual based on

race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.

The proposed law adds that it is unlawful for an employer to also discriminate against any individual based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Present law provides that it shall not be unlawful for an employer to discriminate against any individual based on religion, sex, or national origin in certain instances where religion, sex, or national origin is a bona fide occupational qualification that is reasonably necessary for that particular business or enterprise.

Proposed law provides that no provision shall be interpreted to infringe upon the freedom of expression, association, or the free exercise of religion.

HB 41 authored by Representative Frieman requires health benefits and payment parity equal to in-person services for occupational therapy delivered through

telehealth. The proposed law requires a health coverage plan (plan) to pay for covered occupational therapy services provided via telehealth to an insured person.

HB 41 prohibits a plan from certain restrictions, including the following: (1) Requiring a previously established in-person relationship or the provider to be physically present with a patient or client, unless the provider determines that it is necessary to perform that service in person. (2) Requiring prior authorization, medical review, or administrative clearance for telehealth that would not be required if that service were provided in person. (3) Requiring demonstration that it is necessary to provide services to a patient or client as telehealth. (4) Requiring a provider to be employed by another provider or agency [...]

(5) Restricting or denying coverage based solely on the communication technology or application used to provide the telehealth service. However, proposed law authorizes a plan to restrict occupational therapy services via telehealth when the services are provided solely by telephone. [...]

Senator Cloud is putting forth Senate Bill 7 which provides each

library established in accordance with present law or pursuant to a home rule charter shall adopt and implement a policy to limit the access of minors to sexually explicit material.

The proposed law requires the policy to include: (1) A requirement that community standards for the population served by the library be considered when acquiring library material through donation or purchase; (2) A library card system that allows a parent or guardian to select a card that indicates whether a minor is permitted to check out sexually explicit material physically available in the library.

SB 12, by Senator Fields, requires each postsecondary education institution, elementary, middle, and high school to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) on its premises in an easily accessible location. The proposed law requires that an AED and a trained AED user be at each athletic event sponsored by a postsecondary institution and elementary, middle, or high school.



Louisiana Company Recognized by LG NOVA for Innovative Digital Health Concept

In a February press release, company officials announced that QuickTake Health was one of the start-ups chosen by LG Electronics' North American Innovation Center (NOVA), for its "Mission for the Future," a global search for companies with innovative concepts and transformative solutions that provide a positive impact on people and planet, to come explore collaboration opportunities with LG NOVA.

QuickTake Health was founded in Lake Charles, Louisiana, in 2021 by Dr. John Noble, orthopaedic surgeon and Chief Medical Officer, and Rand Ragusa, Company President. During the pandemic, Ragusa had worked for a company that provided digital thermal temperature reading kiosks at medical office entrances across the state after the COVID-19 shutdown in 2020. This seamless process led him to consider about how other vital sign data, such as height, weight, and blood pressure, could possibly be collected in the same automated, efficient way using technology.

"Our goal was to build a quicker, smarter way to document vital signs and improve the patient experience," said Dr. Noble. "We have put a lot of processes in place at Center for Orthopaedics to increase our personal interaction with patients, but we were often delayed waiting on vital signs to be entered into the patient record. The idea of creating a digital, one-stop station that could capture the health data we - and all medical offices - need seemed long overdue."

Research shows that 56% of a health workers' time in a normal work week is spent on administrative tasks rather than caring for patients. Pen and paper still play a big role in data entry, even though the COVID-19 pandemic has forced healthcare organizations to adapt to new technology. In addition, ongoing shortages of skilled frontline workers heighten many types of risks, including medical errors.

"We knew there had to be a better solution; a way to automate the workflow for vital sign collection," said Ragusa.

The QuickTake system is powered by advanced camera technology, biometric sensors, and EHR (electronic health record) integration. A patient simply steps onto the QuickTake platform and their vital signs are instantly collected and transferred directly to their medical record.

Florida Announces Health Alert on mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

On February 15, 2023, the Florida State Surgeon General notified the health care sector and public of a substantial increase in Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) reports from Florida after the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

According to the announcement, "In Florida alone, there was a 1,700% increase in VAERS reports after the release of the COVID-19 vaccine, compared to an increase of 400% in overall vaccine administration for the same time period.

"The reporting of life-threatening conditions increased over 4,400%. This is a novel increase and was not seen during the 2009 H1N1 vaccination campaign. There is a need for additional unbiased research to better understand the COVID-19 vaccines' short- and long-term effects.

"The findings in Florida are consistent with various studies that continue to uncover such risks. To further evaluate this, the Surgeon General wrote a letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) illustrating the risk factors associated with the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and emphasizing the need for additional transparency."

Association of American Physicians and Surgeons Issues Statement on Gender-Affirming Care in Minors

In a February 25 press release, the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), a national organization of physicians in all specialties founded in 1943, issued the following statement:

" 'Gender-affirming care' in minors is medically and ethically contraindicated because of a lack of informed consent. There are inherently unknown and unknowable long-term risks, and the consequences of removing normal, healthy organs are irreversible."

In the announcement the APPS officials also noted:

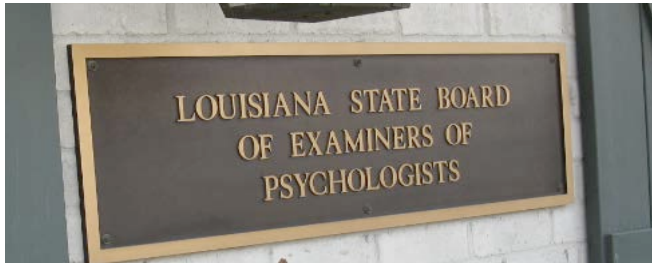
"Physicians and medical professionals should refuse to be mandated or coerced to participate in procedures to which they have ethical or scientific objections or which they believe would harm a patient."

"The construct of gender fluidity in the current cultural discourse is controversial.

"There has been an explosive increase in persons who identify with the construct of gender different from sex, at an age where identity is easily malleable and brain development is not fully concluded.

"Conflicting motivations have led to a growing industry dedicated to providing "gender-affirming" procedures that are generally irreversible and have a high probability of causing sterilization. These include puberty "blockers," sex hormones, and surgery, such as castration, penectomy, and mastectomy. They commit a patient to a lifelong need for medical, surgical, and psychological care."





