

BA Bill Passes

Mental Health Courts, HB 281 Pass
Criminalization Bill Stalls

Legislative Session Ends June 6

Senator J. P. Morrell's SB 134 to establish an independent board for Behavior Analysts completed its journey through the Senate and passed the House on May 28, headed for the Governor.

The bill provides for the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board within the Department of Health and Hospitals and authorizes enforcement of the requirement for licensure, state certification,

and registration, beginning December 31, 2013. The law also sets out the procedures and standards for the licensing of Behavior Analysts, certification Assistant Behavior Analysts, and registration of line technicians. Fees are \$400 for license, \$250 for certification, and \$50 for registration.

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Senator J.P. Morrell speaking at the recent psychology convention. Senator Morrell and wife Catherine took an active role in the legislation for regulation of behavior analysts.

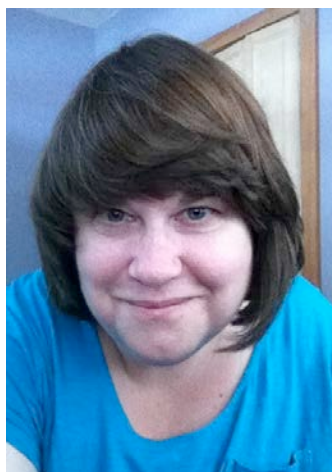
Tulane's Dr. Ruscher Chairs Another Hit Convention for APS

For the third time, Tulane's Dr. Janet Ruscher has pulled off a major success as the Committee Chair of the Association for Psychological Science Convention, that just wrapped up last month in Washington, D.C.

"The conference was a terrific success," she told the *Times*, "—great energy, record attendance, excellent balance across the programs."

She might be getting good at this. Dr. Ruscher also chaired the convention for the growing organization in 2003 and 2004.

"When I first chaired the convention committee in 2002 for the 2003 convention, I had limited administrative experience," she said. "Since then I've served nine years as Department Chair and now am wrapping up my first year as an Associate Dean.



Dr. Janet Ruscher
(Courtesy photo)

"What I know *now* that I didn't know *then* is the wonderful fortune of good support staff," she noted. "APS has an amazing team. Good staff are almost invisible, so one risks taking them for granted. Don't take them for granted."

This year's APS convention drew a host of researchers from around Louisiana. Undergraduates, graduate students,

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Chafetz Presents For Social Security Inspector General

New Orleans clinical neuropsychologist, Dr. Michael Chafetz, presented his research to members of the Inspector General's Office of the Social Security Administration (SSA) on April 30, 2013. The event was hosted by the On-Line Academy of the Louisiana Psychological Association as a free presentation in the public interest.

Dr. Chafetz's research was cited in a letter by Senator Thomas Coburn of Oklahoma, sent to the SSA this past March. Coburn is the U.S. Senator known for confronting government waste and inefficiency. In the March letter, he challenged the Social Security Administration's anti-scientific approach to detecting faking in its disability claims. Coburn said that the potential for waste could reach \$68 billion.

The policy of the SSA is that psychometric tests to understand faking or malingering are not approved for use by its consulting psychologists.

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Dr. Tramontana Named LPA 2013 Distinguished Psychologist



Dr. Joseph Tramontana
(Courtesy photo)

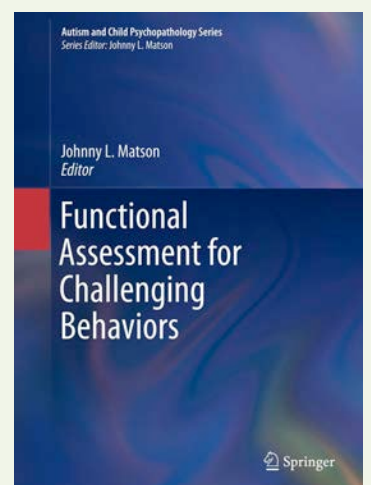
The Louisiana Psychological Association has named Dr. Joseph Tramontana as its 2013 Distinguished Psychologist. The award was announced at the annual convention on May 30 in Baton Rouge.

Originally from New Orleans, Dr. Joseph Tramontana received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Mississippi. He completed his clinical internship

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Editorial Page

Oh, Posterity

"Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present Generation to preserve your Freedom! I hope you will make good use of it. If you do not, I shall repent in Heaven, that I ever took half the Pains to preserve it."

— John Adams

Why should we in the psychology and the behavioral sciences be following the three Washington scandals?

Sitting in the perpetual traffic jam in Baton Rouge recently, I switched to 1150 AM because NPR became boring. I caught the tail-end of Sean Hannity talking about the three scandals: Department of Justice going after Associated Press journalists and the Fox News White House correspondent James Rosen; the State Department's handling of Benghazi; and the IRS targeting Tea Party groups.

If you've been following these, you know that they are all related to the First Amendment.

Hannity's style is clearly an extroverted, sensing, thinking, judging type. Because of this, he goes on and on and on, beating an issue into a bloody pulp. He's a moral conservative and so unpleasant to most (an estimated 96 percent) in our community. But I resonate (i.e., I get to hear things I already believe in) when he waves the Constitution in everyone's face, which was in high gear on this particular afternoon.

A woman called in, announcing herself as a liberal. She stated her criticisms of Hannity and his views. She was well-spoken and seemed educated. She and Hannity spent a little time in the back and forth thing, then he asked her,

"Answer one question for me. Does the IRS targeting conservative groups bother you?"

"No, not at all," she said.

Her answer stunned me. Hannity handled it with his usual sensitivity and finesse—he hung up on her.

Not everyone is following these issues closely: 37 percent of Republicans, 25 percent of Independents, and 21 percent of Democrats are following the IRS scandal, according to Pew Research. Pew found that opinions about the controversy are "highly partisan." Sixty-nine percent of Republicans think the administration was involved in the IRS actions, while only 21 percent of Democrats agree.

When Hannity's lady caller said that the IRS targeting of conservatives did not bother her at all, I had a flashback to dinner table talks with my journalist father and mother. I don't know exactly how my father came to his beliefs but he agreed with John Kennedy when Kennedy said, "The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened."

In that time, the 1960s, rights, especially for journalists, had nothing to do with entitlement or government charity, but simply freedom of information, the First Amendment.

Those of us in psychology and behavioral science know that the caller was making a fast-think, in-group/out-group judgment. And she was wrong.

The IRS targeting anyone for their beliefs should chill us to our bones, especially those of us in psychological science. We understand group dynamics, the errors of human decision-making, the absolute necessity for open and unencumbered flow of information. We also know that power corrupts best in secrecy.

The Obama Justice Department has used the Espionage Act six times so far, compared to only three times total for all other presidents combined since the Act's inception in 1917. The Fox News correspondent, James Rosen, has been accused of being a co-conspirator to espionage by the DOJ. Really? *Really?*

Memorial Day reminds us that our countrymen and countrywomen have given their lives for an idea. It is an idea set out by a group of geniuses who came together, and like a diamond, the idea was forged in pressures, danger and moral strength that most of us can only imagine and admire.

The founders crystallized the necessary conditions of a truly free society. Amazingly, they understood the dynamics of large social systems, and the unavoidable drag on collective consciousness and individual moral behavior by the forces of self-interest.

Memorial Day reminds us that it is not a small thing we have—this shinning idea of freedom. It is truly precious. It is the most precious thing we can give to our children and our children's children.

We should pay attention.

Because as John Adams warned, "Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."

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We welcome ideas for news, features, Letters to the Editor, photos, and other material related to psychological community of Louisiana.

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Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor of the
Psychology Times:

I would like to respond to an item posted in the May 2013 (Vol. 4; No. 9) edition of the *Psychology Times*. In the article 'Legislature in Full Swing' there was the report of the activities surrounding SB 134 that in its current form creates an independent regulatory board for behavior analysts. LPA seems pleased that at the last minute they caused a derailment of what was to be a bill that placed the BAs under the psychology board and which LPA originally supported. Their single objection was that the bill would place BA representatives on the LSBEP. Having BAs on the LSBEP would seem reasonable if LSBEP was to regulate BAs. There would need to be BA voice on matters pertaining to BA licensure and regulation. On what basis did LPA object to this organization? Did they mistakenly believe that master level BAs would be given authority to vote on issues pertaining to the licensure and regulation of psychology? That was not in the language of the proposed bill. The role of BAs on LSBEP would have been addressed in rule making if the Governor signed the bill. Clearly, rules would have defined the limits of BA member participation in matters pertaining to the practice/regulation of psychology. And it would be highly unlikely that BAs would have been given any vote on any matter pertaining to the licensing and discipline of psychologists. By acting alone, without consulting LSBEP, LPA caused SB 134 to be converted



