



## La Behavioral Health Notes Emergency in Children's MH Needs

According to a March press release, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of Behavioral Health, is introducing five new initiatives focused on the behavioral health of children and adolescents and their families. These initiatives focus on improved access to early childhood, adolescent, and family behavioral health services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the challenges facing adolescents' and children's mental health, said officials, causing altered experiences at home, school, and during in-person social interactions. The pandemic also highlighted the need for increased access to healthcare and social services as an alarming number of young people struggle with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide.

According to the announcement, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association have declared a national state of emergency in child and adolescent mental health.

"Improving and expanding mental health services for Louisianans of all ages is the culmination of years of

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## Bills Flowing in for April 10 Start of 2023 Legislative Regular Session

The 2023 Regular Legislative Session is booming already with hundreds of bills being filed and the kickoff day set for April 10. New measures are being introduced and some familiar themes are reappearing in the Legislators' efforts.

Rep. Green is introducing HB 226 which eliminates the death penalty. Rep. Travis Johnson is seeking Medicaid coverage for mental health and substance-abuse services via the Psychiatric Collaborative Care Model.

SB 34, authored by Sen. Bernard, requires that the state add "Suicide Lifeline dial 988" to on the driver's license, and Representative Larvadain aims to add firefighters to his previous effort that created peer support training methods for those in law enforcement. Rep. Hilferty is introducing HB 242 which would prohibit corporal punishment in elementary and secondary schools unless authorized by a parent.

See pages 5–6 for a number of other bills that are being introduced this year.



Dr. Susan Tucker

### Dr. Susan Tucker Returns to Shreveport

After a year in Mississippi as Mental Health Director for Mississippi Department of Corrections, Dr. Susan Tucker, innovative program designer, has returned to Louisiana to serve as Chief Operating Officer at Whole Health Treatment Center in Shreveport.

Dr. Tucker has been at the forefront of innovations for Louisiana for over two

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## Psychological Scientists Attend International Event

Psychological scientists from Louisiana joined the nearly 1500 researchers that came together in Brussels, Belgium for the 2023 International Convention of Psychological Science. Organized as a branch of the Association for Psychological Science, researchers from Louisiana contributed to the 70 countries and six continents that were represented at this year's event, held March 9 to 11.

Hung-Chu Lin and co-authors Manyu Li, Amy L. Brown, and Paula Zeanah, all from University of Louisiana at Lafayette, presented "Sexual Well-Being: The Pathway from Childhood Adversity Via Cognitive-Emotional Functioning. According to the abstract: Multidimensional nature of sexual well-being (SWB) was examined for its latent indicators including sexual self-esteem, comfort with sexual consent, and sexual self-efficacy. Structural equation modeling revealed an indirect pathway from childhood adversity to SWB via current cognitive-emotional functioning (CEF), suggesting that enhancing current CEF as a means for improving SWB.

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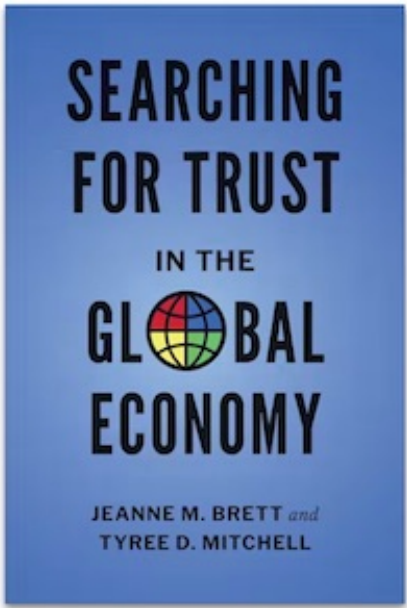
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# Editorial Page – Opinions

## Leading Change as Psychologists

by J. Nelson

This issue I have another chance to applaud one of our visionary psychologists. I first met Dr. Susan Tucker in 2011 when reporting on her accomplishments at the Forcht Wade Correctional Center.

She was designing and delivering comprehensive care through her Intensive Therapeutic Community, composed of a set of core programs enhanced by 20 ancillary programs that tailor change efforts for each of the approximately 500 to 750 offenders she and her staff treated annually at the Center.

She understood treatment must be comprehensive, tailored to the correct and complete diagnosis, and modified for the individual's family system. She also understood success requires dealing with the larger systems that surround the person, the community and culture. She also can deal with the political world, which is really something.

Her core program consisted of four therapeutic and educational groups that are evidenced-based and cognitive behavioral in scope: "Living in Balance," "Moral Reconation," "Risk Management," and "Victim Awareness."

"The philosophical approach to our treatment," Susan explained at that time, "includes focusing on the thinking patterns, emotional reactions, and behavioral events that often lead to self-defeating patterns and eventually to criminal activity. We utilize psychological assessment instruments to illuminate areas of concern, including low cognitive ability, personality disorders or features, mood disorders, and thought disorders. We individualize a treatment program for that offender and he works closely with his assigned counselor to meet the goals of that treatment plan."

Her programs also provided the chance for offenders to engage in educational opportunities. Individuals could earn their GED, a certification in Welding, Carpentry, or Heating & Air. They could attend classes for literacy and basic education run by volunteer facilitators, or receive tutoring from other offenders skilled to assist them.

The array of ancillary and innovative programs allowed the approach to be tailored for the individual. Ancillary programs included programs such as the "Read to Me, Daddy Program." The program allowed the offender to read a book to their child, strengthening the family and community bonds.

Like all of Susan's programs, this one built upon the evidence, in this case the fact that 55% of offenders have no contact with their children. However, studies show that offenders who have regular contact with their children tend to demonstrate improved outcomes, a better transition back into family and community life, and a lower recidivism rate.

Susan's designs were also based on the correct diagnosis, that the vast majority of the offenders have a diagnoses of mental illness and substance abuse.

"The devastation caused by addictions in families," said Susan, "can be virtually insurmountable for a family without help and support from the professional community. We have acknowledged this and developed a program based on the needs of family members struggling with offenders returning home, as well as their own issues and painful experiences."

Susan Tucker proves that the late Scott O. Lilienfeld was right when he wrote in the *American Psychologist*, "[...] trained psychologists are virtually unparalleled among rival professions in one crucial respect: our ability to apply scientific reasoning and rigorous methodology to assessing, evaluating, and alleviating human problems."

Welcome back, Susan!

[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](mailto:drj@drjulienelson.com), —she welcomes feedback.]

## Letter to the Editor

Just wanted to give you a brief thanks and pat on the back. Your story about Ron Boudreaux was brilliant and a fitting tribute to a deserving colleague. Thanks again for keeping us all in the loop and being an advocate for our work.

John Simoneaux  
Pineville, Louisiana

## Corrections & Clarifications

No corrections were received for last month's issue. We were told the name of the gentlemen in the group photo with Dr. Boudreaux and thank Dr. Coulter for that information. We updated the issue.

Please send your corrections to:  
[psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com](mailto:psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com)

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Publisher: Julie Nelson, PhD

Journalism Consultant:  
Robert Holeman,  
*Editor (Ret.), The Coushatta Citizen,  
Winn Parish Enterprise.*

Columnists/Reporters:  
Susan Andrews, PhD, Alvin Burstein, PhD

Cartoonists: Jake Nelson-Dooley,  
Jonny Hawkins

Photography: Mike Dooley, MBA  
Tom Stigall, PhD, Adobe Stock Photos

Copy editor: Susan Brown

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# Behavioral Health Notes Emergency in Children's Needs, Responds with New Initiatives, continued

deliberate planning and focus, and I'm proud my administration has taken on this task in a thoughtful and targeted way," said Governor Edwards. "The Louisiana Department of Health's work to expand crisis services, add capacity for substance use treatment, and use evidence-based treatment for other behavioral health needs will help us address the trauma and other challenges brought on by the pandemic and the many disasters Louisianans have become so accustomed to."

LDH Secretary Dr. Courtney Phillips said, "It has been our top priority over the past few years to confront the crises Louisiana residents have been facing with behavioral health strategies that improve the quality of life for our residents and hold the promise of a brighter future for Louisiana's children. The five initiatives we are announcing today are critical new additions to the current array of specialized behavioral health services, and I am confident that our behavioral health partners will be able to use them to increase access to services and ultimately improve health outcomes."