From the Board

Selected Items from January Agenda of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP)

BOARD MEETING AGENDA Thursday, January 19, 2023 and Friday, January 20, 2023

1. 2. **GENERAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**
a. Rulemaking Status/update from Dr. Moore and Ms. Monic regarding Occupational Licensing Review Commission hearing.
b. Draft Response to LAPS inquiry received 1/16/2023 c. Valerie Dominique, CPA, New Contract with HTP d. Job description for Executive Counsel (In House/Prosecuting) e. ASPPB Mid-year Meeting, Denver, CO; April 20-23, 2023 (Designate 2 funded attendees) f. LSBEP TRAVEL POLICY | Vote on exemption from PPM49

DAY 2: Friday, January 20, 2023

ASPPB Presentation to LSBEP regarding the validity and other issues concerning the EPPP (Part I and Part II): Dr. Mariann Burnett-Atwell, Dr. Matthew Turner, Dr. Hao Song

GENERAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS: a. Review and discuss training for new rules b. Reschedule Awards Ceremony for April '23 or July '23 c. Letter from ethics attorney – Opinion on Dr. Sam Presentation at ASPPB d. ATAP Administering select projective test if adequately trained e. Technology - IT Quotes for Upgrades (Sparkhound and Covalent Logic)
1:00 – 2:00 Working lunch – **Training for Board Members, Staff and Workgroup Participants by Amy Groves Lowe (1 hour) - Anti-trust** - Staff and Board Member roles in investigating matters concerning the unauthorized practice of psychology by unlicensed individuals, reporting violations, actionable findings, and other related anti-trust issues including rulemaking, denial of licensure and when to involve an attorney.

LONG RANGE PLANNING DISCUSSION:

c. Executive Director Report: (i) Operations /Updates/Temporary Registrations and Updates on progress of old business. d. Finance (i) Update on Accounts Receivables including update on litigation/complaints accounts receivable – Drs. Gormanous, Moore & Ms. Monic e. Complaints – Drs. Gormanous, Moore & Ms. Monic (i) Compliance Report (ii) Ethics litigation review f. Continuing Professional Development – Drs. Harness & Sam g. Jurisprudence Examination – Drs. Harness & Holcomb h. Legislative and Regulatory Oversight – Mr. McNeely, Drs. Gormanous & Dr. Holcomb i. Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards – Drs. Holcomb & Gormanous j. Long Range Planning – Drs. Gormanous & Moore k. Oral Examination – Drs. Moore, Harness & Sam l. Public and Professional Outreach – Mr. McNeely & Dr. Gormanous m. Supervision and Credentials – Drs. Moore & Sam n. Ad hoc/Other: o. Recruitment/Search – Executive Counsel – Drs. Gormanous, Sam, Mr. McNeely & Ms. i. Masters Level License/Credentialing ii. Ethics Code Revisions iii. Program Competency Issues iv. Examination Issues: Assessing; Competence/EPPP/ EPPP2 or other option vs. Oral Examination v. Rule Changes and the “Great Cliff” in psychology education: Continued use of Specialties vs HSP/General Applied vi. Open discussion for consideration of other emerging issues

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

Quick Stress Relief Using Your Senses

What is the fastest way to relieve stress? Countless methods of stress reduction exist, and different techniques work for every individual. Most of the well-known ways to reduce stress, however, are not “quick.” It is hard to imagine stopping in the middle of a high-pressured job interview or deposition and excusing yourself to meditate. Those great old methods of yoga, mindfulness, meditation, and exercise work but we all need something more immediate and accessible. There are so many things to consider, like what works best for you, what type of stress you are dealing with, and most of all, how good are you at recognizing when you are stressed and need some relief.

One of the fastest ways to control the rise of cortisol and the host of other stress-induced body systems is to engage one or more of your common senses – sight, sound, taste, smell, touch, or movement. Or, even better yet, you can engage the most important and powerful bridge to your body and your mind – your imagination.

Imagination is so powerful that it needs no definition. Discovering when sense and associated technique works best for you is today’s goal. Please do some experimenting to see which technique works best for you. Step One is to recognize the signs of stress. Tired is different from stress. Are your muscles tense or sore? Is your stomach cramped or aching? Are you holding your breath? Are your hands in fists? Or, are your jaws clenched? Do you get quickly keyed up when stressed or depressed and withdrawn? Some people actually freeze when stress reaches a really high point.

So, which senses do you turn to, sound or music, exercise or other types of movement, vision like a much-loved photo of a special place or like my cat, who relaxes to such a point that she almost slides off. Let’s look at some examples of simple stress relief exercises for each of the senses.

Sight:

- Look at a cherished photo in your mind - if in a meeting
- Enjoy the beauty of nature, a park or your own backyard in your imagination

Smell

- Imagine a scent you enjoy if you cannot do it that moment
- Identify smells in the area while remaining in the situation

Touch

- Pet a dog or a cat or something you have in your pocket that is soothing to touch
- Give yourself a subtle neck massage

Taste

- Indulge yourself in a small piece of dark chocolate or treat you brought with you
- Sip a hot cuppa or a refreshing cold drink like cold water

Movement

- Breathe and focus on your breathing
- Tighten and release your muscles from head to foot or v.v. while you sit or stand in the meeting