Dr. Joe Comaty

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Letter to the Editor

Continued

into a bill that creates a separate BA regulatory board. By doing so, LPA will cause the following consequences: 1) Instead of having what is without a doubt the practice of psychology (i.e., behavior analysis) being regulated by the psychology board, this part of psychology practice will now be regulated by the BA board. In essence, LPA will have 'given away' part of the practice of psychology to master level practitioners; 2) Instead of licensed psychologists being regulated by licensed psychologists on the LSBEP, under the current proposed bill we could have licensed psychologists being regulated by master level BAs. This is what would happen for those psychologists who also carry the BCBA credential, which will become the BCBA license and for those psychologists who wish to add the BCBA license. In effect, those psychologists will have two licenses and fall under two regulatory bodies. Should a complaint arise over the practice of behavior analysis by these dually licensed psychologists, that complaint would be heard by and prosecuted by the BA board. Depending on the outcome, if the BA board rules against the psychologist and sanctions them, then LSBEP would be required to also take action on their psychology license under our current law/rules. So, these psychologists will be placing themselves under double jeopardy. And, unlike the case with MPs who can drop their psychology license and still practice psychology thus protecting them from double jeopardy, under SB 134, licensed psychologists who hold the BCBA license cannot drop their psychology license; 3) Licensed psychologists will no longer be able to state they are behavior analysts unless they carry the BCBA license; 4) The article reported that DHH would support the startup costs for the new board. That is not accurate. There is no line item in HB1 under the agency budget for any such funding and there is no fiscal methodology that would permit this transfer of funding. Given the budget situation of DHH and the

prospect of further pending cuts, it is doubtful DHH would have the means to support a regulatory board and they would not want to start now, as it would set a precedent they would not want to endorse. What will happen is that all of the costs of startup of the new board will be fully borne by LSBEP until the new board can be self-sufficient, if that is even possible given the numbers of expected BAs. That means all costs for writing rules, holding meetings, developing forms, website development, per diems for board members, cost of investigations, attorney fees, etc., would all come from the LSBEP budget. Funds received by the BA board through licensing and other fees would go into the BA bank account, not LSBEP. If BAs were regulated under LSBEP, then all BA fees would have gone into the LSBEP account. If there is insufficient income to support BA board costs, the difference must be supplied by LSBEP. Under this arrangement, if LSBEP perceives a fiscal liability and needs to raise funds to support the BA board, then they have two options: a) raise fees for BAs sufficient to maintain fiscal viability. Given the limited number of BAs, this could double or triple the current fees and essentially price them out of the market; or b) they can raise fees for all licensed psychologists to cover those expenditures; or some combination of a and b. So, in my opinion, LPA, an organization that represents less than 1/3 of all licensed psychologists has taken a unilateral action without consulting LSBEP, which may in the end negatively affect all licensed psychologists. I wonder what the other 2/3rds of licensed psychologists would have thought about this decision by LPA, had they had the chance to know and comment about it.

Joseph E. Comaty,
Ph.D., M.P.,
Baton Rouge, LA

Legislative news

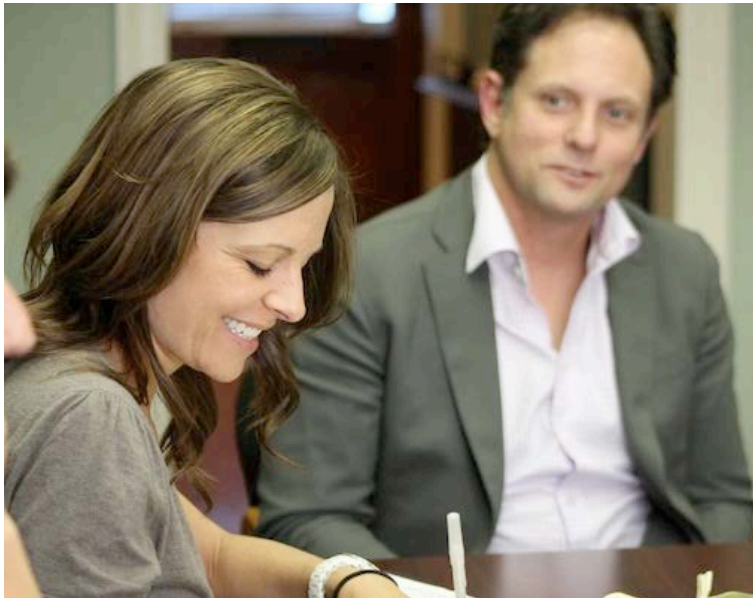
BA Bill Passes House, On To Governor

continued

The powers and duties of the board are outlined in the bill, including those for developing standards of practice, licensure, revocation and suspension of license, reinstatement, fines and censure by the board.

The board will consist of five behavior analysts appointed by the governor and subject to Senate confirmation. This is to include an ex officio, nonvoting member appointed by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. The bill notes that the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board and the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists shall share office space, professional staff, and other resources in the operation and management of each of the respective boards.

The law will define the scope of practice as, "... the empirical identification of functional relations between behavior and environments. It uses direct observation and measurement of behavior and



Executive Director of the state psychology board, Ms. Kelly Parker and Dr. Grant Gautreau, president of the Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association at the psychology board meeting last year.

environment, the empirical identification of functional relations between behavior and environmental factors, known as functional assessment and analysis. Applied behavior analysis interventions are based on scientific research and the direct observation and measurement of behavior and environment. They utilize contextual factors, establishing operations, antecedent stimuli, positive reinforcement, and other consequences to help people develop new behaviors, increase or decrease existing behaviors, and emit behaviors under specific environmental conditions. The practice of behavior

analysis expressly excludes psychological testing, neuropsychology, cognitive therapy, diagnosis of psychiatric conditions, psychotherapy, sex therapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, and mental health counseling or academic teaching by college or university staff."

The board will be allowed to "Accept grants, donations, or gifts of money or services from public or private individuals or organizations or from any other sources to be utilized for the purposes of the board. Such monies

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Photo by M. Dooley

The Behavior Analyst negotiations took a number of twists and turns. Above, Dr. Grant Gautreau (R) confers with Dr. Dolleen Day-Keohane, also a member of the Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association, at a meeting of the Behavioral Analysts Licensure and Regulation Study Commission. Left is Dr. Denise Arellano who represented the Psychology Department at McNeese University.



Psychology board members discuss the regulation of behavioral analysts after a legislative effort by the board in 2012 caused a negative public reaction to the proposed plan, lead by Dr. John Courtney. L to R: Dr. Marc Zimmermann, Dr. John Courtney, and Chair, Dr. Lee Matthews.

Passes Both Chambers

HB 281 Creates Single License For Behavioral Health Service Providers

House Bill 281 by Simon creates a single license for behavioral health services providers. The law will prohibit a behavioral health services provider from operating without a license issued by DHH, authorizes DHH to seek an injunction, and establishes criminal penalties.

However, while the language is confusing, most currently licensed behavioral health professionals otherwise licensed by their own boards appear to be exempt.

The proposed law requires those covered under it, people and facilities, to be open at all reasonable times for inspection by DHH, the state fire marshal, municipal boards of health, and any other authorized governmental entity.

Amendments included changing the definition of licensed mental health professional to an individual who is currently licensed and in good standing in the state of La. to practice within the scope of all applicable state laws, practice acts, and the individual's professional license. This change was supposed to clarify that those licensed elsewhere are not included under this measure.

Another amendment attempted to clarify that the provisions of proposed law do not apply to the licensing of any of the enumerated facilities or persons, and shall not be construed as requiring any of the enumerated facilities or persons to seek licensure as a behavioral health service provider.

Legislators added an exemption for the following persons and facilities: an individual licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a group practice of licensed advanced practice registered nurses, providing services under the auspices and pursuant to the scope of the individual's license or group's licenses; licensed rural health clinics; and facilities or services operated by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services.

Also, the House added licensed rehabilitation counselor to the definition of "licensed mental health professional."

Corrections & Clarifications

One clarification was mentioned indirectly for the May issue. In Dr. Comaty's letter to the editor he stated that the *Times* was inaccurate and it "... reported that DHH would support the startup costs for the new board." The *Times* correctly quoted the Legislative Fiscal Office who said that expenditures would be borne by DHH. The most recent note from the Legislative Fiscal Office notes the same thing.

However, Dr. Comaty appears more right than the Legislative Fiscal Office. DHH is not on the hook for it. SB 134 includes the direction that the psychology board will help the behavioral analyst board by sharing resources. Sources note that there is an MOU in the works and should generally make this "fair," but time will tell. We thank Dr. Comaty for this clarification. The *Times* will investigate this and report in future issues.

Behavior Analyst Bill, continued

shall be deposited into the treasury of the board."

The law will exempt other professionals. "Other human service professionals who are licensed, certified, or registered by the state of Louisiana, provided such individuals are working within the scope of practice of their profession and the scope of their training and competence."

A specific paragraph was added for psychologists. "An individual licensed to practice psychology within the state, so long 1as the applied behavior analysis services provided by the licensed psychologist are within the licensed psychologist's education, training and expertise. This includes individuals acting under the extended authority and direction of licensed psychologists. Licensed psychologists and those acting under their extended authority are prohibited from representing themselves as behavior analysts, licensed behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts, or state certified assistant behavior analysts without being duly licensed or state certified."

Senator J.P. Morrell emerged as a leading opponent to a failed attempt in 2012 by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to place Behavior Analysts under the psychology board. Morrell put forth a resolution forming a study commission, with his wife, Ms. Catherine Morrell as Vice Chair.

Work of the Commission led to a decision to place behavior analysts (BAs) with the state board for licensed professional counselors (LPC Board), thrashed out over six months of meetings in the Study Commission.

However, this direction was abandoned sometime in late February 2013 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, Vice Chair for the Commission. The fallback position 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.