According to the announcement, OBH is building upon services currently available to Medicaid-eligible children and adolescents through five additional initiatives currently under development through Fiscal Year 2024.

Initiative 1: Expanding substance use residential treatment facilities for women and dependent children – Pregnant women, and women with dependent children, are among the most vulnerable of all populations in need of stable residential services for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment. Louisiana currently has 3 statewide providers. However, in order to geographically diversify and expand capacity of treatment programs that allow children up to 12 years old to accompany their mothers, OBH will identify additional providers to fill statewide gaps in services to establish additional treatment beds.

Initiative 2: Implementing Early Childhood Supports and Services (ECSS) – ECSS will provide screening, evaluation, and referral services and treatment for children from birth through age 5 and their families through evidence-based behavioral health treatment. This includes support for enhancing positive caregiving relationships and comprehensive care coordination addressing family needs, including families'

environmental risks and social determinants of health. OBH intends to pilot ECSS with an early adopting entity, while pursuing a contractor for long-term management of the statewide program through a request for proposal (RFP), which is expected to be released in calendar year 2023.

Initiative 3: Building the foundation for statewide youth crisis services – Expanding upon the Medicaid adult crisis services continuum introduced in LDH's Fiscal Year 2022 business plan, LDH is committed to extending Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) and Community Brief Crisis Support (CBCS) services to youth. With an anticipated launch in spring 2024, MCR is an initial intervention for individuals in a self-identified crisis; while CBCS is a face-to-face ongoing crisis intervention response, designed to provide stabilization and support. LDH has identified start-up funding for providers and the budget proposal includes funding for Medicaid coverage of these services in late fiscal year 2024, said officials.

Initiative 4: Treating trauma through the implementation for Dialectical Behavioral Therapy –(DBT) programs DBT is an evidence-based, comprehensive intervention designed to treat adults and adolescents with severe mental disorders and out-of-control cognitive, emotional, and behavioral patterns that often result from early and/or chronic experiences of trauma, neglect, and abandonment. LDH will begin provider DBT training in the fall with initial implementation of service delivery expected in late calendar year 2023.

Initiative 5: Cultivating Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) services to treat youth with co-occurring developmental disabilities PRTFs are non-hospital facilities offering intensive inpatient and educational services to individuals younger than age 21 who have various behavioral health issues. OBH is currently developing this programming for a highly specialized PRTF with up to 25 beds, with

treatment focusing on co-occurring mental health and developmental disabilities. This population will achieve better outcomes in a highly specialized setting tailored to their needs, said the officials.

## Psych Board Cancels Special Meeting

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists scheduled a special board meeting for March 13, 2023.

According to the agenda, the purpose of the meeting was to receive information from the LSSP committee following their committee meeting on March 9, 2023 and "consider any report and/or recommendations related to equivalency in credentialing standards of Certified School Psychologists versus Licensed Specialists in School Psychology.

The Board canceled the meeting before the meeting was to take place.



State & National News

Med Psychology Advisory Committee Discusses Rule, Legislative Changes

The Medical Psychology Advisory Committee held a Business Meeting, March 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., via Live Streaming Video and Teleconference during the public session.

Agenda items included: Nurse Practitioners; Changes to the Practice Act; and Notification of applicants (MP and MPAP) regarding the status of applications.

The members discussed the issue of nurse practitioners asking to consult with, or refer to, medical psychologists, especially in the rural areas. They discussed changing rules to clarify Nurse Practitioners' role when referring to Medical Psychologists.

Also mentioned was that legislative changes might be in order and that LAMP would have to initiate those. Members also discussed that nurse practitioners may be introducing legislation to remove the requirement for collaboration with the physicians.

Dr. Warren Lowe introduced and members discussed the topic of making changes to the Medical Psychology Practice Act. He noted that the Act has been in place for 14 years.

Housekeeping changes were discussed including not requiring out-of-state psychologists to go through the psychology board for a state psychology license.

Dr. Lowe also said, “We missed something glaring. As it stands now, anyone that’s licensed by LSBEP can become an MP. So if they’re license specialty is in I/O psychology or experimental psychology, they can apply to be an MP if they’ve never had a course in abnormal psychology in undergraduate psychology or never seen a patient or worked with a patient. We intended it to read 'with' a specialty in clinical or counseling psychology.”

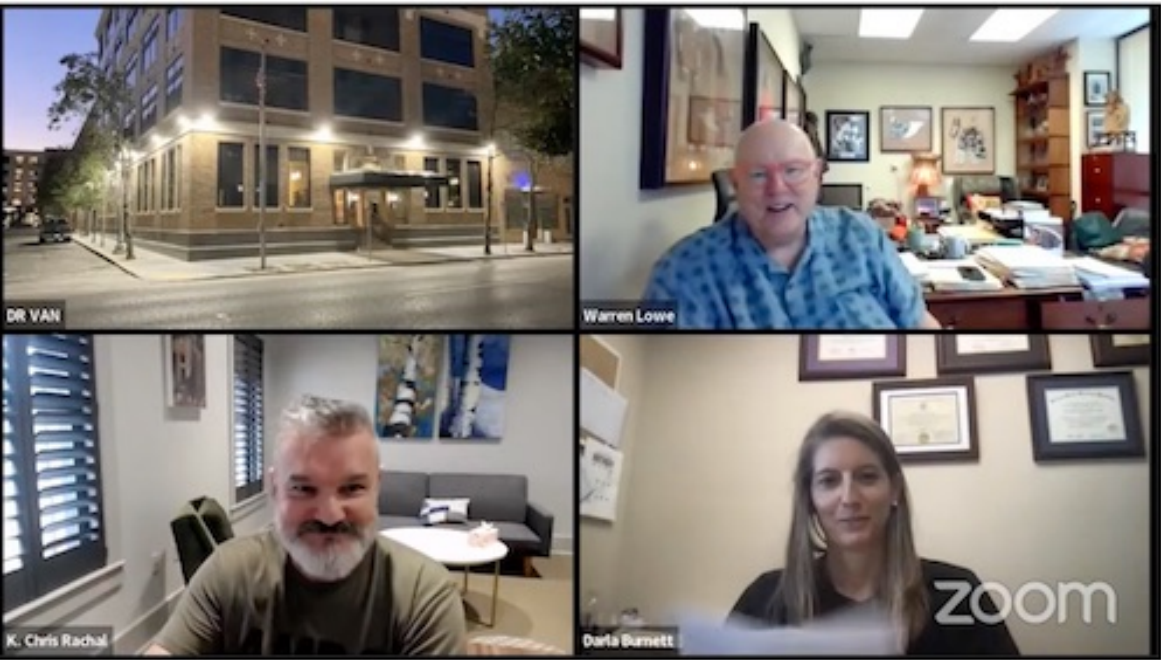
Members also discussed legislative roles and responsibilities of being in public service, issues with military MPs roles and the medical board’s jurisdiction, and delays in applications being approved.

The committee went into Executive Session and made two motions after the session.

The first one was to defer the applicants to a later date.

The second motion passed, put forth by Dr. Darla Burnett, was, “To carry a request to the full medical board asking for a rule change that eliminates the requirement that someone applying for an advanced practice as a medical psychologist must maintain concurrent licensure with both LSPEP & LSBME after they receive their MP license and it’s in good standing.”

That would be an emergency rule change, members agreed.



A screen shot of members of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the state Medical Board.

La Congresswoman Dr. Julia Letlow's "Parent Rights Bill" Advances

In a March 23 press release, Louisiana's U.S. Congresswoman Julia Letlow, Ph.D, announced that her Parents Bill of Rights Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives with a 213-208 vote. The bill now moves to the U.S. Senate where it will await further action.

“As a mom of two and a former educator, I believe for children to succeed, they need families and schools to work together as partners throughout the learning process,” Letlow said. “After spending nearly a year and a half working to pass this bill, I’m grateful that we’re finally able to advance this critical legislation.”

According to the legislative digest, the bill establishes various rights of parents and guardians regarding the elementary or secondary school education of their children. Local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools must comply with the requirements of the bill in order to receive federal education funds. Specifically, the bill requires schools to notify parents and guardians of their rights regarding the education of their children.

These rights include the right to:

- review the curriculum of their child's school;
- meet with each teacher of their child at least twice each school year;
- review the budget, including all revenues and expenditures, of their child's school;
- inspect the books and other reading materials in the library of their child's school;
- address the school board of the LEA;
- receive information about violent activity in their child's school; and
- know if their child is not grade-level proficient in reading or language arts at the end of 3rd grade.