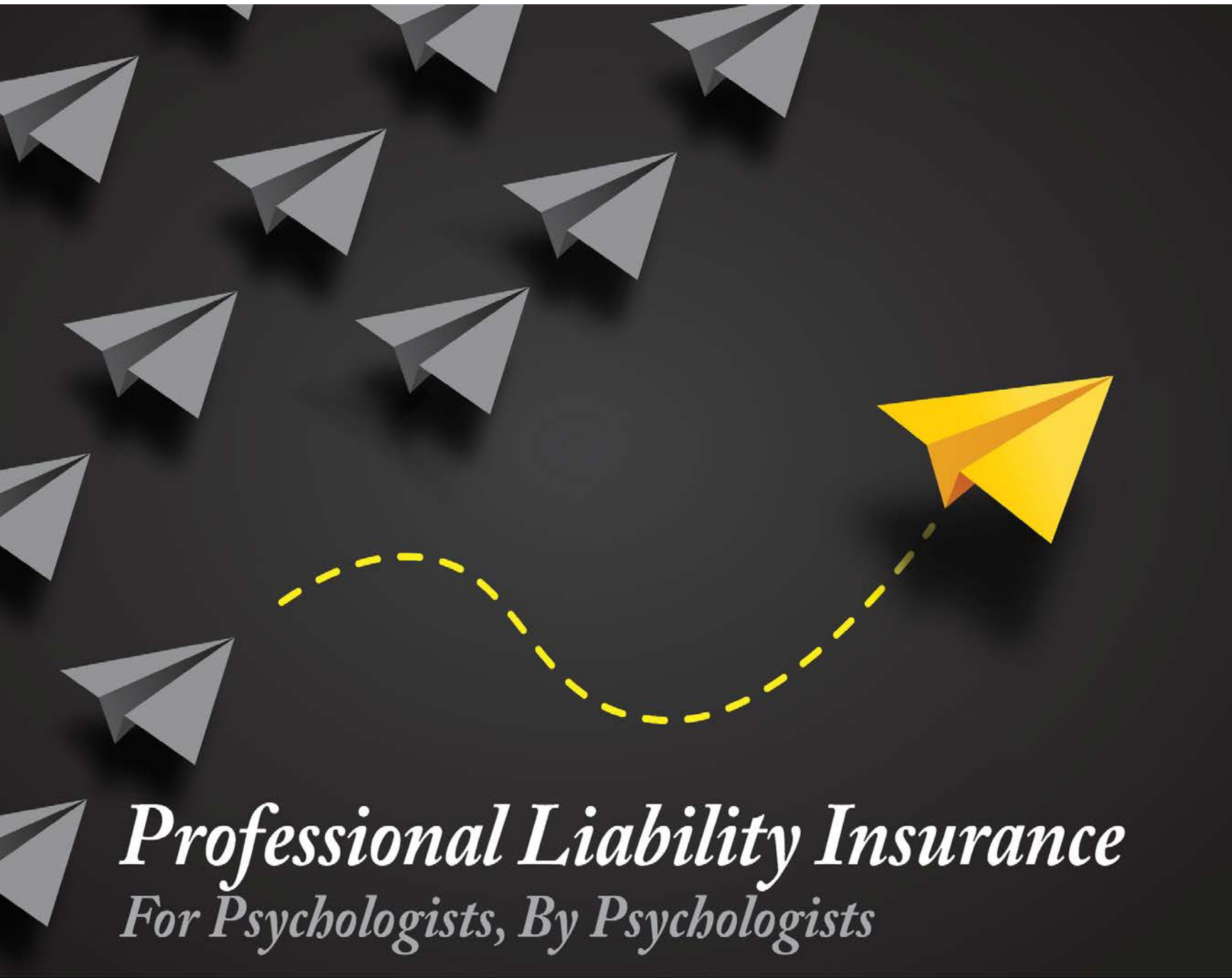
Sound

- Hum in your head or imagine a favorite tune
- Listen for sounds around you

If all else fails, just take a break and a cat nap.



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.



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Ψ *We Remember* *Dr. Ron Boudreaux*

with excellence, integrity, and humility. He was a joyful and positive influence on all those he encountered along the way.

In 2020 the Louisiana Psychological Association, state affiliate of the American Psychological Association, honored Dr. Boudreaux with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award.

"In honor of Dr. Boudreaux's dedicated service and pioneering career in establishing a comprehension system of public mental health services for children, youth and families in Louisiana, and as the Chief Psychologist for the state Office of Mental Health (OMH). Dr. Boudreaux's professional career is truly exemplary of the dedicated public service of a psychologist who has significantly advanced the state of the art of public mental health for children, youth and families in Louisiana. And yet, he has remained a very humble man of character. The Louisiana Psychological Association wishes to acknowledge Dr. Boudreaux's pioneering professional contributions and to wish him well in his retirement."

Close friend and work associate, Dr. Randall Lemoine, said, "I was blessed to have been a colleague of Ron's during most of my 30+ year tenure as a psychologist at the State Office of Mental Health. During that time, I personally witnessed and admired Ron's leadership, his professionalism, and his passion for service to those most in need. Ron's contributions to public mental health programs for children and youth were unsurpassed—he literally put child/youth mental health services 'on the map.'

Dr. Lemoine, now in private practice and also retired from the state, was Director, Division of Business Intelligence and Information Management for the Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health.

"Also, to my knowledge, Ron was the first statewide Chief Psychologist," said Dr. Lemoine, "a trail blazer raising the stature of psychologists in public service. After he retired from state service, Ron's dedication, compassion and skill as a clinical child psychologist in private practice were renowned in our Baton Rouge community. I am grateful to have had opportunities to visit with Ron during his final years at Saint James Place, during which time we got to reminisce about his remarkable career and the 'good ole days' of public mental health," said Dr. Lemoine.

Current President of the Louisiana Psychological Association and professor at University of Louisiana Lafayette, Dr. Paula Zeanah, noted that Dr. Boudreaux "... held leadership positions in the Office of Behavioral Health. Notably, he ushered in an important era in mental health services by leading the development of services for infants and young children, Early Childhood Supports and Services. Prior to ECSS, young children were not served in community mental health clinics," Dr. Zeanah said. "I had great respect and admiration for his deep commitment to children's mental health in Louisiana. He was friendly and professional, had a calm yet strong presence, and was a pleasure to work with."

Dr. Boudreaux's distinguished public mental health career began in 1970's as a staff psychologist and program grant lead on the adolescent unit at Central Louisiana State Hospital in Pineville. He then served as the Chief Executive Officer of Green Well Springs Adolescent Hospital in Baton Rouge.



Dr. Ron Boudreaux (seated) receiving awards from several different groups.

From left to right standing, Donna Fargason, MD, Director, Family Focus & Associates, Randy Lemoine, PhD, State Office of Behavioral Health, Dr. Alan Coulter, PhD, Louisiana Psychological Association, Pat Cooper, PhD, and Emilie Coulter, LCSW.

(Courtesy photo)

In the 1980s, Dr. Boudreaux became the director of children's services for the state Office of Mental Health. He served as the Program Director for CASSP – the Child and Adolescent Service System Program, a federal grant-funded program to transform the then traditional community mental health clinic-based service system to what is now recognized as the standard of care; i.e., child and family community-based services and supports offered throughout community settings, including homes and schools.

The Child and Adolescent Service System Program increased the availability of community-based, comprehensive, coordinated systems of care for seriously emotionally disturbed children and adolescents. State-level activities included needs assessment and planning, modification of the state mental health system, interagency collaboration, constituency building, technical assistance and training, and local system development.

Dr. Boudreaux spearheaded development of innovative services such as child and family intervention teams, home-based crisis intervention programs, care management, and parent respite programs. He worked closely with judges to establish juvenile justice programs and reforms. And, he facilitated the development of a standard definition for the educational exceptionality of Emotional/Behavioral Disorder for use by the State Department of Education Bulletin 1508 to promote services and supports in schools.

In the 1990s, Dr. Boudreaux's work to establish a comprehensive system of care for children, youth and families continued under the Federal Block Grant State Mental Health Plan. He continued to build coalitions to integrate services across the state child-serving agencies, and through advocacy groups, such as the Federation of Families and the State Mental Health Planning Council. He spearheaded a novel program evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of services

Ψ *We Remember*

Dr. Ron Boudreaux

(LaFete) through teams of parents trained to interview family service recipients and to report their findings in a service report card with quality improvement recommendations.

Dr. Boudreaux was very active in developing and implementing policies and procedures to divert children from hospitalization to less restrictive, more effective community-based care.

During this time, Dr. Boudreaux was also promoted to the Chief Psychologist for state mental health system, and in this capacity provided policy/procedure development and operational command for psychological services across the state, including internship programs.

Dr. Boudreaux retired from the Office of Mental Health after 40 years of public service. During his career, he also completed a fellowship through Tulane University's School of Medicine in infant mental health, with a concentration in attachment theory research in infant-parent bonding. His research and clinical training programs created widespread access to critical support for underprivileged families in crisis.