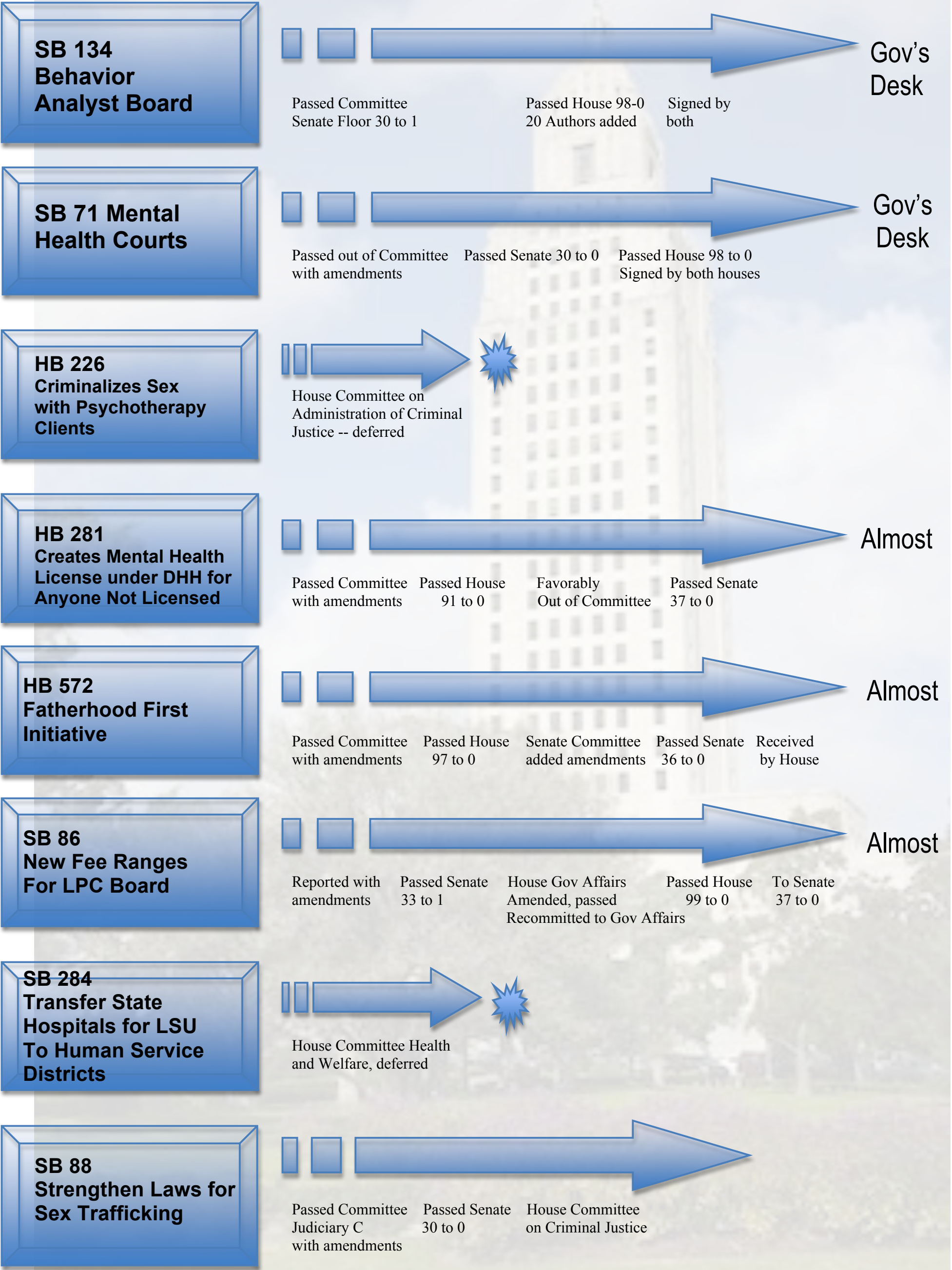
However this option was nixed when it failed to gain the support of the Louisiana Psychological Association after President Dr. Bryan Gros and Legislative Chair Dr. Alicia Pellegrin asked members for their opinions. Members expressed concerns about non-psychologists on the psychology board.

This sequence of events led Senator Morrell and Ms. Morrell to shift to the third option, that of an independent BA board.

The option for an independent BA board had been championed by Dr. Grant Gautreaux, president of the Louisiana Behavior Analysts Association throughout the discussions of the Study Commission. He presented that option in November to Commission members. However in December the members voted 15 to 0 against the independent board option, amid some views that the BAs numbers could not sustain a board.

At a recent meeting of the Louisiana Psychological Association, Senator Morrell said that working with the different groups in the mental health area should be like working in a team, but instead, "It is like warring fiefdoms." He also praised his wife's efforts in helping those in the mental health community to get along.

Where are some of the bills now?



Mental Health Courts Pass Senate/House

Senate Bill 71 by Broome passed through both houses and is on its way to be signed by the Governor. SB 71 authorizes mental health court treatment programs in Louisiana. The proposed law defines these mental health court treatment programs, including mental health court program, mental health court professional, post–adjudicatory mental health court programs, and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse issues.

Debate in the House amended the original bill, deleting the provisions authorizing the chief judge of each judicial district to establish a mental health court program, and adding provisions allowing each district court to do so by rule.

The House also added a provision authorizing placing a defendant on probation while participating in the treatment program and the resulting sentencing options following that placement on probation.

Also added was a provision to allow the district attorney to file a motion to have the defendant dismissed from the program and to require the district attorney to provide reasons for the dismissal.

The proposed law will provide for mental health court treatment programs to maintain or collaborate with a network of programs which deal with mental illness and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse issues. The mental health court program may designate a court liaison to monitor the progress of defendants in their assigned treatment programs on behalf of the court.

The program excludes crimes of (1) First and second degree murder (2) Aggravated or criminal sexual assault (including sexual assault of a child). (3) Armed robbery (4) Arson (5) Stalking (6) Any offense involving discharge of a firearm.



Cindy Nardini listening to discussion at an LPC Board meeting recently. Nardini was instrumental in helping Senator Mills understand the goals of the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention, leading to a Senate Resolution commending the group for its efforts.

“Fatherhood First Initiative” Passes Senate

House Bill 572, the “Fatherhood First Initiative,” passed the floor of the Senate in an 36 to 0 vote and was returned to the House with amendments.

The law will establish a “program to be known as the ‘Fatherhood Initiative’ to promote the positive involvement and interaction of fathers with their children with an emphasis on children eligible or formerly eligible for services funded by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.”

The law will require the secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to convene and chair a “Fatherhood First Council.” Including in the council is the secretary or representative from: the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the Department of Education, Louisiana District Attorney’s Association. Also included are to be two representatives from the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board, one or more representatives of the clergy. One member with expertise in male psychology and health is also to be included.

The secretary of the DCFS is directed to seek the advice and participation of any person, organization, or state or federal agency that may be needed in order to effectively meet the goals and carry out the provisions of proposed law.

SB Bill 86 To Set New Ranges for LPC Fees

Senate Bill 86 updates the LPC fees and changes certain other issues for the Licensed Professional Counselor Board.

The law provides the maximum amount of each fee the board may collect as follows: Fees established and collected by the board pursuant to this Chapter shall be set by rule and shall not exceed the following maximum amounts: (a) Application of privilege, credential, or registration \$200 (b) Application of licensure \$325 (c) Renewal of privilege, credential, registration, or license \$300 (d) Examination or reexamination \$250 e) Late fees \$100, f) Failure to update contact information with board, \$100, [...]

The law will provide that the board shall not increase any fee by more than a total of 15% over a consecutive three-year period.

The proposed new law will also allow the board to issue a registration as a counselor intern to an applicant who meets qualifications established by the board.

Also, the proposed law authorizes the board to issue a registration as a marriage and family therapist intern to an applicant who meets qualifications established by the board.

Also, the new law provides that the board may request and obtain state and national criminal history record information from the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information of the office of state police within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Federal Bureau of Investigation relative to any applicant for licensure whose fingerprints the board has obtained pursuant to law for the purpose of determining the applicant's suitability and eligibility for licensure.

The new law will also provides that any and all state or national criminal history record information obtained by the board from the bureau or FBI which is not already a matter of public record shall be deemed nonpublic and confidential information restricted to the exclusive use by the board, its members, officers, investigators, agents, and attorneys in evaluating the applicant's eligibility or disqualification for licensure.

Criminalizing Sex with Psychotherapy Clients Stalled in Committee

The proposed law, HB 226, that would have created a new crime of prohibited sexual contact between a psychotherapist and a client or patient, appears to be dead in committee.

HB 226 would have created punishment of imprisonment of not more than ten years, fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

The proposed law prohibits any psychotherapist or any one posing as a psychotherapist, from having sexual contact with a client or patient.

Most, if not all, ethics codes for mental health service providers prohibits sexual contact with clients.

HB 540 Moves Forward

A bill that authorizes an employing school board to pay the eligible salary supplements to school teachers, counselors, and psychologists on or after a July 1, 2013 date, rather than by that date, seems to be headed for success. Present law provides for annual salary supplements and HB 540 retains present law and allows the initial applicable certificate period to be more flexible.

Senate Concurrent Resolution Signed

A Senate Concurrent Resolution offered by Senator Fred Mills, commending the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention, was signed by both the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House last month. The Resolution noted that Coalition is a multidisciplinary group with the goal to reduce violence through early detection of those at risk for interpersonal violence.

Task Force on School Psychology Specialists To Meet June 28 in BR

The first meeting of the School Specialist Task Force is scheduled for June 28 according to a report by the state psychology board.

Executive Director Kelly Parker, told the *Times*, “I think the main goal is to study the issue of possible licensure as a School Specialist in Louisiana. I anticipate that the group will gather information from various sources including other states and national organizations. Ultimately, a baseline framework maybe created for model licensure language.”

Members of the task force include Dr. Rita Culross, Professor at LSU, who will be the psychology board’s representative.

Dr. Conni Patterson, Professor of Practice at Tulane University and past president of the Louisiana School Psychology Association will also serve.

Dr. Steven Welsh will work on the task force. Dr. Welsh has been the Department head for the Department of Psychology and Counselor Education at Nicholls, and more recently, the interim Dean of the College of Education.