Gov. Edwards' Statement on Deaths of Louisiana Natives in Nashville Mass Shooting

On March 28, Governor John Bel Edwards released a statement on the mass shooting at Covenant Presbyterian School in Nashville, Tennessee, which claimed the lives of three children and three adults, two of whom were native Louisianans according to media reports

"Donna and I ask the entire state of Louisiana to pray for the families of Cynthia Peak, Katherine Koonce, and all the victims of Monday's senseless, evil mass shooting in Nashville, Tennessee. When we send our loved ones off to school to learn or teach, we should never have to worry if they will make it home alive."

Gov. Makes Appointments

On March 24, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced his appointments to the following Louisiana boards and commissions. Included were:

Charles R. King, Ph.D. of Pineville was appointed to the Central Louisiana Human Services District. Dr. King is an addiction specialist at First Choice Addiction Center in Alexandria. He will serve as an advocate in the field of substance-related and addictive disorders.

Ms. Courtney E. Myers of Baton Rouge was appointed to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. Ms. Myers is an assistant secretary in the Office of Juvenile Justice in Baton Rouge.

Mr. Cody Roi of New Orleans was appointed to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. Mr. Roi is assistant professor of clinical psychiatry at LSU Healthcare Network in New Orleans. He will serve as designee of the president of Louisiana Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.



Legislative News

Measure to Revise Dyslexia Screening & Diagnosis Filed

HB 69 by Rep. Marino revises laws relative to screening for and diagnosis of dyslexia.

The present law, relative to dyslexia, provides the following:

- (1) Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to adopt a program for testing students for dyslexia and related disorders and requires school boards to provide remediation for dyslexic students in accordance with the program.
- (2) Requires every child in grades K-3 to be screened at least once for dyslexia.
- (3) Requires a student to be referred for dyslexia testing upon request of a parent, student, school nurse, classroom teacher, or other school personnel.
- (4) Provides for implementation of a pilot program relative to dyslexia screening.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides the following relative to dyslexia:

Present law defines "dyslexia" as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing, which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell. And it defines "phonological processing" as meaning the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken and written language. Proposed law retains present law.

The proposed law requires a dyslexia screener to be administered to each student by a classroom teacher in the second half of kindergarten or at any time it is requested by a teacher or a parent or guardian. It prohibits the screener from being a progress monitoring tool and requires that it be developed solely for dyslexia; be evidence-based with proven, published psychometric validity; and be used for the purpose of determining whether a student is at- risk for dyslexia.

The proposed law, relative to diagnosis, provides the following:

- (1) Provides that if screening results indicate that a student is at risk for dyslexia, the school, in order to determine whether he has dyslexia, shall determine through history, observation, and psychometric assessment if there are unexpected difficulties in reading and associated linguistic problems at the level of phonological processing that are unrelated to the student's intelligence, age, and grade level.

- (2) Provides that the core assessment for the diagnosis of dyslexia shall not be based on a single test score or specific number of characteristics and shall include the following:
  - (a) Tests of language, particularly phonemic assessment, real words and pseudowords, oral reading fluency, and intellectual ability.
  - (b) An academic performance review.
  - (c) A parental interview.

HB 175 to Prohibit Firearms in Mental Health Facilities

Representative Boyd filed HB 175 which will prohibit the carrying of firearms into hospitals, mental health facilities, or community health centers with exceptions for employees with concealed handgun permits and security officers.

Present law (R.S. 14:402.1) provides for the crime of taking contraband into hospitals, any intoxicating beverage, controlled dangerous substance, or firearm. The proposed law retains present law, but amends the firearm provision to prohibit the carrying of any firearm into a hospital as well as any mental health facility or community health center, regardless of whether the person is otherwise prohibited from possessing the firearm. Proposed law provides exceptions to the firearm prohibition.



Folita

Rep. Selders Seeks to Prohibit Death Penalty for Those Mentally Ill

Rep. Selders has filed a bill which prohibits the death penalty from being imposed upon any person with a severe mental illness, HB 328.

Present law prohibits the death penalty from being imposed upon any person with an intellectual disability and provides for definitions and procedures to be followed after a capital defendant claims to have a intellectual disability.

HB 328 amends present law to also prohibit the death penalty from being imposed upon any person with a severe mental illness. Further provides that the procedures to be followed for a capital defendant who claims to have an intellectual disability shall also be applied to a capital defendant who claims to have a severe mental illness.

The proposed law provides that a person has a severe mental illness if both of the following conditions are applicable:

- (1) Before a claim of severe mental illness is raised, the person has been diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions:
  - (a) Schizophrenia or any other psychotic disorder.
  - (b) Bipolar disorder.
  - (c) Major depressive disorder.
  - (d) Delusional disorder.
  - (e) Post-traumatic stress disorder.
  - (f) Traumatic brain injury.
- (2) At the time of the offense, the condition or conditions described in proposed law, despite not meeting the standard set forth in present law (R.S. 14:14) to establish a defense of insanity, significantly impaired the person's capacity to do any of the following:
  - (a) Appreciate the nature, consequences, or wrongfulness of his conduct.
  - (b) Exercise rational judgment in relation to his conduct.
  - (c) Conform his conduct to the requirements of the law.

## HB 181 to Modify Emergency Certificate Procedures

HB 181 by Rep. DeVillier will allow coroners, deputy coroners, and assistant coroners to execute an emergency certificate via actual examination or telemedicine examination and establishes provisions for such persons.

The present law provides that certain healthcare professionals, licensed or permitted in accordance with present law, may execute an emergency certificate only after an actual examination of a person, who is alleged to have a mental illness or be suffering from a substance-related or addictive disorder and, after the determination made by the healthcare professional, is considered to need immediate care and treatment in a treatment facility.

The present law also provides that the actual examination of the person may be conducted by a psychiatrist or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner via telemedicine, utilizing video conferencing technology.

HB 181 provides that the actual examination of the person may be conducted by any medical professional listed in proposed law, including coroners, deputy coroners, and assistant coroners, via telemedicine.

Present law provides that if the actual examination by the psychiatrist is conducted via telemedicine, the 72-hour independent examination by the coroner shall be conducted in person. HB 181 extends present law to allow deputy coroners or assistant coroners to conduct the 72-hour independent examination.

Present law provides that when the coroner or his deputy examines the person and executes an emergency certificate and a reexamination of the person and reexecution of a certificate is necessary to ensure the validity of the certificate, both the first examiner and the reexaminer shall be entitled to the fee for the service.

The proposed law extends present law to include instances when assistant coroners examine the person and execute an emergency certificate, and a reexamination of the person and reexecution of a certificate is necessary to ensure the validity of the certificate.

Present law provides that where the coroner or his deputy executes the first emergency certificate, the second emergency certificate shall not be executed by the coroner or his deputy. Proposed law extends present law to include instances when the assistant coroner executes the first emergency certificate.

## HB 348 by Rep. Jenkins Addresses Threats of Violence at Schools

HB 348 by Rep. Jenkins revises procedures for the reporting and investigation of threats of terrorism or violence at schools.

Present law requires each public school governing authority to adopt a policy for the investigation of threats of violence or terrorism. The present law requires school employees who learn of a threat of violence or threat of terrorism to immediately report the threat: (1) To a local law enforcement agency if the threat is credible and imminent. (2) To the school administrator if the threat does not meet that threshold.

HB 348 instead requires employees to report all threats to law enforcement and to the administrator (if the employee is not the administrator). Requires the administrator, immediately upon being informed of the threat, to inform persons who are targets of the threat and take all necessary measures to protect their life and safety.

The present law requires a law enforcement agency receiving a threat notification to begin an investigation not later than the first day that school is in session after the report is received. The proposed law instead requires law enforcement to begin the investigation immediately.

## Rep. Marcelle's Bill Aims to Support Student's Mental Health

HB 353 by Rep. Marcelle provides relative to student behavior, discipline, and behavioral and mental health. Elements of the bill include:

The present law provides for exemptions from compulsory school attendance, including when children are mentally, physically, or emotionally incapacitated to perform school duties as certified in writing.

The proposed law adds that a student may be absent for up to three days in any school year related to the student's mental or behavioral health, that such absences shall not require a certification in writing in order to be excused, that the child may make up missed school work, and that the child shall be referred to school support personnel following the second day of absence.