In addition to his public sector career, he counseled thousands of Baton Rouge area children and families through his private practice. He concluded his career – post retirement from the State - working with Dr. Donna Farguson at Family Focus, a multidisciplinary mental health practice, in the early childhood assessment and treatment office.

According to family and friends from his obituary in the *Advocate*, Dr. Boudreaux was affectionately known as "Boud-dha" and "Paw Paw" to his family.

The family notes that he was a native of Lafayette, and from ninth grade until undergraduate graduation from Catholic University, Washington DC, was enrolled in the seminary to become a priest. Upon graduation, he became determined to be a psychologist instead. He earned a PhD in clinical psychology from Louisiana State University in 1971.

"Ron had a way of making everyone feel heard, seen, loved and appreciated. To his children, he was their "rock," and to his friends and family he was an incredibly warm, caring, kind and compassionate man. He could also make you cry laughing with his Cajun "Boudreaux" jokes and stories, hearkening back to his

beloved Lafayette roots. Every Christmas Eve, he would light up children's faces when he told 'The Cajun Night Before Christmas' in his jolly Cajun accent as thick as his mama's roux," noted the family.

"He built furniture, fences and barns with his own hands, was an excellent photographer, loved watercolor, and thoroughly enjoyed sports, especially playing tennis. Ron loved his family, his profession, reading, travel, music of all sorts-from Cajun to classical, cooking, good food, and good friends. He couldn't begin the day without a mug of black coffee, loved the sound of the gulf surf, a good glass of red wine or single malt scotch.

"During the last twenty-five years of his life, he took up pilates, boxing, Tai Chi and indulged his love for travel, visiting Vietnam, Republic of Georgia, Egypt, eastern Europe, Chile, Tuscany, Provence, and Spain, and many parts of the United States with his longtime 'lady friend' (his description) Mary Ann Sternberg."

Dr. Boudreaux was preceded in death by his parents Florence (Daigle) and Felix Boudreaux of Lafayette. He is survived by his son Jonathan Michael Boudreaux and grandchildren Aaron and Araya; daughter Nicole Boudreaux Kleinpeter and grandchildren Camille and Thomas (Baton Rouge); his brother Kurt Boudreaux and wife Sherry and family (Lafayette); and longtime friend Mary Ann Sternberg (Baton Rouge).

Friend and colleague, Dr. W. Alan Coulter, organizational school psychologist, said, "Ron was a very effective, positive voice for children's mental health. He significantly advanced awareness for infant mental health in Louisiana. Ron was wisely skeptical and abhorred organizational politics, although he practiced those politics very well. Personally, Ron was the gentlest Cajun bear who gave great hugs and free wisdom."

Dr. Tony Speier, who served in the state mental health organization with Dr. Boudreaux for many years, wrote, "A grand and kind person who opened doorways every day for many in life and as joyful as any man and friend. Thanks Ron for being ever-blessed and thanks for your blessings."

Dr. Kelley Pears, PTSD psychologist with the Alexandria VA Healthcare System, said, "Ron was an inspiration to my generation of psychologists. He was welcoming, friendly, bright and funny. Blessings to his family & friends."

Dr. Ron Boudreaux read the Cajun Night Before Christmas at the family holiday parties every year in a colorful, animated and thick Cajun accent, explained daughter, Nicole Boudreaux Kleinpeter.

"The children were absolutely mesmerized, as were the adults. He was such a gentle, humble man, and without knowing it, he could flip a switch and light up a room with his smile, twinkling eyes and incredible knack for telling a story or old Cajun joke," she said.

(Courtesy photo)



Volunteering Expert, Dr. Richard Flicker, Takes Lead for Baton Rouge Area Society Psychologists, continued

"I believe that there are many ways each and every psychologist can fulfill the challenge issued by George Miller's 1969 address to the American Psychological Association — to give psychology away," Dr. Flicker said. "Volunteerism in the form of active membership in civic, religious and charitable organizations is one way to give psychology away. It doesn't always require being the leader, but the visibility and influence afforded by leadership roles allows us to have a greater positive impact," he said.

"The 80/20 Rule – not the one applying to determining adverse impact in employment discrimination cases – but the one which states that 20% of the members of any group contribute 80% of the work —or money or time. We need to be sure that we're in that 20% and not the other 80% who mainly complain."

Dr. Flicker's goals for his BRASP presidency include efforts to have interesting and informative speakers at the monthly meetings.

At their February meeting, BRASP hosted Erica McLellan, Assistant Attorney General and Section Chief of the Sexual Predator Unit at Louisiana Department of Justice. She discussed the role of psychologists in this area of the criminal justice system, the psychological impact of sex crimes on the victims and their families, and what is involved in the investigation/prosecution.

For the March meeting, Morgan Lamandre, Esq., President & CEO, Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response, will speak about advocacy, counseling and legal services available to youth and adult survivors of sexual violence. For April, the speakers will be

Dr. John Kirwan, Executive Director of LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center and George Bray, Jr. Endowed Super Chair in Nutrition.

Dr. Flicker also wants to make meetings fun and welcoming by adding a couple of features to our monthly agenda, including a "Question of the Month" and a "Joke of the Month."

"I've tried to find jokes that are relevant to the speaker and/or topic of the speaker's presentation," said Dr. Flicker, "and have sometimes modified jokes to make them relevant. Some get big chuckles, and of course, many get groans because they're just corny."

He will also create a working budget, review the by-laws, and wants to improve monthly attendance and increase membership.

What other leadership activities has he been involved with over the last years?

"Too many. I am the first president of the Brotherhood of the new Unified Jewish Congregation of Baton Rouge. A year ago the two Jewish congregations in Baton Rouge merged into one congregation.

"As an I/O psychologist, I saw this as a challenge in organizational development – same challenge the congregation faced – overcoming any 'us vs. them' mindset when two former entities became one.

"The biggest project was chairing the annual Christmas Shopping Spree at Macy's for about three dozen children in the Big Buddy program," he said. "The I/O psychologist in me kicked in as I came up with several ways to improve the implementation of the event itself. The feedback afterwards was

tremendous as far as how organized the event came off. And we exceeded our fundraising goal, giving each of the Big Buddy kids more money (Macy's gift cards) than ever before to put gifts under the Christmas tree for their entire families..."

Dr. Flicker is also president-elect of the Exchange Club of Baton Rouge and chair of the annual Adopt-A-Teacher project which in 26 years has provided grants to 622 new elementary school teachers in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, grants totaling in excess of a quarter of a million dollars.

"As a small civic club, this project has only been possible because of the generosity of several businesses, other non-profit groups and individuals," Dr. Flicker said. "I'm proud to say that BRASP has made a significant financial contribution to this project for the past 25 years, as have several individual psychologists. In return, BRASP (and those psychologists) are listed in our major newspaper, *The Advocate*, as well as being listed on the printed program and having their name read aloud at the School Board meeting which is broadcast live and rebroadcast repeatedly on the local cable access channel.