Also included is Dr. Carmen Broussard, Associate Professor of Psychology at Nicholls.

Susan Ratterree, the National Association of School Psychologists Delegate for the Louisiana School Psychological Association, will serve.

And, E. Francoise Parr, current President of the Louisiana School Psychological Association, is also a member.

At a recent presentation by the psychology board, Chair Lee Matthews noted that the task force was created to study the possible licensure of school specialists in Louisiana. The specialist degree in school psychology is offered by LSU–Shreveport and by Nicholls State University and requires 72 hours of graduate training and 1200 hours supervised practice.

Speaking at the recent planning meeting of the state psychology board, Dr. Steven Welsh noted that this was the first time in 30 years that he or someone from the Louisiana School Psychological Association had been officially asked to talk with the psychology board.



Drs. Steven Welsh (L), George Hebert (C), and Phillip Lazarus (R), at the 2012 gathering of the LA School Psychological Association. Dr. Welsh was invited recently to speak at the long-range planning session of the state psychology board about the school psychology specialists. He is serving on a task force to study these issues for the community.

All Psychologists Should Have Professional Wills, Says LSBEP

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists issued an Opinion indicating that all licensees should prepare and execute a “Professional Will.” The Opinion, #016, was published May 10, 2013.

The board members noted that a “Professional Will is an important tool in preparation for unexpected events.” They wrote that this type of will is a detailed set of instructions that includes information about records, research materials, patient information, and “an appointed team of trusted colleagues who will serve as professional executors upon the event of death or incapacitation.” They noted that the Professional Will is a way of caring for both consumers and “sparing family members the obligation.”



Chair of the Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Committee, Mark Reynaud, at a recent meeting. The group is working to create an evaluation method for supervisors to rate competencies of interns. They will base this on a model developed by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Core Competencies To Be Focus For Marriage & Family Therapy Supervisors

The Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Committee (MFTAC) members are focusing on using the national Marriage and Family Therapy Core Competencies © as a tool for supervisors to rate interns’ performance.

“The supervisor needs to let us know if the individual meets all the standards, and is ready for licensure,” said Chair Mark Reynaud to the committee members in a recent meeting. Mr. Reynaud is a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist. He is credentialed as a supervisor in both professions.

In March the MFTAC discussed developing standards above the present established guidelines. Reynaud explained that the MFT programs are moving toward outcomes-based evidence and away from

having only certain courses as the basis for credentials.

“We’ll eventually create an evaluation form,” he said. “This will give the supervisor a way to indicate, ‘Yes, they are competent in these areas.’ ”

The list of core competencies is a product of the American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy, and outlines six domains of therapists’ skills.

These include “Admission to Treatment,” “Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis,” “Treatment Planning and Case Management,” “Therapeutic Interventions,” “Legal Issues, Ethics, and Standards,” and finally “Research and Program Evaluation.”

Each of these categories then includes a breakdown into concept or knowledge areas, awareness skills, and task skills. Also included in these subcategories are evaluation

skills, and professional abilities, which include areas of ethical and legal matters.

Effort to begin using the Core Competencies © for intern evaluation and readiness for licensure is one of several goals for the Advisory Committee, Reynaud told the *Times*.

The Committee is also working to update of the policy and procedure manual so it reflects the current laws and changes, noted Reynaud. The group also helps the Louisiana Association of Marriage and Family Therapists to keep informed about scope of practice for marriage and family therapists.

The list of competencies is available on the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy at <http://www.aamft.org/imis15/content/coamfte/Accreditation.aspx>.



The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners issued an opinion, requested by Dr. Jim Quillin, asking if medical psychologists could use Evaluation and Management codes. Above, a previous meeting of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee. Dr. Quillin (L), Dr. Robert Marier (C), who is the outgoing Executive Director of the Medical Board, and Dr. Warren Lowe.

Medical Board Says Med Psychologists Can Bill For Eval & Management Codes

The state medical board issued an Advisory Opinion on May 7, requested by Dr. Jim Quillin, Chair of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee. The Opinion confirmed that medical psychologists could use Evaluation and Management Codes, typically used by physicians for short services involving medication checks.

The May 7 notice on the medical board’s web site noted, “State law and regulations authorize medical psychologists to prescribe medications related to the treatment of mental disorders and to undertake the medical evaluations that are required to manage these medications in accordance with widely accepted standards of care. It is the Opinion of the Board accordingly that medical psychologists are authorized to utilize E/M codes when billing for services provided for management of psychiatric disorders.”

In an opinion letter obtained by the *Times*, signed by current medical board Executive Director Robert Marier, MD, and addressed to Chairman of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee, Jim Quillin, PhD, MP, Dr. Marier wrote that the board reviewed Quillin’s request on December 3, 2012.

According to the letter, Dr. Quillin had asked the medical board for an advisory opinion as to whether the Medical Psychology Practice Act “allows for MPs to perform the single system psychiatric examination as defined by CMS.” [CMS: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.]

Marier wrote that the board reviewed the state laws and regulations, the Medical Psychology Practice Act, and the Louisiana Administrative Code for Medical Psychologists, noting that these, “... authorize medical psychologists to prescribe medications for the treatment of psychiatric conditions. The requirements for licensure as a medical psychologist include training in components of the history and physical examination and in the assessment of findings that relate to the medications that they prescribe. Indeed medical psychologists are required to undertake such evaluations by way of meeting the widely accepted standard of care for patients on these medications.”

“More specifically,” he wrote, “it was noted that medical psychologists assess vital signs, and appearance on most patients on medications and musculoskeletal status on

patients being treated with neuroleptic agents due to risks of extrapyramidal effects, pseudo parkinsonism, tardive dyskinesia and dystonias. Needless to say a detailed psychiatric examination is undertaken on all patients.”

Dr. Marier explained that it was the opinion of the Board that Medical psychologists licensed under the Board are authorized to utilize E/M codes when billing for services provided for management of psychiatric disorders.

In February the *Times* reported on Magellan Health Services, the company now managing behavioral health services for the state, and the different fees listed. (See Vol 4, No 6) In that report, medical psychologists were not listed as able to bill for the 10 minutes office visit code or the office consultation code, both Evaluation and Management codes.

The 10-minute Office Visit was listed to be reimbursed at \$25.73 and the 15-minute Office Consultation was listed at \$43.43, two of the highest paid codes. A 15-minute Health & Behavior Intervention, listed by Magellan as reimbursed at \$15.30, was one of the lowest.

No Comments On LPC Rule Changes

No comments were received by the May 24 deadline regarding the 26 pages of rule changes “noticed” in the April issue *Louisiana Register*, said LPC Board Executive Director, Mary Alice Olsan.

“... we have received no public comments regarding the latest NOI,” Ms. Olsan explained to the *Times* recently. “So far, we’re on target to publish the final rule in the July 20th LA Register.”

“It was a *huge* body of changes,” she noted. The main components of the changes included, “Adding and revising rules as a result of Act 320 of the 2011 Legislative Session and Act 636 of the 2012 Legislative session,” Olsan said. For example, this included placing the current emergency rules into the upcoming permanent rules, and dealing with other matters regarding the current Emergency Rules, she explained.

Olsan also noted that adding, and changing aspects of current rules, was required because of Act 276 of the 2012 Legislative Session. “Allowing for endorsement of both MFT [Marriage & Family Therapist] Intern and Counselor Intern hours,” she noted was one example.

“As of now, we cannot accept any hours completed by an intern in another state under the supervision of someone other than a Louisiana Board-approved supervisor



Ex Director of LPC Bd, Mary Alice Olsan

(Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor for Counselor Interns, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist-Supervisor for MFT Interns). This is a rule we’ve been wanting to promulgate to accommodate those moving to Louisiana and is a necessary rule addition to be in compliance with Act 276.”

Finally, the rule changes related to professional ethics. “The majority of the rule changes are related to updating the LPC [Licensed Professional Counselor] Code of Conduct based on the newest version of the ACA [American Counseling Association] Code of Ethics,” Ms. Olsan told the *Times*.

“We also just cleaned up a lot of confusing and/or unnecessary language,” she said. “The LPC Board Rules Committee systematically reviewed every rule currently in place to determine what needed to be changed, removed, added, and revised to be in compliance with the new laws referenced above.

“We’re hopeful the rules in the April 20th NOI will be promulgated officially as new rules soon,” Olsan said.

Psychology Board To Notice CE Changes in June Register

The state psychology board expects to publish rule changes for continuing education in the June issue of the Louisiana Register, said Chair Lee Matthews and Executive Director Kelly Parker. The changes will include an expansion of types of training that meet requirements, and a increase of hours from 30 to 40. The public will have a period to give comments after the Notice is published, which should be about June 20 or so.

Dr. Chafetz Presents To Office of Inspector General at SSA, continued

Coburn’s letter was the first of a series of letters by oversight members of congress to the SSA officials regarding possible waste and fraud in the social security disability program.

A March 11 letter from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, signed by Chairman Darrell Issa and others, was sent to Ms. Carolyn Colvin, the Acting Commissioner of the SSA. Authors wrote that they were conducting oversight of the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and noted both the increase in SSDI rolls, spending, and the “structural flaws” in the program. Issa and coauthors sited Coburn’s findings and the agencies failure to address “insufficient, contradictory or incomplete evidence.”

Authors of the March 11 letter also noted that the SSA had decided not to act on it’s own Office of Inspector General’s recommendations.

Another letter from Issa’s committee to the Regional Commissioner of the SSA pointed to problems with the social security program in Puerto Rico. They quoted a report in the Wall Street Journal and evidence for widespread fraud in that region.