Present law requires instruction on mental health and lists the minimum information to be included. Proposed law adds the difference between mental and physical health and the management of stress and anxiety to the list.

## Rep. Firmment's HB 463 to Prohibit Sex Change Procedures on Minors, Filed

HB 463 by Firmment establishes the "Save Adolescents from Experimentation Act" in Louisiana and prohibits procedures that alter the gender of minors.

The proposed law states that the risks associated with the allowance of irreversible, permanently sterilizing genital gender reassignment surgery outweigh the scientific benefits.

The proposed law prohibits any physician or other medical healthcare professional from performing any gender transition procedures on any person under 18 years of age or referring any person under 18 years of age to any medical doctor for gender transition procedures. Proposed law excludes gender transition procedures for any person under 18 years of age from healthcare coverage reimbursement.

The proposed law provides that any provision of gender transition procedures to a person under 18 years of age shall be considered unprofessional conduct and shall be subject to discipline by the licensing entity with jurisdiction over the physician, mental health provider, or other medical healthcare professional.

## HB 466 Prohibits Certain Discussion, Instruction Regarding Sexual Identity

HB 466 by Rep. Horton provides relative to instruction on and discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity with certain public school students.

Proposed law prohibits a public school teacher, employee, or other presenter at a school from doing any of the following in grades kindergarten through 12:

- (1) Incorporating into classroom instruction or discussion topics of sexual orientation or gender identity in a manner that deviates from state content standards or curricula developed or approved by the public school governing authority.
- (2) Covering the topics of sexual orientation or gender identity during any extracurricular activity.
- (3) Discussing his personal sexual orientation or gender identity.

Proposed law provides that no public school employee shall:

- (1) Use a pronoun for a student that differs from the pronoun that aligns with the student's sex unless the student's parent provides written permission.
- (2) Be required to use a pronoun for any person that differs from the pronoun that aligns with that person's sex if doing so is contrary to the employee's religious or moral convictions.





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# Innovator and Program Designer, Dr. Susan Tucker, Returns to Shreveport, continued

by James Glass

decades. She has earned state and national recognition for these achievements, including from the Vera Institute of Justice. She was also commended by Louisiana legislators for her work and the related cost savings of \$15 million by earned "good time credits" through participation in the psychological programs designed by Tucker.

"I am so happy to announce I am the COO for Whole Health Treatment Center in Shreveport, Louisiana," said Dr. Tucker. "It is a part of Intensive Specialty Hospital. I am so thrilled about this IOP/OP program for offering offenders re-entering the community, substance use disorders, and dual diagnosis, and alternatives to prison programs."

North Louisiana Whole Health Treatment Center is committed to holistic care brings together an experienced multidisciplinary team to offer the most innovative and impactful treatment options possible.

Dr. Susan Tucker was the Assistant Warden at Forcht Wade Correctional Center-Clinical Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Keithville, Louisiana, near Shreveport. She also served as clinical psychologist and the Assistant Warden at the Bossier Parish Medium Security Facility.

She and her team used innovative approaches, modern communication technology, community coordination, and a keen awareness for doing what works, to improve lives, families, and community safety.

Having worked in Mississippi this past year, Dr. Tucker said, "I am extremely proud of Louisiana as I see them as successfully being on cutting edge of prison reform."

In late 2022, the Governor's office pointed to a Pew news report highlighting the positive impacts of criminal justice reforms have had on Louisiana. Reporting for PEW, Michelle Russell wrote, "The state's prison population has fallen 24%, driven entirely by a decline in people convicted of nonviolent offenses. Louisiana's reforms sought to steer people convicted of less serious crimes away from prison and shorten the time incarcerated for those who could be safely supervised in the community. In the summer of 2017, before the new laws took effect, there were about 35,500 people under the Louisiana Department of Corrections' jurisdiction held in prisons or local jails throughout the state. By the summer of 2022, that number had fallen nearly a quarter to about 27,000."

Dr. Tucker has focused on treatment and research innovations that reduce recidivism. Her work is based in the fact that most inmates have a substance abuse problem, and few get the right kind of treatment. Due to her continuous efforts to work with inmates and provide services, and overall reforms, Louisiana no longer holds the title as "Incarceration Capital of Nation."

The *Times* asked Dr. Tucker to tell us what her thoughts about the improvements.

"So, to a large degree," Dr. Tucker said, "I believe the Louisiana Justice Reform Package is a broad move in the right direction. The legislation is reducing prison populations in the state and developing community partnerships to reduce recidivism. It is a logical and effective way to address an all-time high incarceration rate that was costly and offered little benefit. This bi-partisan reform package has seen a reduction in property and violent crimes. The reform of sentencing laws was long overdue for 1st or 2nd time drug offenses with no violent or sex crimes. This allowed shorter sentences and early release of thousands of offenders," she said.

"The pandemic offered some additional challenges which slowed, if not impeded some of the progress of this reform movement," Dr. Tucker explained. "With the decrease in community Mental Health centers and outpatient substance abuse treatment subsequently in our communities due to the pandemic, community resources were limited and sometimes void. Probation and Parole offices had an increase in their caseloads of early releases and increase in probation cases as opposed to



Adobe

incarceration. With the pandemic, the supervision of the probation and parole cases and the lack of community resources created a lag in our initial goal of justice reform," Dr. Tucker explained.

"However," she said, "the legislation for reform is in place, new P/P officers are being hired to manage new community supervision cases and resources have increased in the communities. If, in fact, the pandemic has helped our goal, it is the increase in telehealth. We are now able to reach those offenders in rural areas and those low-income communities that often did not receive services."

"As so many agencies struggled through the pandemic," Dr. Tucker said, "so did Louisiana Department of Corrections. We are now seeing a 'return to our new normal'. We have 'regrouped' and are headed in the right direction again."

How does this relate to the programs that she initiated and promoted in Louisiana?

"As you might guess, it's hard to just walk away from the rehabilitation program I developed and ran for 23 years in LADOC. Rather than simply 'warehousing offenders' who will eventually be released into our communities," Dr. Tucker said. "We are focusing on offering intensive treatment, skill development, and educational opportunities, as well as post release support and care."

Dr. Tucker explained, "The philosophical approach to our treatment includes focusing on the thinking patterns, emotional reactions, and behavioral events that often lead to self-defeating patterns and eventually to criminal activity. We utilize psychological assessment instruments to illuminate areas of concern, including low cognitive ability, personality disorders or features, mood disorders, and thought disorders. We individualize a treatment program for that offender, and he works closely with his assigned counselor to meet the goals of that treatment plan."

Dr. Tucker said she is thrilled to be part of the reform here in Louisiana, as the COO for Whole Health Treatment Center in Shreveport, part of Intensive Specialty Hospital system.

"The continuum of care is as 'whole' as it can get," she said. "We can take a homeless person, male or female, directly off the street and treat them medically, physically, mentally, substance use, detox, and we can get them on Medicaid, Disability, or in Vocational Training through LRS."



# Innovator and Program Designer, Dr. Susan Tucker, Returns to Shreveport, continued

"We also provide transportation and housing! We treat substance use disorders with CBT, Risk Management, and Medication Assisted Treatment. This hospital has spared no expense in allowing us to develop a full continuum of care in a beautiful setting with professional counselors and an effective administrator," Dr. Tucker said.

"The Clinical Director is Karen Baird, a well-established clinician and administrator. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable director. The entire group is enthusiastic, creative, and on the cutting edge of effective treatment. I am proud to be affiliated with such a treatment-oriented agency."

What are her current major goals and programs?

"My goal for the rest of my public service life will focus on pre-trial alternative programs and re-entry programs exactly like what Whole Health Treatment center is doing," she said. "It is imperative to continue to help the justice reform movement of removing the punitive aspect of incarceration and offer solutions for change in the pursuit of justice.

"There is a need for the implementation of fitness for duty assessments for correctional officers and police officers. To ensure the capability of new hires is reflective of a solid officer with the ability to stay calm and manage a difficult situation successfully with the least amount of force," Dr. Tucker said.

"In addition, reaching mentally ill and substance users in rural areas is an important piece of this where minimal to no treatment access is available," she said. "Obviously, more resources are needed in our schools for training on mental health, violence, and

substance use disorders. The increase in the Seriously Mental Ill in prisons and jails is a direct reflection of our lack of community access to appropriate care."