Dr. Flicker is also a past president and the current Treasurer is the Inter-Civic Council of Greater Baton Rouge which is comprised of representatives of over 30 civic and charitable non-profit organizations.

"In my role as treasurer, I play an active role in planning and implementing the annual Golden Deeds Award banquet, now in its 82nd consecutive year with attendance ranging from 300 to 400 plus people every year."

He also volunteers for the American Red Cross and serves as a member of the

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A group photo of the BRASP goodbye party for Dr. Joe Comaty and Dr. Claire Advokat.

Back row, left to right, Dr. Curtis Vincent, Dr. Courtland Chaney, Dr. Richard Gaynor, Dr. Richard Flicker, Dr. Don Nemeth. Second row, left to right, Dr. Christine Angelos, Dr. Darlyne Nemeth, Dr. Sue Jensen, and Dr. Randy Lemoine. Seated, Dr. Claire Advokat and Dr. Joe Comaty.

(Courtesy photo)

Volunteering Expert: Dr. Richard Flicker continued

Professional Advisory Group for Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center's soon to be launched Clinical Pastoral Education graduate degree program.

What is he doing professionally these days?

"Well, after the spring semester in 2020, I resigned my full-time faculty position in the Psychology Department at Southern University," he said. "I initially was hired in 2001 to teach full time for one year after a tenured faculty member decided to retire one week before the fall semester began. At that time, I was teaching half-time in the Management Department at LSU. Somehow that one-year gig at Southern lasted nineteen years; the first two of which I continued half-time at LSU in the evenings. People keep asking me if I'm retired. My response has been, 'I'm not retired; I'm just tired.' "

"Since leaving Southern, my part-time consulting practice has been a nice supplement to my social security check since volunteer work doesn't pay very much – at least not in dollars.

Richard Flicker, PhD changed his path from math & physics to psychology after reading Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. "I couldn't put it down," he said "It changed my life." He attended City College of City University of New York, and majored in consumer and industrial psychology. He took this interest with him to Purdue. There he studied with respected IO professors, Tiffin and McCormick. From the first day, he was thrown into teaching three sections of Introductory. "It was the last thing I thought I'd do. This will come as a shock to anyone who knows me; I had a real phobia of public speaking." Toward his senior year, he was supervising 16 grad students who taught 4000 students. "That's how the academic setting became a career path."

In 1975, he moved to Shreveport from New York and took a position at the new, small campus of LSU-S, where the priorities were first teaching, then community service, and then research. APA President George Miller's '69 message of "giving away psychology," had had a profound affect on him. But it wasn't until LSU-S, and the friendly, philosophical brown bag luncheons where faculty talked about community involvement, that he found his way of giving.

Dr. Flicker began public speaking, his first talk at the Exchange Club. They asked him back and before long, he was President. It was his first real leadership position and a connection that remains



Dr. Richard Flicker (3rd from left) working with others from the Exchange Club at the Food Bank.

(Courtesy photo)

with him today, among his many activities. He currently serves as President of the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast District Exchange Clubs, a multi-group organization, just one in a long list of leadership roles for him.

Involved in his community through the Exchange Club, plus teaching, consulting, speaking, and the training he provided in "Leadership-Shreveport" program, he became willingly immersed in his new culture. All this, he said, "acquainted me with my community. We had the Mayor, we had the Police Chief, we had the Fire Chief, we were doing projects with the Congressman. That's what exposed me to the community and made me realize, 'It's my community.'"

What does he think are the most important issues facing psychology right now?

"Plato wrote that 'our need will be the real creator.' That phrase eventually morphed into the proverb 'necessity is the mother of invention.' The COVID-19 pandemic forced individuals and organizations in almost all sectors of our society to adapt, or go extinct. Many changes made necessary by the pandemic had unanticipated silver linings – being extremely positive," Dr. Flicker said.

"However, like all things in life, with the positives there are negatives/side effects. The role of psychologists as change agents, whether on an individual or large scale organizational basis, provides incredible opportunities to contribute to the overall mental health of our nation. Technology already created a generation or two of people who don't know how to function in face-to-face social situations. While technology became an asset as the pandemic required minimizing face-to-face contact, it further exacerbated the poor interpersonal skills required in society," he said.

"Another challenge facing psychology is overcoming the anti-science, anti-intellectual attitude created by our recent toxic political environment. Psychologists are not alone in having to overcome the mistrust that appears to define almost half of our population. In a society where 'alternative facts' and 'conspiracy theories' are the new normal for so many people, re-establishing credibility as scientists, educators and practitioners of our profession may be the greatest issue facing psychology," he said.

Dr. Flicker would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to attend BRASP and/or receive meeting notifications. He can be reached at flicker@premier.net

Dr. Ledet's Innovations Aim to Reach Women Experiencing Stress and Anxiety, continued

program for women stressed by their responsibilities as mothers, partners, and breadwinners. Her "Get Present System," a virtual group program for overwhelmed working mothers, helps with psychological issues and at the same time is reducing stigma associated with reaching out for help, making psychology more accessible to more people.

Dr. Ledet has focused on treating anxiety disorders in private practice since 2012 and has directed her efforts more specifically toward women, including women who do not meet full criteria for any diagnosable condition.

"Many women feel tired, drained, invisible, anxious, and generally unhealthy," said Ledet. "Many women are distracted and struggling with insomnia. Many women feel guilty and irritable. Most of the same women are highly educated, successful in their chosen career, have healthy well cared for children and happy partners, but they are —often privately— suffering and struggling," she said.

"The culture demands so much of working mothers and the pressure is immense. Women feel like they aren't measuring up, and then label themselves failures. This is extremely common and frankly heart-wrenching," she said.

Her class includes five pillars that Dr. Ledet teaches to increase the individual's ability to remain in the present moment and to focus attention on valued actions. "The pillars also cover self-care and self-compassion," she said, "as many overwhelmed women that I have worked with tend to overlook their own basic needs and to treat themselves harshly when they make mistakes."

"I transitioned my business 100% online since COVID and plan to stay the course," she said, continuing to share high-quality, evidence-based, and often free content. "In my opinion, my strength is simplifying the 'psychobabble' so it is easily understandable and usable for real women living busy lives," she said.

Get Present, her eight-week independent study class, is a comprehensive, deep dive into fostering self-care, self-compassion, and values-based action.

Dr. Ledet began teaching overwhelmed women online and began making educational Facebook videos on her Dr. Sumer Ledet Psychological Services Facebook page [@drsumerledet]. Then, toward the end of 2020, she started an 'Insiders Community' where she sends free weekly exclusive email content to this same group of women.

"I really want to reach a broader audience and teach the skills that have helped hundreds of my clients, without the high price tag," she said. "I no longer take insurance and it would cost thousands in individual therapy to acquire this skill set..."