Senator Coburn had help in understanding the science behind these complex issues from Dr. Chafetz. In September 2012, the state psychological association hosted a presentation by Chafetz for Senator Coburn’s office.

Chafetz and his colleagues have been studying faking (also called malingering) in disability claimants and publishing research in the area since 2006, something that the SSA does not choose to do for itself.

Dr. Chafetz recently reviewed some of his research and ethical concerns for psychologists,



Dr. Michael Chafetz presents his research at the May 30-31 Louisiana Psychological Association Annual Convention in Baton Rouge. Recently, Chafetz was asked by the Office of Inspector General for the Social Security Administration to review his statistical findings regarding social security claims.

and especially the impact on validity of their decisions in disability situations, at the recent Louisiana Psychological Association convention in Baton Rouge. Chafetz is one of the top researchers in this area, and has had his work published in a string of scientific journals. He has been invited to a number of states, and also to the American Psychological Association, to present his findings.

The Psychology Times is in the process of gaining information from the state Disability Determination Services to understand why in January 2012 the Director cautioned consultants about a presentation by Dr. Chafetz. Psychologists are doctoral level examiners who are required by their ethics to keep current with new research and psychometric findings that impact the quality of their decisions.

UNO Undergraduate Psychology Students Win Research Grants

Three University of New Orleans undergraduate students of psychology received grants from the University of Louisiana System's Board of Regents, according to a university press release May 13.

Skylar Hicks, Shannin Moody, and Florencia Iturri together won almost \$15,000 for research by participating in the 3rd Annual Supervised Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) competition, hosted by the Board of Regents.

Each of the three winners received a \$4,000 grant to conduct more than 300 hours of mentored research under the supervision of faculty.

Skylar Hicks will work with UNO Assistant Professor of Psychology Monica Marsee on a research project entitled "Emotion Socialization and Aggression in Detained Youth."

Shannin Moody and UNO Assistant Professor of Psychology Cornelia Lamm will explore "The Effects of Testosterone on Neurocognitive Development."

Florencia Iturri will be working with UNO Early Research Professor of Psychology Birdie Shirtcliff on "Testosterone Reactivity and Social Support in Romantic Relationships."

Florencia Iturri is a UNO Honors student; Shannin Moody is the owner of NOLA Cotton Candy and an active member of Psi Chi, and Skylar Hicks is a UNO Cheerleader, according to the article.

Health First Consulting

Say Goodbye to SAD with Vitamin D

Are your blues gone now that the summer is almost upon us? With the warmer weather comes **more sunshine and better vitamin D levels**. Changes in vitamin D have been implicated as one cause of seasonal affective disorder (SAD). The dark winter usually leads to very low vitamin D blood levels. And a number of studies have shown depressive symptoms to be alleviated by vitamin D supplementation. Mood isn’t the only mental health concern when someone has low vitamin D. Mothers who have lower levels of vitamin D are more likely to have children who later develop schizophrenia. So enjoy the sunshine in moderation this summer and check your 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels when in doubt!

Hoogendijk Wg, Lips P, Dik M. G. Deeg D. H. Beekman A. F. Penninx B. H. "Depression Is Associated with Decreased 25-Hydroxyvitamin D and Increased Parathyroid Hormone Levels in Older Adults." Archives of General Psychiatry 65, no. 5 (2008): 508-12.
Parker, G., and H. Brotchie. "'D' for Depression: Any Role for Vitamin D?". Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica 124, no. 4 (2011): 243-49.
Stewart, Robert, and Vasant Hirani. "Relationship between Vitamin D Levels and Depressive Symptoms in Older Residents from a National Survey Population." Psychosomatic Medicine 72, no. 7 (September 1, 2010 2010): 608-12.

Sharing Paths to Health
with Functional Testing



Dr. Ruscher Chairs APS Convention, continued

and professors in psychology from Centenary, LaTech, Loyola, Tulane, U. of Louisiana–Lafayette, U. of New Orleans, and Xavier University demonstrated their research skill and contributions for the premier scientific organization for those in psychology.

The APS convention revolved around the theme of “Regulating the World, Regulating the Mind,” “Building a Better Psychological Science: Good Data Practices and Replicability,” and the “Biological Bases of Social Behavior.” The conference was awash with big names in psychology, including Michael Gazzaniga, Elaine Walker, Diane Halpern, Scott Lilienfeld, and Roy Baumeister, representing just a few of the keynote speakers.

Each theme addressed key topics in psychological science and included a variety of distinguished speakers, roundtable discussions, and related poster presentation sessions.

The *Times* asked Ruscher what had been some of the most rewarding aspects of being the conference chair this year. “Because the cross-cutting symposia, presidential symposium, workshops, and other programming integrate across sub-disciplines,” she explained, “the convention committee adopts a view from 20,000 feet.”

“We have the opportunity to look at the commonalities across psychological science, and enjoy the interdisciplinary experience,” she said. “For example, in discussions with the committee, we realized that all of us talk about ‘regulation’ and that the similarities would draw a wide audience while the differences would stretch the audience’s perspectives in new directions. Opportunities to do this—effectively—are rare.”

While noting that the high points for her were probably the cross-cutting symposia, she also pointed out that, “Given the popularity of



Photo by B. Waters

Louisiana Tech counseling psychology graduates student Terri Duck (L) and Laura Harris look over one of their poster presentations. Ms. Harris presented at this year’s Association for Psychological Science recently in DC. Ms. Duck is president of the Counseling Psychology Students’ Organization at LaTech. She was chair of the recent North Louisiana Behavioral & Social Sciences Conference held at LaTech.

the Bobo doll last year, I wagered that people would enjoy the Milgram machine.”

Attendees had the chance to see Milgram’s Simulated Shock Generator that was on loan from the Center for the History of Psychology of University of Akron.

What were the biggest challenges? “The committee holds teleconferences at least one a month,” she noted, “which can be challenging with an international committee.”

“At one point,” she explained, “our teleconferencers were dispersed from

Turkey to Texas—and we were lucky that one member had returned to North America from Australia.”

“Next year’s conference in San Francisco, chaired by Wendy Mendes, promises to be outstanding,” Dr. Ruscher said.

Dr. Janet Ruscher is the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, School of Science and Engineering, at Tulane University. Prior to her latest position she served at the Chair of the Tulane Psychology Department and also is Professor in the department.

MCAT Revision May Include Psychological Science Info

According to Dr. Richard Lewis, writing for the April *APS Observer*, the next revision of the Medical College Admission Test, the MCAT, will include for the first time a new subtest on the behavioral and social sciences.

Lewis noted that the next revision of the MCAT is scheduled for the spring of 2015, and this will only be the fifth time that the admissions test has been redesigned since it’s begining in 1928.

“Each revision of the MCAT provides a window into what is considered to be appropriate academic preparation for medical school.” Recent revisions have placed a strong emphasis on “understanding and work with scientific data,” he noted.

Lewis said that the goal of the new “Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior Subtest” is to “... encourage premedical students to obtain a foundation in the science of behavior—an important component of health and illness.”

Lewis noted that 50 percent of all “causes of morbidity and mortality in the U.S. are linked to behavioral and social causes.”

The complete article is available at the *APS Observer* website.

American Board of Medical Psychology



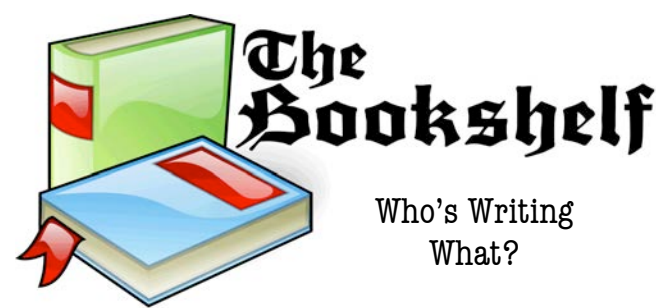
The Specialty for the Coming Integrated Care Models in Primary Care Centers and Hospitals

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Functional Assessment for Challenging Behaviors

Johnny L. Matson, Editor

Autism and Child Psychopathology Series
Springer

Functional Assessment for Challenging Behaviors is a recent addition to Springer's Autism and Child Psychopathology Series, edited and authored by Louisiana State University Professor and Distinguished Research Master, Dr. Johnny Matson.

This newest text zeros in on the specific methods used in functional assessment, one of the most important approaches used in applied behavior analysis. In this 243-page volume, Matson and contributors, including LSU's Max Horovitz, Alison Kozlowski and Megan Sipes, join a host of experts from around the country to give readers the most up-to-date information about functional analysis.

Those from fields of clinical psychology, school psychology, applied behavior analysis, pediatric psychiatry, social work, and developmental psychology, will appreciate the review and update of essential theory and applied information offered in this volume.

For those using applied behavior analysis, the text addresses current issues and questions in the field, with the newest findings about the application of functional analysis to challenging behaviors.

The book provides a clear, cogent presentation about where behaviorism has come from conceptually, what changes and advancements have occurred, and where things have landed.

The writing style is smooth, making the information easy to absorb. The chapters are straightforward, with a logical flow and an eye for what the practitioner wants and needs to know. As is typical with Matson's editing, the chapters have surprising consistency throughout despite the variety of contributors and topics.

The first section of the text defines the historical branching of theory and practice, where authors Dixon, Vogel, and Tarbox, consider the transition from behavior modification to applied behavior analysis. "It is sometimes said that the development of experimental functional analysis methodology by Iwata, among others, led to a major shift in focus in the field of ABA [applied behavior analysis] toward an acknowledgement of the need for understanding the root causes of behavior before simply applying potent consequences."