From her perspective, in terms of public health, what are the most important things that psychologists should be aware?

"Much work is needed from psychologists regarding how the mentally ill are managed with regard to the criminal justice system. We need more training of police/correctional staff about how to engage with mentally ill on the streets or while in custody."

In 2015, Harvard honored Dr. Tucker's Work the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University named Dr. Tucker and her treatment programs as one of this year's recipients of the prestigious Bright Ideas awards for innovation. In the article, Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program at the Ash Center said, "The Bright Ideas program demonstrates that often seemingly intractable problems can be creatively and capably tackled by small groups of dedicated, civic-minded individuals."

Dr. Tucker's programs have earned state and national recognition for results. The group received The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment grant for eight years. In 2010 they were awarded the governor's grant for prevention. Also, in 2010 the Vera Institute of Justice, an organization dedicated to improving justice systems through research and innovation, noted that Forcht Wade Correctional Center's family program, should be a model for the nation.



*Laura Brooks (L) and Dr. Susan Tucker waiting to begin the graduation ceremony at the Bossier Sherriff's Office facility in 2013.*

*Dr. Tucker's programs have earned state and national recognition for results. In 2010 the Vera Institute of Justice, an organization dedicated to improving justice systems through research and innovation, noted that Forcht Wade Correctional Center's family program, should be a model for the nation.*

*Photo by Britney Waters*



Psychological Scientists Attend International Event, cont'd

Hung-Chu Lin from University of Louisiana Lafayette, presented "Temporal Relations of Perception and Emotions in Response to Infant Crying: Observations Nested within Subjects."

From the abstract: Using a digitally edited 4-minute-long cry bout of a 4-week-old male infant as the stimulus, this study described within-subject sequential relations of cry perception, empathic concern, and personal distress across time. The findings underscore mutual influences and shed light on the dynamic and complex nature of responding to infant crying.

Julia D. Buckner, Caroline Scherzer and Paige Morris, all from Louisiana State University, along with Andrew H. Rogers and Michael J Zvolensky from University of Houston, presented "Sex Differences in Opioid Misuse Among Adults with Chronic Lower Back Pain: The Impact of Negative Affect and Opioid-Use Motives. The abstract noted: Among 207 adults with chronic lower back pain who use opioids, men endorsed more anxiety, depression, opioid misuse, and enhancement, coping, and social motives than women. Men endorsed more severe opioid misuse via the serial effects of anxiety and these motives and depression and coping (not enhancement, social) motives.

Faith Stoneking and Julia D. Buckner from Louisiana State University presented, "Social Anxiety and Cannabis Use: The

Impact of Body Dissatisfaction." The abstract noted: Among 252 adults reporting current cannabis use, social anxiety was significantly correlated with more cannabis problems and body dissatisfaction. The relationship between social anxiety and cannabis problems was moderated by body dissatisfaction such that social anxiety was only related to more cannabis problems at higher levels among men and women.

Hillary Colleen Sinclair, Jonathan Yevuyibor, Shriya Thakkar, Kristina Little and Andrew Burns, all from Louisiana State University, presented, " 'That's Just the Way It Is:' Understanding Obstacles and Facilitators in Interventions to Reduce Underage Drinking in Louisiana." From the abstract: We conducted 5 focus groups with Louisiana Coalitions overseeing underage drinking interventions. Coalitions identified enduring cultural factors as their primary obstacle to effectively reducing underage drinking. Conversely, intervention team diversity was credited for intervention successes. COVID was a challenge but also an opportunity to enhance group resilience and innovation.

Colleen Sinclair from Louisiana State University and Sydney Wicks from University of Mississippi presented "Refining the Enemy Impact Inventory Scale: Integrating Ostracism Detection Theory to Better Understand the Impact of Enemy Relationships." Their abstract noted: Research has examined the influence of friendships on well-being. Less

is known about the impact of enemyships. The present study focused on integrating Ostracism Detection Theory in the development of the Enemy Impact Inventory- Revised and establishing the reliability and validity of the scale.

The Times talked with Dr. Hung-Chu Lin about attending the event. She is Professor, Department of Psychology and Chair, the Institutional Review Board, SLEMCO/LEQSF Regents Endowed Professor in Liberal Arts, at University of Louisiana Lafayette.

"It was an amazing experience," Dr. Lin said. "Meeting and interacting with European scholars was incredibly enriching and left me feeling inspired and energized. As always, attending an international conference like this one offers the opportunity to network with international scholars and the chance to learn from different cultural and societal contexts that enrich and broaden my research perspectives."

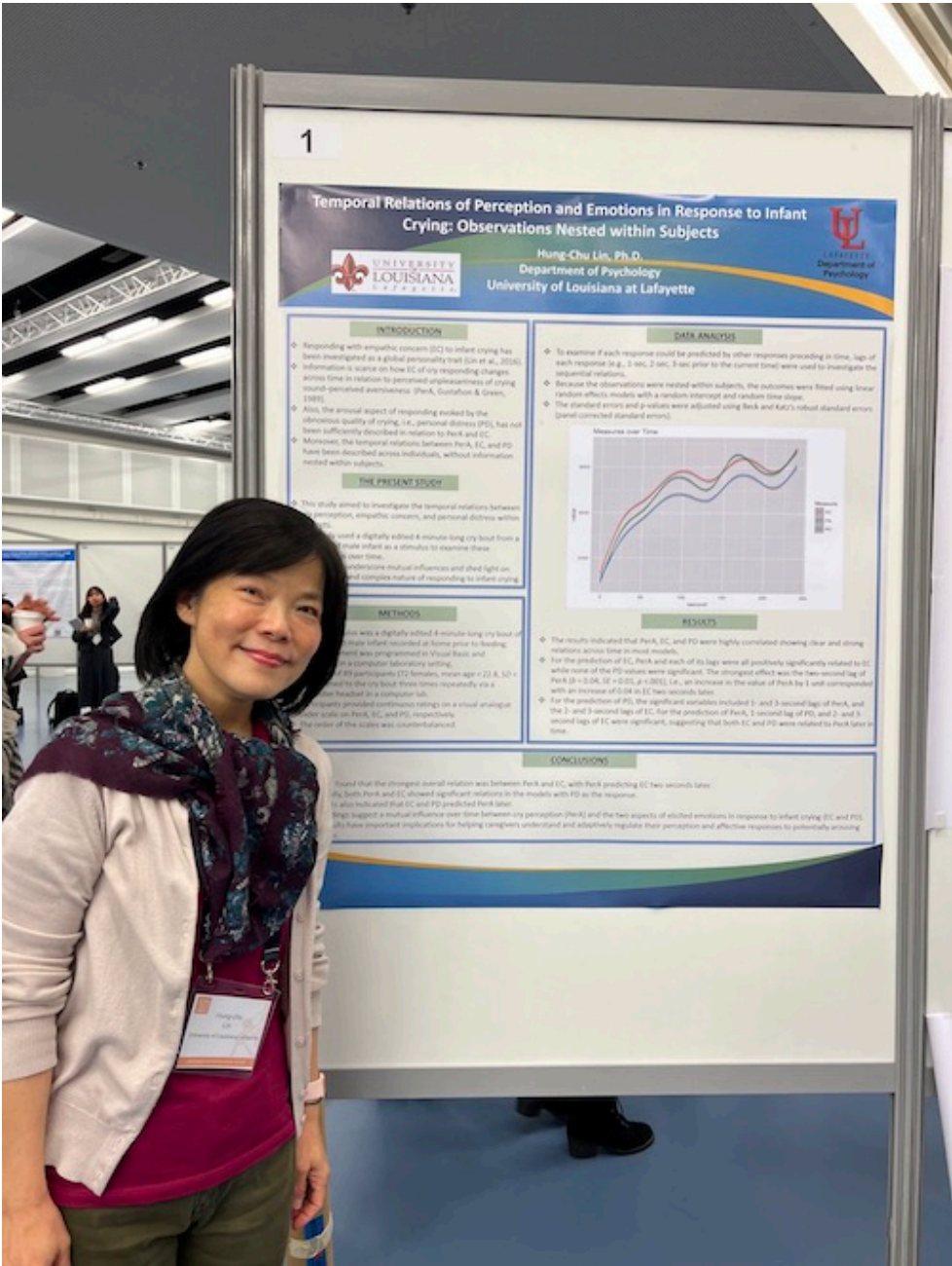
Was there anything else she enjoyed about the trip? "I got to visit the museum of one of my favorite artists, the Gelgian painter and sculptor, Rene Magritte," she said. □

Dr. Lin's research focuses on the developmental processes of communication, social cognition, and emotional competence. She leads the Developmental Science Laboratory, which concludes a team of passionate graduate and undergraduate students who explore a broad range of topics. Her current research projects investigate the effects of COVID-19 on mental health in college students, factors affecting parenting stress and self-efficacy, dispositional empathy in criminal justice-involved populations, well-being in direct support professionals caring for individuals with developmental disabilities, the long-term consequences of adverse childhood experiences, and utilizing virtual reality to create psychological stimuli and provide educational experiences in health professions.