Back in 2012, Dr. Ledet started listening to a podcast all about holistic nutrition called Balanced Bites. "I got really into it, learned a ton, and began to wonder how the two young women hosting the podcast had grown such a large audience and successful business online," she said. "Several years later, I found free education from successful online entrepreneurs like Amy Porterfield and Jenna Kutcher. Their work set a fire inside me to impact a larger audience, not restricted to the closed doors of a therapy room."

By 2019, she purchased an inexpensive microphone and started recording educational videos for Facebook.

"I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to create, but I knew I wanted to begin to build an audience for spreading education about managing and healing from anxiety," she said.

"Because I had run a private practice since 2012 as an anxiety disorder expert, I knew there were tons of women who didn't necessarily meet criteria for an anxiety disorder, but were nonetheless wracked by overwhelm, confusion, and dysphoria about how to manage all of the demands of life," she said. "I desperately wanted to normalize this phenomena and provide resources to find a path toward peace and fulfillment. Having become a busy mom of two myself by 2019, I felt a deep compassion for the ever-present but under-discussed struggles of these women."

She kept creating videos and learning about how to improve the quality and clarity of her message online. "In September 2020, I

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Dr. Sumer Ledet, an expert in anxiety disorders, is using innovative, psycho-educational methods to reach women.

Left is a screen shot where she is speaking online about different ways women might be handling their stress.

Science & Education

Dr. Ledet's Innovations Aim to Reach Women Experiencing Stress and Anxiety, continued

made my first investment into my online business and purchased Digital Course Academy, which taught me the process for how to create and market my first digital course. I followed the steps, and it was so much more work that I had bargained for. It was really draining, and by the time I launched the program, I was exhausted," she said.

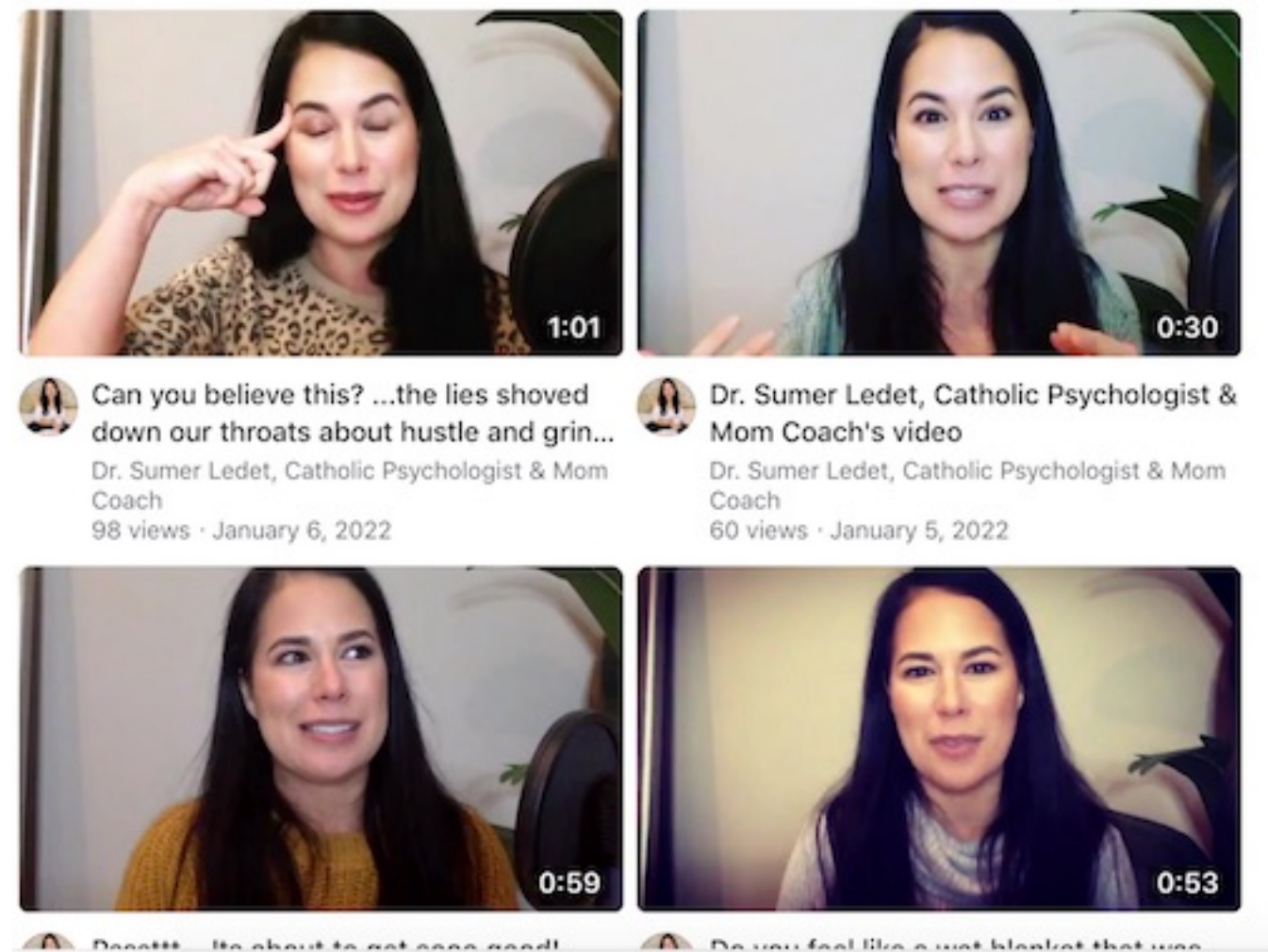
"Even still, it was a successful first launch. I enrolled 37 women into my digital course, *The Get Present System* (GPS), by early 2021. Originally, GPS was an 8-week program for busy moms who were struggling with overwhelm and anxiety but wanted a step-by-step path toward peace and fulfillment."

She continued to spread the message with free content via email and social media marketing. "But," she explained, "I knew I would need a slightly different approach to make the online course world a sustainable part of my business." That was around the time she made a second investment into online course business, purchasing a program by @katieandfloyd about creating an automated system to market and sell online courses and programs.

"At the end of 2021, I experienced a significant spiritual transformation in my own life," she said, "and I felt called to incorporate a Christian, faith-based aspect to my online programs. I followed the steps I had learned with @katieandfloyd, and the process was, once again, much more tedious and time-consuming than anticipated.

"In early 2022, I launched my second program, created specifically for Catholic moms desiring more peace and fulfillment, called the *Break Free Blueprint* (BFB). It was similar to GPS, but BFB had a strong faith component that shaped the evidence-based frameworks. It paired Catholic wisdom and tools with science-backed strategies to help Catholic moms break free from anxiety," Dr. Ledet said.