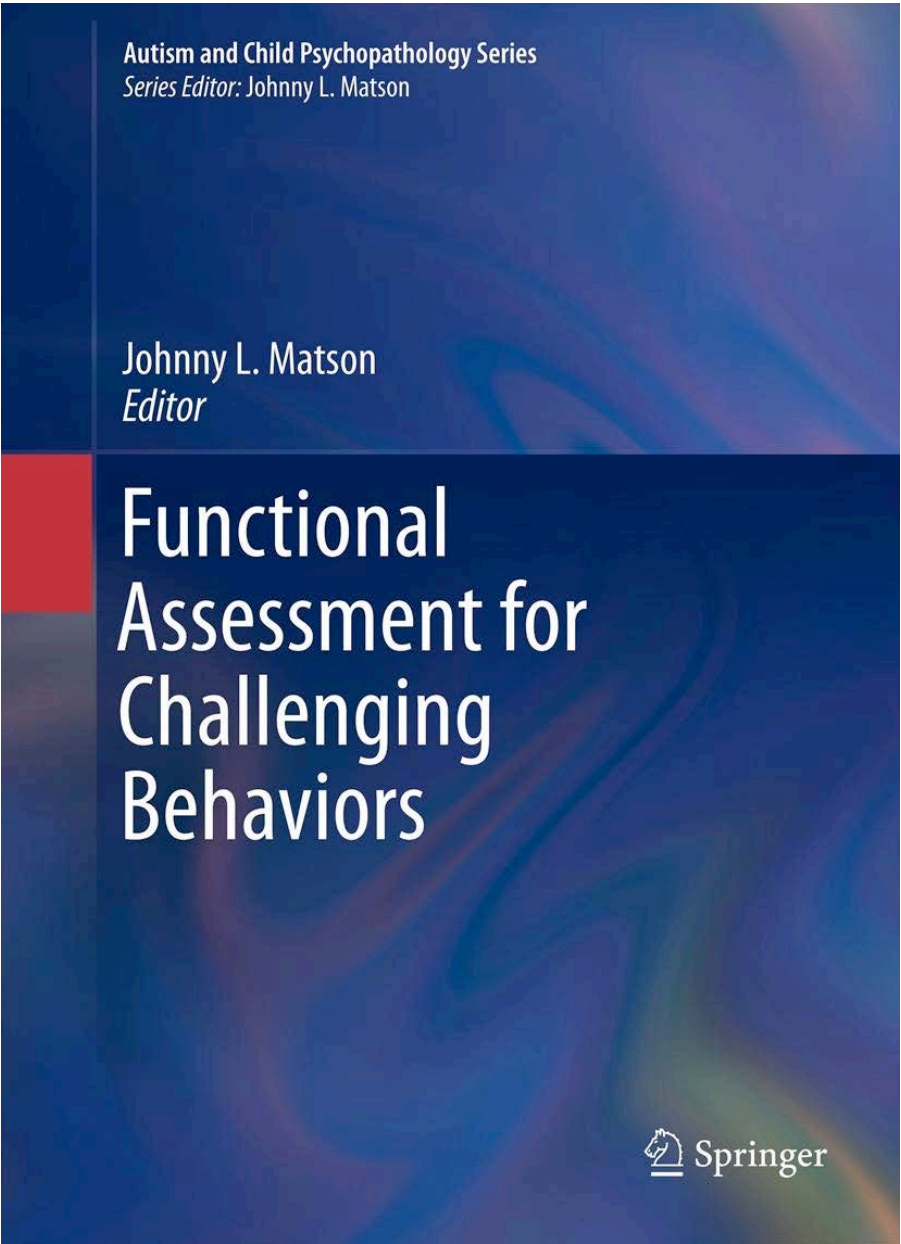
The authors explain that the strong shift in focus to understanding the operant function of behavior was not a complete change, since the appreciation of environmental contingencies in shaping behavior was clear in Skinner's, and others, work. But, they say, the limitation was in available practical procedures to apply in clinical settings.

The chapter on history is an informative time machine through behaviorism: the historical contributions of Watson and Skinner, the objective study of behavior and adhering to experimental design, and the pioneering efforts to apply these behavioral techniques to humans. After this, applied behavioral analysis emerged as its own discipline in the 1960s, the authors explain.

With a focus on experimental manipulation, clinicians could prove how, and under what conditions a behavior could be changed, including an answer to why it exists.

The emphasis on function and also the concept of automatic reinforcement, with early roots in Skinner's work on verbal behavior helped bridged the theoretical gaps.

Also, authors point out that behavior analysts had concerns about the unnecessary use of punishment. Skinner and other early behaviorists had warned about undesirable side effects of punishment. "In addition," the authors write, "the operant perspective assumes that different behaviors have different functions for different



people, and even multiple functions within the same person, and so a prior understanding of the cause or function of the behavior will inevitably aid in designing an effective treatment."

The authors describe Iwata's seminal paper in 1982, "Toward a Functional Analysis of Self-Injurious Behavior," and how he set out the methodology. This was a randomized multi-element design that compared self-injurious behavior under four experimental conditions: escape, alone, social disapproval, and play. Iwata provided strong evidence that these behaviors were results of unique learning events, and so clinicians could not assume a cause by simply looking at the behavior.

Perhaps the greatest value of *Functional Assessment* lies in the help it provides for modern practitioners working with clients who are struggling with challenging behavior.

This includes the three chapters on practical and theoretical issues for applications in those situations for self-injury, stereotypic behavior, aggressive behavior, feeding disorders, and pica/vomiting/rumination. Important research findings about the functions of these behaviors is outlined for the reader.

In the chapter on "Methods of Defining and Observing Behaviors," authors remind us that data collection is not a step we can skip: "In functional analysis, the ability to track the occurrence of a target behavior is essential to being able to identify what factors maintain that behavior. This is so fundamental that to overlook the crucial step of defining and observing behavior is designing an intervention or research study is to open the door to a large number of reliability and validity issues in our research and integrity and generalization problems in our treatments." This chapter, by Hurwitz and Minshawi, is a valuable review of operationally defined target behaviors, observation methods, measurement, and antecedent-behavior-consequence analysis.

A chapter by Alison Kozlowski and Johnny Matson, "Interview and Observation Methods in Functional Assessment," provides an important review of the available tools and methods for clinicians to consider, with a comparison of multiple assessment methods. The chapter concludes with recommendations about how to balance between the available tools. As is typical for Matson's work, straight-talk on the psychometric properties of the instruments is invaluable for the reader.

LSU's Max Horovitz and Matson outline in vivo assessment and issues for real-time data collection in chapter nine,



And Matson teams up with LSU's Megan Sipes for "Scaling Methods of Functional Assessment," to review available methods, the strengths and weaknesses of each, and research supporting for these scaling methods and tools.

Treatment and treatment planning, that involve functional assessment include chapters with detailed information for those working with youngsters, including balancing approaches with other treatment methods for this group.

"Despite the superiority of function-based interventions to nonfunction-based interventions," they point out, "the understanding of the necessity and/or the skill of how to move from functional assessment to function-based treatment is still lacking."

Authors describe the most common treatment methods used in conjunction with functional assessment: operant mechanisms of reinforcement contingencies; treatments for behavior maintained by social-positive reinforcement, including Functional Communication Training; treatments for behavior maintained by social-negative reinforcement; and automatic reinforcements.

In an interesting example, authors show how researchers trained key school team members to adhere to rigorous criteria from the functional assessment, including creating behavior intervention plans. But the scholarly experts tended to choose teaching strategies, while the school professionals were more likely to choose exclusionary strategies like time-out. In contrast, the experts identified no children for these exclusionary strategies. The example pointed to one of the many the real-world issues that occur with applications, and to the complexities the clinician can encounter, all without much available research.

The chapter on Ethical matters is essential for those practicing in the complicated modern day of healthcare. "Doing FBA" is not competent, they note. " 'Doing FBA' in a manner that produces maximum benefit and minimal harm for the people whose behaviors are of concern is ethical conduct and should be the goal of behavior analysts."

Authors review special considerations for Functional Assessment, including the *Primum non nocere* principle, institutional review boards and informed consent, and harm reduction and the client's right to effective treatment.

They also review best practices in regard to the expansion of Functional Behavior Assessment across new settings and new populations. They also look at competency, training, potentially effective models for collaboration to increase competence.

As is the case with all of Johnny Matson's textbooks, a clinician who wants to make sure his or her work is consistent with and supported by scientific findings will greatly appreciate *Functional Assessment for Challenging Behaviors*. Perhaps not exactly like being spoon-fed, but current research is laid out in clear, easily understood presentation with examples and descriptions. Authors review and clarify current topics and controversies in the field and changes in theory and practice detailed in a practical, useful way. The extras are in the history and the Ethics chapters, and well worth the entry price.

An expert in autism, mental disabilities, and severe emotional disorders in children and adolescents, Johnny Matson has produced 700+ publications including 38+ books. He is Editor-in-Chief for *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders* (Oxford England), Editor-in-Chief for *Research in Developmental Disabilities* (Oxford, England), and Associate Editor for *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities* (London).

Through the years he has served on 80 editorial boards including as Editor-in-Chief for *Applied Research in Mental Retardation* and the *Official Journal of the American Association for University Affiliated Programs*.



Photo by A. Dooley

"My interests have focused on the development of assessment and treatment methods in the fields of intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders," Dr. Matson previously told the *Times*.

He has dedicated his career to understanding and helping youngsters with disabilities, autism, and severe emotional disorders.