Dr. Lin holds a research appointment in the Department of Pediatric Newborn Medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. In addition, she serves as Chair of the Institutional Review Board at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, recognizing her leadership and commitment to ethical research practices.

Left: Dr. Hung–Chu Lin at the International Convention for Psychological Science.

(Courtesy photo)







The Psychology Times'  
BOOKSHELF  
Who's Writing What?

*Searching for Trust in the Global Economy*

*Jeanne Brett and Tyree Mitchell*

Dr. Tyree Mitchell, Assistant Professor at the School of Leadership and Human Resource Development at Louisiana State University, has created a fascinating yet practical book about trust and global relationships. In *Searching for Trust in the Global Economy*, Mitchell and coauthor Dr. Jeanne Brett, Dewitt W. Buchanan Distinguished Professor of Dispute Resolution and Organizations, Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, tackle the fundamental issue of doing business worldwide. They answer the question of just how new business owners develop the trust necessary to be productive and creative with associates on the other side of the world.

The authors deal with the connections between trust and cooperation, and how information is shared in a context of competition. They affirm that people around the world understand the importance of trust, but that there are significant and major differences between cultures in how trust is developed. Delving into these differences constitutes the majority of *Searching for Trust in the Global Economy*.

The two authors interviewed managers from across four regions of the world. This included East Asia, the Middle East/South Asia, Latin America, and the West. They focused on new business developers' views about actions and standards that managers use when searching and developing trust with collaborators across the globe.

Along with the book, Mitchell and Brett first published a scholarly article about their initial research in the *International Journal of Conflict Management*. They also published a practitioner article in the *Harvard Business Review*, "How to Build Strong Business Relationships — Remotely," in May 2022.

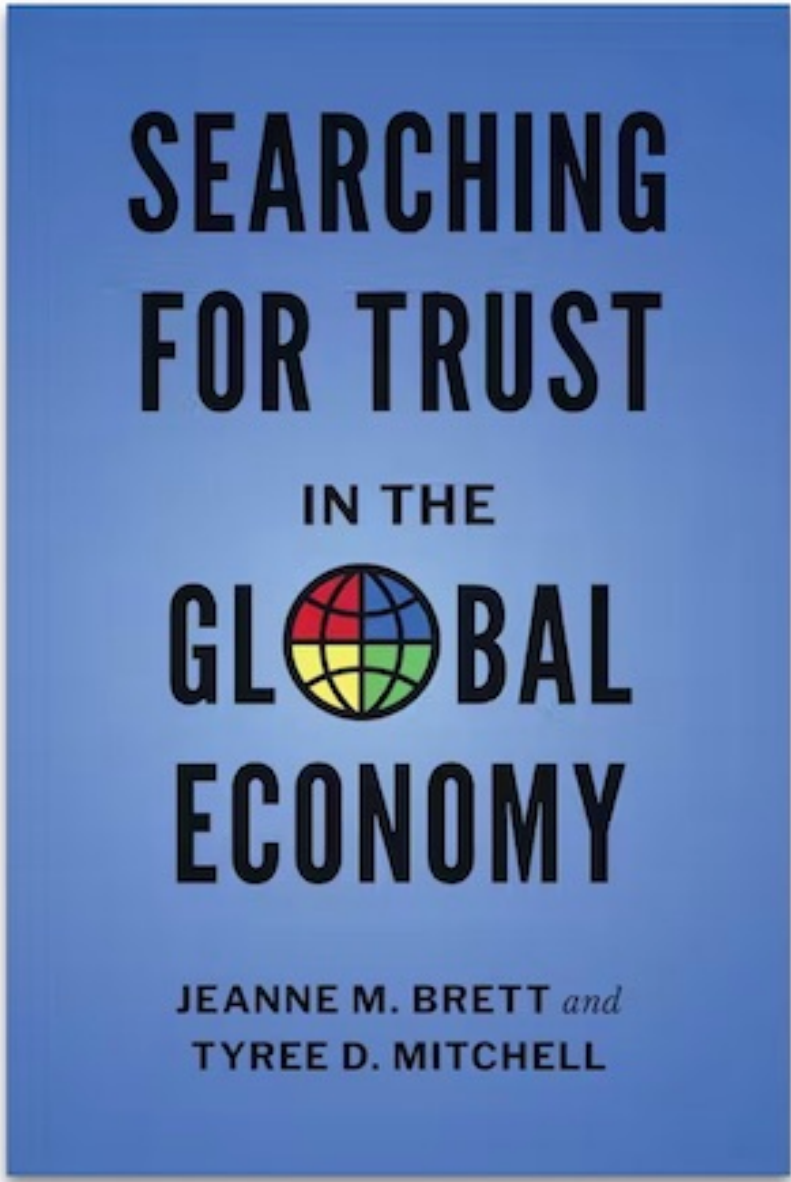
The authors built on the literature about trust but also included the cultural differences that have to do with a particular characteristic of cultures—the looseness and tightness variable.

While exploring the differences and similarities between people in the different regions of the world, the authors found that there is an important similarity—person-to-person interaction is, for all people, central in the decision for an individual to trust another.

In *Searching for Trust in the Global Economy* the authors lay out the key actions that they viewed emerged when individuals decide who and what to trust. These key actions are due diligence, brokering, testing, and goodwill building.

The authors define due diligence as searching for information that has to do with the person's reputation. Brokering is defined as seeking assurance of the partner's trustworthiness by way of a third-party.

The authors explain testing as getting a potential partner to act or react to a question or statement, and this then generates firsthand information and experience so that the individual can evaluate trustworthiness.



The last action is goodwill building. This is interacting and getting to know the partner, and it can range from a few minutes of small talk to extended time spent together.

*Searching for Trust* also covers what the authors call "CORR" standards for deciding to trust. These standards are competence, openness, respect, and rapport.

The competent standard includes the partner's expertise and track record for getting things done and the quality of the work. Openness is how honest and willing to share information the new partner appears. Respect is defined as the ability to show regard despite differences and honor those differences that may arise. Rapport, the final standard, is defined as "felt affinity and shared values."

The authors explain that the trust can be understood from the perspective of differences between tight and loose cultures.

Tight cultures have many social norms that people are supposed to follow and there are clear expectations about how individuals are to act. Loose cultures provide a higher degree of freedom and allow the individual to behave in ways that may not fit norms. Loose cultures are more accepting and tolerant than tight cultures which are more disapproving when people do not comply with norms.

Brett and Mitchell map trust on this matrix of characteristics, pointing to the World Values Survey trust data. They explain that the West scores at about +.8 on trust along with East Asia which scores at about +.7.

In contrast, Latin America scores in the low range at about −.8 and the Middle East/South Asia scores at about −.6 on trust.

These characteristics give the framework for the rest of the book and for providing the reader with recommendations on how to deal with business relationships.

The authors begin with Middle East/South Asia and title the chapter "Respect rules." The area is low trust, heterogeneous, and with a tight culture. They note that due diligence and brokering are key early actions in this area. Goodwill building is a necessary element of establishing personal relationship along with hospitality and respect, the authors explain.



# The Psychology Times' BOOKSHELF

Who's Writing What?

In Chapter 4 the authors have gathered information on Latin America where rapport is a requirement. They recommend to build rapport by accessing shared values, and the authors point out that the culture is low trust and culturally loose.

For the high trust culture of East Asia, the authors note that the dominant core characteristic for trust building is competence. They recommend the first step to be brokering.

For the West, which is loose with high trust, the key is to be open to sharing information, explain the authors.

How did Dr. Mitchell originally come up with the idea about trust that led to his project on the topic?