For this launch, she increased the price, the length of the program, and the intimacy of the experience using question & answer sessions, audits of the work participants completed, prizes in the mail as they made their way through the program,



Dr. Sumer Ledet teaches online, reaching women and others who may not have access to traditional methods of psychotherapy. Here she is seen on her Facebook page video training clips.

and a community forum for support. "The women had great results, and it was a truly enriching experience for all of us," she said.

"I have continued to share free education with my online community, and it has been such a fulfilling and rewarding experience for me. I get messages all the time from people who feel inspired by the free education I provide. I love to learn, love to write, and love to share content to encourage and inspire others. It is definitely a calling and a passion project," Dr. Ledet said.

This year, as a next step, she plans to update her website to create a "store-front" where moms can purchase self-study versions of the programs. "I am considering options such as sponsored social media ads and podcasting for continued marketing. I have created several free resources to help overwhelmed moms get connected to my content," she said.

"So, I certainly don't have all the answers, but I am continuing to learn and explore

strategies for how to impact more overwhelmed Catholic moms without the intimidating and often cost and time prohibitive experience of private therapy.

"As you can imagine, there are so many ethical and legal questions to consider. I've consulted with many colleagues as I navigate these murky waters. I have also become part of a small group of psychologists with online businesses, and we meet, 'mastermind style,' to problem solve dilemmas unique to psychologists in the online business world," Dr. Ledet said.

She warns anyone considering this path that it is more work than the gurus make it out to be, but if you can align the work to what you deeply value, it will be worth it, she explained. "I am learning to ride the wave of trial-and-error without getting discouraged. My predictable income comes from other sources so that I don't feel a large degree of pressure around this work. When I do

make money with my content, it feels like such a gift."

She still does not feel like she has found a complete system that is sustainable for her business and health. "I prioritize practicing what I preach, and with two little kids at home, this continues to be tricky. In addition, I have struggled with my own health and chronic pain condition for many years. In a way, this is a gift because I can truly empathize with my students and share what is working in my own life," she said.

"I'm happy to share my wins and lessons learned so far on this journey with you," said Dr. Ledet. "I'm also happy to share details about the ethical and legal aspects that I've considered and addressed through informed consent, LLC creation, documentation, and consultation."

Those interested in starting an online component of their business can reach out to her at info@sumerledet.com.



Future Trends for Psychologists 2023

The fundamental changes that began with the COVID-19 crisis are continuing to cause shifts in the culture that will be with us for years. Experts agree that the social, economic, and psychological impact of the pandemic will reshape aspects of our society, and this seems especially true in the area of health and behavior. Overall, psychologists are adapting to and leading changes in the mental health field by incorporating technology, emphasizing prevention and early intervention, collaborating with other healthcare professionals and conducting research on novel treatments to improve outcomes for individuals. Here are the trends as we see them.

#1 Teletherapy, Online Counseling & Education

With the COVID-19 pandemic, many mental health professionals shifted to teletherapy and online counseling to provide services to their clients remotely. Telehealth has boomed with virtual health care visits of over one billion. From telehealth, to online education, to remote work, to artificial intelligence, the rate of new technologies will not be slowing down. Psychologists will need to leverage these new technologies. The virtual world is continuing to take on a share of all connections between human beings and psychologists have the opportunity to reach more people, help individuals balance the demands, and create ways for coping with change.

#2 Leveraging New Technologies, Innovations, & Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Technology is increasingly being integrated into mental health services, such as mobile apps and wearable devices that track mood and behavior. Psychologists are playing a crucial role in the development and implementation of these technologies, as well as in evaluating their effectiveness. Research on novel treatments for mental health problems is growing. Psychologists are involved in this research and may be at the forefront of developing new and innovative treatments. Mental health problems are complex and often require a team-based approach to treatment. Psychologists are collaborating with other professionals to provide integrated and coordinated care.

#3 Prevention and Early Intervention: Behavioral & Health Psychology Have Taken on New Meaning

While we often think the United States has a class act medical service delivery system, Covid has fully exposed that we deserve our low rank in health when compared to other countries. The pandemic has caused a shift in awareness, from the medical model to prevention, behavioral and lifestyle factors, especially those that impact natural immunity. Sunlight, vitamin D, sleep, sitting, microbiome, diet, stress— have all been put on the radar. Additionally, 94% of companies are making significant investments in their well-being programs and they have increased their mental health benefits by 85%. There is a growing emphasis on preventing mental health problems before they occur or catching them early. Psychologists are involved in the development of prevention and early intervention programs that focus on building resilience, promoting mental health, and addressing risk factors.

#4 Opportunities for Consulting Psychologists Continue to Expand

Psychologists are uniquely positioned as problem-solvers in a culture that is increasingly in a state of flux. As elite providers, with their broad-based knowledge of human behavior and scientific training, psychologists will continue to be in high demand. The shortage of and the skill set of most psychologists enhances their desirability in healthcare, in government, in industry. APA says, "...psychologists are finding themselves with bigger, more visible roles in government and media, on movie sets, in tech startups, and elsewhere. Even the most traditionally macho of athletes are looking for psychological support, ..." Psychologists are playing an increasingly important role in the development of effective leadership and change management by providing guidance on how to communicate effectively, build trust, and resolve conflict.

#5 Trauma-Informed Care and the Coming Mental Health Crisis

Similar to last year's trends, experts predict a tsunami of problems coming due to the stress and changes that will continue regarding individuals' work, relationships, childcare, education, and health. Understanding what is happening to children will be critical. In one survey, 71% of parents said the pandemic had taken a toll on their child's mental health, and 69% said the pandemic was the worst thing to happen to their child. Prioritizing emotional well-being is critical for all citizens and psychologists are essential in helping develop ways of delivering mental health services. Trauma-informed care recognizes the prevalence of trauma and its impact on mental health. Psychologists are increasingly using trauma-informed approaches to help individuals who have experienced trauma to recover and heal.

#6 Embracing Cultural Diversity and Alternative Worldviews

Professionals are recognizing the importance of cultural competence and diversity in providing effective care. Psychologists are being trained in cultural competence and providing services that are sensitive to the needs of diverse populations. The country is increasingly being referred to as "Two Americas," with two different sets of values, perspectives, and goals. Psychologists can also help provide a transcendent view of these two sides, working toward a consensus that includes the best of both political approaches, and help detox from extreme positions.

#7 Facilitating Authenticity, Human Connection, and Spiritual Meaning

The void left by high-tech and Covid adaptations will need to be filled for many people by something positive— something other than drugs and alcohol. Psychologists will have the opportunity to provide services that enhance relationships, focus on home life, nature, creativity and the inner experience of being human. Emotional intelligence (EQ) has been shown to be a critical skill for success in life. Psychologists can provide training and coaching to help individuals develop their EQ skills, such as empathy, self-awareness, and relationship building. A renaissance in humanistic approaches may be ahead.