Psychology Gumbo

by Julie Nelson

Two articles this month jumped out at me because of connections to Louisiana experts. The "integrative process" immediately brought to mind the work of Dr. Emily Sandoz and her group at Lafayette in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. For the article about romantic attachment and cortisol, I thought about UNO's Dr. Elizabeth Shirtcliff. Both were gracious enough to comment for us this month, including UNO graduate student, Jeremy Peres.

• "The Integrative Process: New Research and Future Directions," – *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, January, 2013.

Researchers highlight three subprocesses and the links to energy, wellness, and relationships. These integrative process elements are: awareness, ownership/autonomy, and nondefensiveness.

COMMENT: Dr. Emily Sandoz, University of Louisiana–Lafayette, and Director of the Louisiana Contextual Science Research Group.

"Weinstein, Przybylski, and Ryan offer the construct of *integration* as a fundamental process of human vitality and wellness that has been central to a number of psychological theories of well-being from psychoanalysis to Self Determination Theory. The authors then highlight awareness, ownership, and nondefensiveness as three features of integrative processes, and noncontrolling, autonomy-supportive environments as the contexts from which these processes emerge. In doing so, Weinstein and colleagues establish a theoretical framework for future research in the area of integration. Their efforts are timely, as much of the field of psychology is shifting to a focus on prevention, psychological strengths, resilience, and wellness as opposed to pathology and risk. Further, although their purpose is establishing a foundation for research, it is not without implications for clinical practice. For example, this model, although from a very different perspective, parallels the psychological flexibility model underlying Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, which teaches individuals to center, to open up to painful experiences, and to choose valued actions. With sound scientific inquiry being applied to traditional wisdoms such as the importance of mindfulness and chosen purpose, it's an exciting time to be in psychology."

• "Does Attachment Get Under the Skin? Adult Romantic Attachment and Cortisol Responses to Stress," – *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, January, 2013.

In a look at attachment types and cortisol, researchers examine the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis to study the link between relationships and health.



Dr. Elizabeth Shirtcliff

COMMENT: Dr. Elizabeth Anne Shirtcliff, University of New Orleans Professor, and Jeremy Peres, UNO graduate student.

"Though learning, cognitions, and behavior might seem more obvious outcomes to consider when studying attachment, it is also essential to consider how our relationships and interactions with others affect our biological processes "under the skin". As the authors point out, context sensitive physiological systems such as the HPA axis and its product cortisol can influence our behavior as well as negatively affect overall health and immune functioning if levels remain too high for too long.

"The findings demonstrated by the authors make plenty of sense when you break it down. Less securely attached individuals have bigger stress responses when discussing relationship conflict compared to those with secure attachment likely because those conflicts are more salient and threat-provoking in that they may signify the potential end of that meaningful relationship. On the other hand, individuals who are secure in their relationships are also likely better at coping with conflict with their partners in general and therefore do not feel that same degree of threat during such discussions, resulting in a comparatively blunted stress response to the same "stressor".

"To further understand the potential long-term negative health effects that may result from an insecure attachment style, more longitudinal research is necessary to consider whether stress levels are sufficiently chronic in those individuals. Though it may seem tempting with regard to treatment implications, one should probably avoid in using the evidence presented in this study as justification for labeling insecure attachment as a characteristic that may cause "unhealthy" stress. This type of interpretation is likely far too simplistic. Though individual differences in attachment may affect cortisol responding, this may simply indicate increased engagement in the discussion. Furthermore, based on the data presented, their insecurely attached individuals appear to recover from the stressor just as quickly if not quicker than the more securely attached group."



Jeremy Peres

(Photos, courtesy.)

People



Dr. Joseph Tramontana (L) receives LPA Distinguished Psychologist award for 2013 from President-Elect Dr. John Fanning at recent convention.

Dr. Tramontana Named by LPA, Continued

at the U. Tennessee Medical School. He is a licensed psychologist in both Louisiana and Mississippi.

Dr. Tramontana has authored *Sports hypnosis in practice: Scripts, strategies, and case examples*, and also *Hypnotically enhanced treatment for addictions: Alcohol abuse, drug abuse, gambling, weight control, and smoking cessation*, both published by Crown House Publishing Limited.

He is currently president of the New Orleans Society for Clinical Hypnosis, a member of the Board of Governors of the American Society for Clinical Hypnosis, and has presented as a faculty member for the latter and for the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis. He is presenting June 28th at the Midwest Conference on Gambling and Substance Abuse

in Kansas City, MO on Hypnotic Treatment of Pathological Gambling and at Division 30 of APA in August in Honolulu on Sports Hypnosis for Enhancing Peak Performance. He is invited to present at the European Society for Clinical Hypnosis in Sorrento, Italy in October, 2014.

He is certified by the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis and the National Association of Sports Counselors. He is a member of the American Academy of Psychologists Treating Addictions, the Mississippi Pain Society, the Southern Pain Society, the American Psychological Association Division for Clinical, Division for Hypnosis, and Division for Exercise & Sports. He is member and Director of the Louisiana Psychological Association and is Chair of the Public Affairs Committee. He is also a member of Mississippi Psychological Association.

LSU Alums Plan Informal Reunion

Richard Maples and Dr. Courtland Chaney, are planning an informal reunion of Louisiana State University Baton Rouge psychology doctoral students for the summer of 2014. Maples and Chaney are both LSU graduates. Both are currently living in Baton Rouge.

The idea was hatched when Maples talked with Sam Marullo, another alum, about the possibility of a gathering of the LSU 1975 doctoral class. But as the two talked with others, they found that more and more people popped up from additional years and wanted to be involved.

“After a few e-mails,” Chaney told the *Times*, “some others on either side of this narrow time period expressed interest. Since some of us spent four years in graduate school and others may have spent five, six, seven or more years, it made sense that we individually may have an identification with multiple classes of fellow students.”

So far Maples and Chaney are estimating that about 30 to 40 people have expressed interest in the event. The tentative time is July 2014.

“Our discussions with a sample of interested parties suggest that we need to

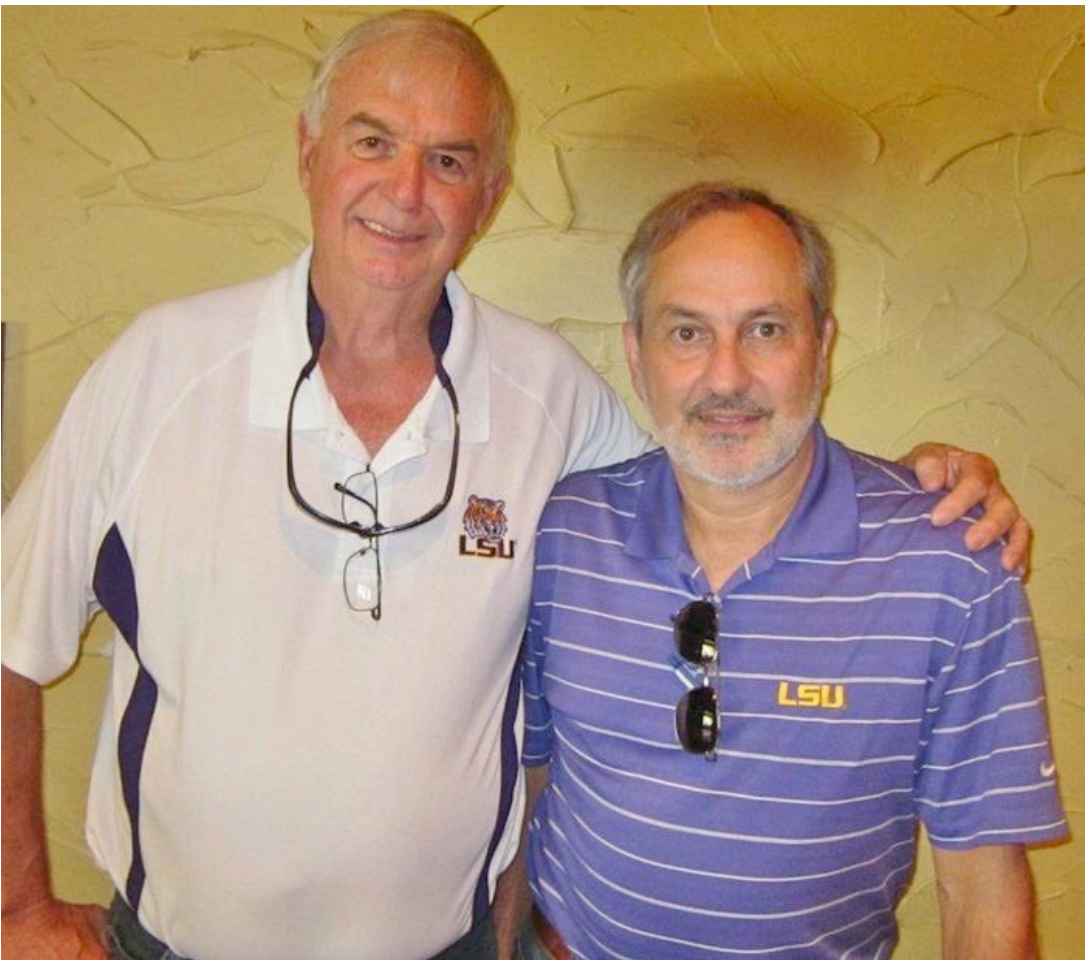
provide ample notice of the intent to have a social gathering and we need to select a time period during which people will not have time conflicts,” he said.

The two said that a Saturday is going to be the main day for activities. Spouses and families will be included in a range of activities, volleyball or golf, picnicking, visits the campus, or small groups for reconnecting.