"There were several reasons why I wanted to write *Searching for Trust in the Global Economy*," he said. "When I was a visiting scholar at Northwestern University before I came to LSU, my colleague and friend, Jeanne Brett, and I were interviewing managers from all around the world about how they search for trustworthy business partners and what ultimately influences their decisions to trust potential business partners," said Dr. Mitchell. "We ended up interviewing 82 managers from 33 different countries. After presenting our work at a major international conference, publishing a peer-reviewed journal article on the topic, and publishing a paper in *Harvard Business Review* about our work, we still had so much to share about what we learned about searching for trust around the world," he said.

"The topic is important, as business relationships characterized by trust are important for global economic development," said Dr. Mitchell. "The topic is also unique, as there are books on cultural etiquette, books on culture with maybe a chapter on trust, and entire books on trust written primarily from a Western perspective. We captured such valuable insights from international perspectives that we felt could help people all around the world build strong business relationships characterized by trust."

In Dr. Mitchell's opinion, what are the most important takeaways from his research/book?

"When you look at most of the research and theory on trust, a fair amount of it approaches trust from a Western perspective, which is somewhat problematic when you want to understand trust in different parts of the world. Research from the World Values Survey shows that trust is relatively high in the West in comparison to Latin America and the Middle East/South Asia," said Dr. Mitchell. "So, when you ask Americans if most people can be trusted, the answer is more often yes than no, relatively speaking. We found fascinating differences when we asked managers about the ways they searched for information to make the trust decision and the criteria they were using for decisions.

"Trust is the foundation for strong working relationships, but the way people from different cultures search for and decide to trust varies," said Dr. Mitchell. "*Searching for Trust in the Global Economy* describes these cultural differences from the perspective of 82 managers from 33 different countries in four regions of the world."

Scholars, practitioners, and organizations have praised the book for its accessibility and nuanced approach to a commonly discussed topic, said Dr. Mitchell.

For example, Michele Gelfand, Professor of Organizational Behavior, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and Professor of Psychology by Courtesy, at Stanford University, an innovative research in the area of loose–tight phenomena praised the effort.



Dr. Tyree Mitchell. (Photo courtesy of LSU.)

"*Searching for Trust in the Global Economy* is a must-read for anyone who is trying to build trust across cultural boundaries," she said. "Written by the foremost authorities on the topic, this book provides a comprehensive analysis of not only the key ways people around the world differ in their decision to trust, but why these differences have evolved in the first place. Filled with surprising insights that are based in the best science, along with practical advice on how to build new relationships across cultures, this book will forever change the way you view the world and make you more culturally intelligent."

Zhi-Xue Zhang, Director, Institute of Social Science Survey, and Professor, Guanghua School of Management, Peking University, said, "Based on solid literature and insights from recent interviews with managers across four regions of the world, Jeanne and Tyree provide extremely useful information about the CORR standards for deciding to trust – competence, openness, respect, and rapport. The book is timely in that it offers managers practical tools and tips for building trust, which is the scarce currency of both business and human life in the contemporary world."

And Elizabeth McCune, Director of Employee Listening, at Microsoft, said, "This book lays out an insightful cultural framework that provides a practical approach to unpacking the complexity of building trust across cultures. As a scientist-practitioner specializing in survey methodology, I'm eager to apply this framework toward creating trust with employees across the globe such that they feel safe and empowered to share their much-needed voices."

Dr. Tyree Mitchell completed his predoctoral fellowship at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and received his PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from DePaul University. His research focuses on group processes and intergroup relations in organizations, specifically within leadership, team, and negotiation contexts. His research has been funded by major funding agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, and has been published in high-impact peer-reviewed journals (e.g., *Journal of Applied Psychology*) and featured in popular press outlets (e.g., *Forbes*, *Harvard Business Review*).

What have been the most enjoyable parts of publishing the book?

"The rich interviews with insightful managers from all over the world and writing about those interviews with a dear friend and colleague," said Dr. Mitchell.



## ***Early Life Stress Can Affect Brain Development and Mental Health***

Early Life Stress (ELS) is defined as the exposure to a single or to multiple events during childhood that exceed the child's coping mechanisms and leads to extended periods of stress, such that the child's innate ability to recover from the body's response to the stress is overwhelmed. Childhood stressors include abuses of all kinds, neglect, hunger, witnessing violence and other household dysfunction. Unfortunately, poverty, parent divorce, illness, death, and substance abuse are counted as ELS and so many children are subjected to those. A clear estimate of how many children experience ELS has been hard to gather. One study in 2007 estimated that 3.5 million or 22.5% of all children in this country came to the attention of child protection services. And we all know how low the true rate of disclosure is.

ELS is a devastating fact of life and one that can have long-term consequences. Little has been done to fashion early intervention programs that can be helpful in preventing and treating ELS. One of the most helpful ways to begin to develop such treatments is to more fully understand what Early Life Stress can do to children as they grow into adults.

Cognitive or brain-related consequence of such stress need to be better known. One report indicated that nearly 32 percent of adult psychiatric disorders are due to Early Life Stress. Various forms of early adversity account for about 67 percent of risk for suicide. Exposure to multiple episodes of ESs can significantly increase the risk of mental illness and disease. Sexual abuse between the ages of 9 and 14 has been linked to smaller hippocampal volumes and prefrontal cortex dysfunction.

Since the early 1990s, a large body of work has focused on the impact of chronic stress in pregnant women on the developing child's brain. A strong relationship has been identified showing that chronic stress during pregnancy can lead to an inability for the child and later adult to cope with even normal stressors. Many children come into the world at risk of learning disabilities, attention problems and high levels of anxiety because their mothers were super-stressed



Adobe

during pregnancy and did not recognize how their stress levels might change the way their baby's brain developed. Exactly how chronic stress during pregnancy affects cognitive functioning and emotional well-being in the developing child through specific neurobiological pathways is still poorly understood.

However, the importance of the connection between ELS and chronic stress in pregnant women and the subsequent impact on their children in the form of a life-long impact on their intelligence, memory, executive function, and emotional IQ needs to be broadly disseminated in the hope of future prevention through education.



*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.*



# A Shrink at the Flicks

## *A Man Called Ove/Otto* A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

In 2012, The Swedish author Fredrik Backman published a novel, *A Man Called Ove*. His book was on the *The New York Times* best seller list for almost a year. A film version appeared in 2015 that won multiple awards and is reportedly the most frequently viewed Swedish film. Unsurprisingly, 2023 saw the appearance of an American version, *A Man Called Otto*.

Because the protagonist is a quintessentially cranky old man, what may be surprising is that the American film stars Tom Hanks, who in both his public persona and in most of his starring roles appears as almost quintessentially likeable. That paradox tempted me into binge viewing both *Ove* and *Otto*. I wanted to see how Hanks handled the challenge and how the American version of the film might differ from its predecessor. So, I shall focus on the differences and similarities of the two films. Both are available on Amazon Prime, the latter is also playing at theatres.

The basic plot is the same. A long-time employee is forced into retirement and finds himself diminished in his central role in his residential community. He is recently widowed. If Freud is right about the central role of work and love in mental health, *Otto/Ove* has experienced massive blows. It may well be that one of the reasons for the popular appeal of the story inheres in its capturing the painful injustice of ageism in modern society. In neither film, however, is the protagonist portrayed in a way designed to elicit the classic tragic reactions of pity and fear. They are almost stock comic characters: the cranky old man hollering for the kids to get off his lawn.