A Shrink at the Flicks

All That Breathes A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

All That Breathes is said to be a documentary, and it almost is. It is a Hindi-language film directed by Shaunak Sen and co-produced by him, Aman Mann and Teddy Leifer for Rise Films. I say almost a documentary because it goes beyond recording to make philosophical and moral points, elides some realities, and hints at a dramatic issue. The film has won worldwide awards at Cannes Film Festival and Sundance as well as ratings in the high nineties by both critics and audiences by the Rotten Tomato ratings aggregating service.

The dramatic center is the relationship between two brothers, joined in a heroic effort that is on the edge of collapse: saving Black Kites, raptors that abound in Delhi. The elided issue is that a very frequent cause of the raptors' injuries is the use of manja, kite strings with glass imbedded used in the ironically named kite flying/warring sport popular in Delhi. Manja is not only a hazard to the raptors, but also to humans flying the kites and, especially, to riders of the rapidly moving two-wheelers that crowd Delhi streets.

The two brothers, Mohammed Saud and Nadeem Shehad, are conjoined not just by blood, but by one of what C. S. Lewis describes as one of the four basic loves: a shared dedication. The New York Times chronicled that dedication in a 2020 article headlined *Meet the Bird Medics of New Delhi*. You can read it at www.nytimes.com/2020/02/07/science/kites-birds-conservation-india.html. Arguably, the article sparked the transformation of the brothers' rescue effort from a personal mission to an international charity with its own website www.raptorrescue.org.

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.



A key dramatic element in the film is the decision of the younger brother, Mohammed, to emigrate to the United States, leaving his older brother—along with a few helpers—to the hands-on struggle to save birds. Nadeem, whose wife, Tabassum, does what she can while caring for their two children, tries to support his efforts, but she makes it clear that she fears he is “ruining his life.” Although Mohammad says he can contribute to the effort from abroad, his brother clearly feels abandoned, reflected in a key scene, the “freezing” of an international facetime call between the two.

The film’s central focus is on the interconnectedness of all living things—everything that breathes. It works to underscore the point that our planet is a shared space. It also sees a paradox. One of the brothers, I think Nadeem, remarks that humans’ speciesism makes them the loneliest species. I don’t know Shaunak Sen’s religious beliefs, but the film seems to be a testimony to *ahimsa*, a Hindu commitment to non-violence, respect for all things that breathe. I found that moving.

Perhaps less centrally, the film also involves human perversities—dangerous kite war celebrations that persist despite injuring human and non-human creatures so seriously that they became technically illegal, and riots in which professors of non-violence attack non-believers. These are the kinds of self-destructive behaviors that make a Freudian death instinct persuasive.

10 Years Ago ... What *The Psychology Times* was reporting on in March 2013



Dr. Robert Marier, Director of the state medical board at commission meeting. (Photo by M. Dooley)

Groups watching LPA gives dissenting opinion **BA Commission Report Goes to Louisiana Senate**

The Behavior Analysts Licensure and Regulation Study Commission submitted its final report to President of the Louisiana Senate for a February 1 deadline. The report contains recommendations for the licensure and regulation of behavior analysts, including scope of practice, definitions of three levels of practitioners, and the decision for a merged board arrangement with the Licensed Professional Counselors. The final report also included a dissenting opinion from the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Psychologist Designed Teacher Assessment Program Moves into Full Swing Across State

by Suzanne Booth, MA, Psychology Times Intern

The value-added assessment portion of Louisiana’s teacher evaluation system developed by school psychologist and LSU professor, Dr. George Noell and colleagues, is taking full effect across Louisiana this year. The program, derived from the earlier Value-Added Teacher Preparation Program Assessment Model, began in 2003 when Noell and colleagues created a complex, nested, multivariate evaluation design. The purpose was to examine how teacher performance as indexed by student academic gains was related to teacher preparation.

Members from Behavioral Health Step Up for Violence Prevention

Professionals from various behavioral health groups have formed a coalition to promote safety in Louisiana by strengthening early identification of those at risk of violence. The group, named the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention, includes members of the psychology and behavioral health community, a cross section of leaders from school psychology, counseling, and social work.

Steering group member Dr. John Simoneaux told the *Times*, “Recognizing that it is our responsibility, we want mental health professionals in Louisiana to ensure that we are trained in scientifically sound techniques for identifying and intervening with potentially dangerous individuals.”

N.O. Psychologist’s Research Key **U.S. Senator Coburn Takes Science’s Flag to Social Security Administration**

The U.S. Senator known for confronting government waste and inefficiency, Oklahoma’s Dr. Tom Coburn, took up the banner for psychological science recently when he challenged the Social Security Administration’s anti-scientific approach to detecting malingering in its disability claims.

Senator Coburn had help in understanding the science behind these complex issues from New Orleans clinical and neuropsychologist, Dr. Michael Chafetz.

Chafetz and his colleagues have been studying malingering in disability claimants and publishing research in the area since 2006, some-thing that the Social Security Administration (SSA) does not do for itself.

Dr. Tucker’s Program Finds New Home at Bossier Sherriff Facility

Psychologist Dr. Susan Tucker and her nationally recognized treatment program survived the state cutbacks, despite the closing of Forcht Wade Correctional Center in Keithville, Louisiana, this past July. “It took a while,” Dr. Tucker explained to the *Times*, “but the entire staff moved to the new facility.” The staff and their innovative programs relocated to the Bossier Sherriff’s Office, Medium Correctional Facility, located between Benton and Plain Dealing, LA.

Dr. Thomason First in LA To Use Data-Referenced EEG Technology

Making national headlines in *NY Times*, *Huffington Post* and *Fox News* is a company that provides an objective, physiologically based measure using EEG results and norms to help doctors and nurses choose the right medications for their patients. The *Times* spoke with Dr. David Thomason, a medical prescriber practicing in Monroe, Louisiana, who is part of the network of providers trying out this new technology, and the only person listed in Louisiana by the company, CNS Response, Inc.

Dr. Phil Griffin Grabs Top Votes In LSBEP Election

Dr. Phil Griffin received the top number of votes in the LSBEP election that closed on January 25, 2013. Griffin won the top spot by capturing 81 of the 166 total votes cast by licensed psychologists in the state, or about 49 percent of those voting. Also hoping to serve on the board, which would be for a second term if appointed, is Dr. Joe Comaty, a medical psychologist who recently retired from the state Office of Behavioral Health. Comaty received 46 votes, or 28 percent of the vote. Dr. Lynn Schechter, a psychologist in private practice in Baton Rouge, received 39 votes or 23 percent.

Dr. Steele Appointed to Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Committee

In December Governor Jindal announced two appointments to the Advisory Committee for Marriage and Family Therapy including Dr. Kathryn “Kathy” Steele, of Metairie. Dr. Steele is an Assistant Professor in Psychology and Counseling at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and serves as the Director of Clinical Practice at NOBTS.

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