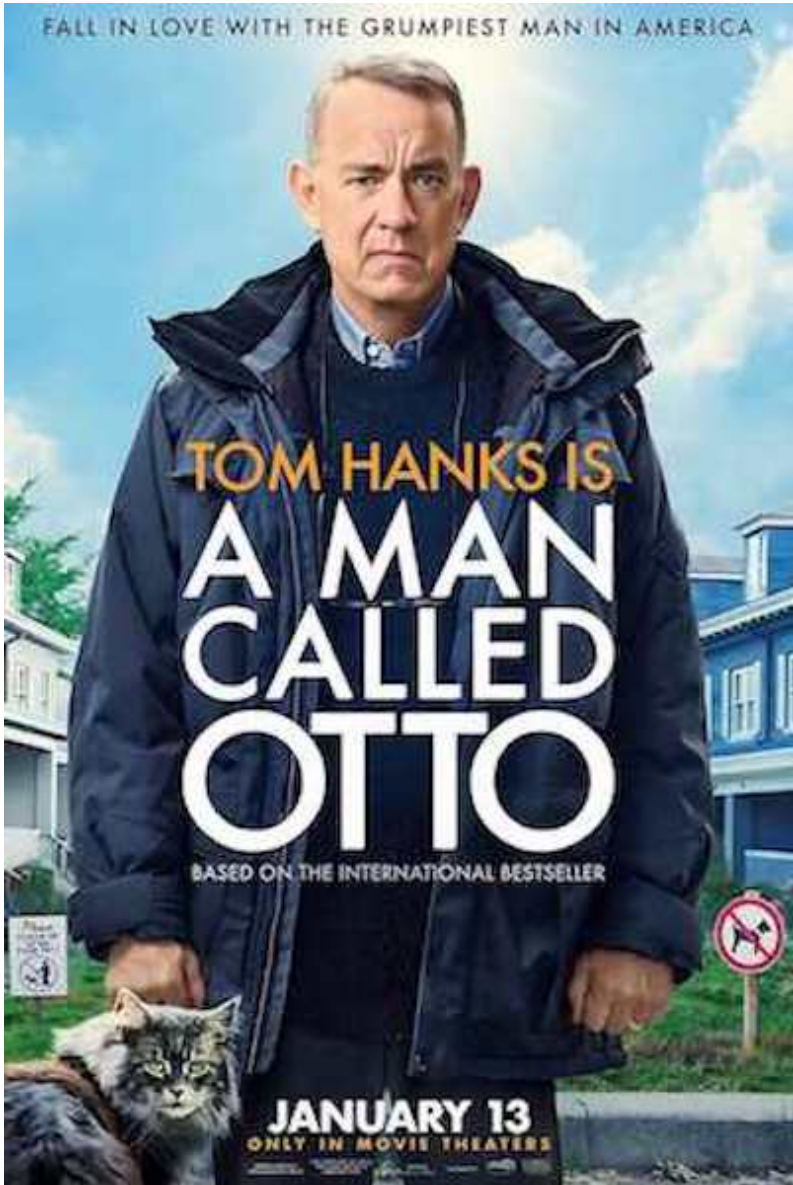
Guest Columnist,  
Dr. Alvin Burstein

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



But there are important differences between *Ove* and *Otto*. Both movies open with the protagonist making a purchase. But *Otto* is purchasing five feet of rope that he intends to use in his suicide, *Ove* is purchasing a bouquet that he intends to take to his wife's grave on his customary visit. Both get into a dispute with the cashier. *Otto* because the rope is sold by the yard and he doesn't want to pay for six feet when he needs only five. *Ove* has picked out bouquets with a "two for..." price and he doesn't want two,

As both scenes unfold, *Otto's* grumpiness has a clearly angry edge, while *Ove's* objections seem more morally or logically grounded. He takes both bouquets to the cemetery.

This difference is amplified in another variation. Both movies make heavy use of flashbacks to flesh out the protagonists' history and character. *Ove's* begin in childhood and portray the early loss of his mother and father. *Otto's* begin in young adulthood, with his being rejected for military service. I think overall, one feels more sympathy for *Ove*.

While *Otto* is not a carbon copy of *Ove*, their stories are alike in the extraordinary, almost Chaplinesque combination of comedy and pathos. We find ourselves laughing at them, while our hearts ache at the blows they suffer. If you want my advice about which one to watch, I would say *A Man Called Otto*, if only because in the flashbacks young adult *Otto* is portrayed by Hanks' son, Truman. You don't want to miss the opportunity to wonder at and about that.



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



LPC board at March meeting in Baton Rouge. (L to R clockwise) Mark Reynaud, Raelene McCarthy (staff member), Penny Millhollon (partly visible), Mary Alice Olsan, Kathy Lammert, Dr. Ernie Cowger, Dr. Laura Chote, Dr. David Legendre, and Dr. Kathy Steele. The board voted to rescind a previous motion to merge with the Behavior Analysts.

## LSBEP to Form Task Force For School Psych Specialist

At the Long-Range meeting, Dr. Welsh spoke about several issues. “Access to these school psychology services is an issue,” he said, noting to the board members that access in schools across the state and especially in the charter schools is of concern to many.

He explained that there is a regression to the “old model” where people may come in and do testing without a broader understanding of the theory and practice of psychology, and that there was a need for correction in this trend.

## Salcedos Work to Rescue Sex-Trafficked Children

Dr. Rafael Salcedo said, “The impact of human sex-trafficking on the adolescent’s emotional development is catastrophic.” He explained that he had once viewed this as delinquency. But, “I came to realize that no rational adolescent girl would ever choose a life of being sexually traumatized. I began to see that this was a form of modern-day slavery,” he said. Child sex trafficking is a subset of human trafficking, considered to be the second fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Drug trafficking is first.

## Dr. Palmer Heads Up Psychology at ULM

Dr. Jack Palmer began serving as the chair of the psychology program at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) during the summer of 2012. One of his goals as chair has been to increase the scope of the ULM psychology graduate program. Toward that end, he promoted the development of a fully online curriculum for the master’s degree in psychology, which recently received state approval.

*Round and round she goes*

## LPC Board Rescinds Offer; LPA Nixes LSBEP Plan; Sen. Morrell Moves Forward with BA Bd

A decision to place behavior analysts (BAs) with the state board for licensed professional counselors, thrashed out over six months of meetings in the BA Study Commission, was abandoned sometime in late February after negotiations reached an impasse. Representatives of the Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association held firm on an issue regarding the national certification, and the LPC board held to their need for “equivalent” language to allow them flexibility in certain situations.

This impasse necessitated that a fallback option to be worked out by Senator J. P. Morrell’s office and wife Catherine Morrell, who served as Vice Chair for the Commission. The fallback option was to merge the BAs with the psychology board, an option that had been put forth by the LSBEP (Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists) during rapid and heated negotiations in November 2012.

*Legislative Session Begins*

## 901 Bills Filed Friday

The legislative session begins next Monday and according to the Louisiana News Bureau state lawmakers filed 901 bills by Friday’s deadline. Bills of interest to the community include Senate Bill 134 to establish a new board for behavior analysts.

## Dr. Kim VanGeffen Folk Art

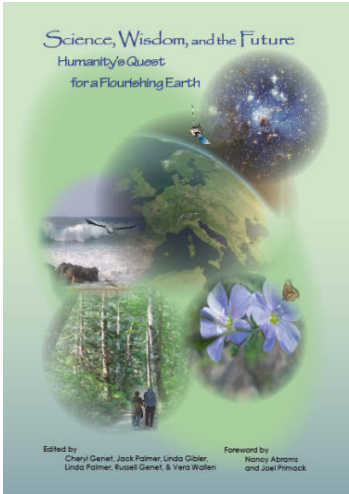


The *Times* caught up with Dr. Kim VanGeffen at one of the board meetings and she happened to have handy some of her current work. Kim has greatly enjoyed making quilts and has followed the time honored tradition of quilters world wide; creating works of folk art that embrace meaning, memories and the traditions of one’s family or group, and that last through generations.

Kim’s hobby not only provides her an outlet for creativity and a little precious solitude, but works well for putting the concerns of a busy, dedicated psychologist away for some well-deserved leisure time.

## Tulane’s Dr. Nastasi Awarded LSPA Lifetime Achievement

Dr. Bonnie Nastasi, Full Professor in the school psychology program at Tulane University, received the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana School Psychological Association, awarded at the annual conference last fall. The award highlights distinguished service and dedication to the school psychologists in Louisiana.



## Science, Wisdom, and the Future

### Humanity’s Quest for a Flourishing Earth

*Edited by Cheryl Genet, Jack Palmer, Linda Gibler, Linda Palmer, Russell Genet, & Vera Wallen*

*Science, Wisdom, and the Future: Humanity’s Quest for a Flourishing Earth* is a collection of essays emerging from participants at a 2009 conference in California, organized by the Collins Educational Foundation. Collins’ mission is to provide leadership in “humanity’s efforts to live sustainably on Earth.”

The essays take the reader on a journey through the practical, scientific, and philosophical perspectives, as the authors lay out their ideas in an interdisciplinary frame. The important and sometimes a little frightening message is: human beings keep outpacing their own level of wisdom in the burgeoning technologies they create and because of this the survival of all living things on our planet is in doubt.

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