“We want it to be an informal, relaxed, graduate-school type of atmosphere,” said Chaney. “Some eating, some drinking and lots of talking.”

We would like to exchange e-mail with interested parties regarding date preferences and attempt to finalize a date by the end of January 2014. “None of the above is set in stone,” Chaney said. “We would be thrilled to hear from those who are inclined to attend in terms of their general thoughts, date preferences, and/or other suggestions.”

Richard Maples can be contacted at rampsm@att.net and Courtland Chaney can be contacted at courtlandchaney@cox.net or mgcourt@lsu.edu



Rich Maples (L) and Dr. Courtland Chaney have cooked up a plan to host the 1975 time period of LSU Baton Rouge psychology doctoral students in an informal reunion. The two are inviting interested people to contact them. (Courtesy photo)

LSU, McNeese Student Named Artist of the Year By The Louisiana Office of Cultural Dev

An undergraduate of LSU psychology and of McNeese State arts education, Ms. Erin Barker, has been named 2013 Louisiana Artist of the Year by the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development.

Barker received the state’s highest award last month at the Louisiana Culture Awards Ceremony in Baton Rouge. The awards are given by the Office of Cultural Development, along with honors for those in historic preservation, archaeology, and cultural districts awards.

According to the press release Ms. Barker, “... has worked for years with disabled individuals and has been effective in using art to break through to autistic children. Barker has received various art awards throughout the state, and her work can be found in both public and private collections around the world.”

Barker’s work is currently on display at the Art Associates Gallery at the Central School Arts and humanities Center in Lake Charles.

People

Things We Keep: A Short Interview With Dr. Yael Banai

by Julie Nelson

‘It had long been my wish, at least throughout high school, to finish undergraduate school and immediately go to Israel to live on an Israeli kibbutz,’ Dr. Yael Banai told the *Times*. She had mentioned in an off-hand way, to this reporter, about an “Israel thing.”

“You really served in the Israeli Army?” I asked.

“I’ll tell you about it,” she said. “... probably more than you ever wanted to know...”

In her teens Yael was a voracious reader, and stumbled upon Leon Uris’ books *Exodus* and *Mila 18*, and of course the Diary of Anne Frank. “They also made a major motion picture of Exodus –with the dreamy Paul Newman,” she said, “which I sat through lord only knows how many times.” It all appealed to her on so many levels—WWII, the depression. These were the seminal events of her parents’ lives and she found the topics fascinating.

Yael explained that there was an awareness of the Holocaust emerging in the 60s that had not emerged before in the post-war period.

“Many memoirs were published, or republished, during those days,” she said, “and I read all that I could get my hands on.”

“In addition, several television documentaries appeared on the establishment of the state of Israel, again fueling my interest.”

It greatly appealed to her to be able to participate in the “building up” of the modern day state of Israel after the devastation of the Holocaust, she explained, something she considered close to a miracle.

“The summer of 1968 was a turning point,” she said. “I worked as a student volunteer in Bobby Kennedy’s campaign and after he was shot, worked for Eugene McCarthy. Nixon was elected, so I figured that even though I was not finished with undergraduate work, it was time to depart.”

Yael dropped out of school, got a job and earned enough money for a one-way ticket to Tel Aviv. She left in 1969.

“Imagine my surprise and delight when I discovered that the kibbutz I picked was the very one on which Leon Uris had spent time in preparation for his book, *Exodus*!”

The name of the kibbutz is Kibbutz Menara, established by holocaust survivors and Israelis, and located on a mountain top on the Lebanese border in the far north of Israel.

In *Exodus*, Uris changed the kibbutz into a children’s village for holocaust survivors, and told a story about 300 children being rescued after the declaration of the state of Israel’s creation by the United Nations vote in 1947.



Dr. Yael Banai around 1970, while living in a kibbutz in Israel. She served in the Israeli Army. (Courtesy photo)

“This actually happened,” Yael said, “although the number of children was 30. After arriving and hearing of this tale, some friends and I made the same trek, during daylight hours, and not burdened with a sleeping toddler on our backs. Quite an experience.”

“After learning enough Hebrew to be conversant, I volunteered for the Israeli Army in a special program for volunteers from outside of Israel, a program that was established from the early days of the state.” Yael Banai served in the Golan Heights in an encampment on the Syrian border, just across the valley from her kibbutz, on the Jordanian border in the Aravah desert, and very briefly on the Egyptian/Gaza border on a kibbutz called, Kerem Shalom (the Vinyards of Peace). “I used to say that I have lived, and had been shot at, on every border Israel has....”

Yael feels she was lucky, since she lived in Israel during the “lull,” between the Six Day Ware in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973. “So aside from the odd bazooka attack from the PLO in Lebanon, and the occasional bombardment from the Syrians on the Golan, things were relatively peaceful,” she said.

She does have her “Heidelberg scar,” which she got early one morning when returning from a desert posting.


“As I was approaching the bus stop in Kiryat Shmoneh, a town in the valley below Menara. I heard a loud whirring, whizzing noise which I recognized as a Katuysha rocket. I was able to duck behind a concrete barrier at the bus stop, unfortunately a regular feature of the landscape in Israel) but not before being struck with some hot debris from the explosion.” She has a nice little scar on her forehead, even after all these years.

“The katuysha had taken out the second story of a nearby building---happily the occupants had already left for work!”

Yael had planned to finish her undergraduate degree at Hebrew University but her father became very ill and she returned home to the United States.

Margaret Ann Stokes, the young woman who dropped out of school to earn money for a one-way ticket to Tel Aviv in 1969, kept something besides her scar and her experiences. She legally changed her name to her Israeli/Hebrew name, Yael Banai. She followed that dream, across the ocean, at such a young age, and captured it forever.

(Editor’s Note: Dr. Yael Banai has her doctorate in educational psychology, is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist, and is past president of the Louisiana School Psychological Association. She is also serving as a steering group member for the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention, among many other duties and services.)



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Up-Coming Events

2nd Annual Louisiana School Climate Institute To Be Held June 4-6 in Shreveport, LA

“Creating Safe and Positive School Climates”

The 2nd Annual Louisiana School Climate Institute, sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Education, will present “Creating Safe and Positive School Climates,” on June 4 to 6 at the Hilton Hotel and Shreveport Convention Center, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Keynote speakers and presenters include Dr. Scott Poland, Dr. Johathan Cohen, Dr. Charles Williams, and Cheri Lovre.

Breakout session presenters include Dr. David Brooks, Jamie Keith, Jon Guice, JD, Kelly Wells, Sandy Williamson, Dr. Barbara Dietsch, and Dr. Jean Hollenshead.

Also presenting are Amanda Clinger, Dr. Pat Cooper, Carl Mitchell, Beth Freeman and Mitzi Musgraves.

Conference Co-Chairs are Dr. Barzanna White and Jill Waltemate.

The institute is part of the Louisiana’s Safe and Supportive Schools Initiative.

New Orleans

LACSW Hosts June 7 Workshop In Mindfulness-Based Psychotherapy

The Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers will host Marie O’Neil in a one-day workshop, “Mindfulness-Based Psychotherapy: Theoretical Framework and Interventions,” on Friday, June 7, 2013. The workshop will be held at the Red Cross Center, 2640 Canal Street, in New Orleans.

The workshop will cover the therapist’s mindfulness practice as a tool to enhance the therapeutic relationship, including topics of mindfulness of breath and body, thoughts and emotions, sounds, and “walking meditation.” The morning session will be experiential. Afternoon sessions includes clinical applications of mindfulness and topics of “Mindfulness as third wave of behavior therapy,” “Theoretical framework of mindfulness,” and “Tailoring mindfulness practices to needs of individual clients.”

Marie T. O’Neil, LCSW, is a Registered Yoga Teacher, Certified

Mind-Body Medicine Practitioner, and Co-founder and Faculty of the Mind-Body Center of Louisiana. She has studied Buddhist psychology and was the Program Director of Garrison Institute’s Wellness Program in Garrison, NY where she worked closely with meditation teacher Sharon Salzberg to design and implement a model using contemplative practices to transform vicarious trauma.

Coming Next Month in *The Times*:

The Obamacare Corner

The good, bad, and the ugly of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Professional Training Resources To Hold 11th Annual Mental Health Summer Symposium From July 24 to 26 at The Lafayette Hilton

Professional Training Resources has announced its upcoming Summer Symposium to be held this year, July 24 through 26. Tune your guitars.

The Summer Symposium is an annual event and this year offering 23 hours of continuing education, including ethics. The training is provided in a relaxing, multidisciplinary atmosphere. Attendees from across the state travel to participate in the educational and enjoyable activities.

Owner of Professional Training Resources, Dr. John Simoneaux, previously told the *Times* that, “we started ‘Summer Symposium’ years ago. We do three days in July,” he said, “and it’s designed so someone can come and have all the CEs they’d need for the year.” The program is approved for APA, but also for a number of professions, with multiple presenters, and different tracts. PTR is APA accredited for psychologists, but likewise is approved o offer CEs for Social Workers, LPCs, Rehabilitation Counselors, Substance Abuse Counselors, School Psychologists, and LMFTs. (Information is listed at www.professionaltrainingresourcesinc.com.)

“What’s cool about it is that we started it with the idea that people can have fun while learning. So we really emphasize being relaxed, a friendly atmosphere. We give door prizes. We joke around. Historically our sons come and play. They’re musicians. We celebrate my wife’s birthday every year at that time. So in the evenings, we invite people to come and hang out with us. We play music and have the greatest time.” John explained that it has grown in popularity so much that they are limiting attendance, “So we can keep the user friendly atmosphere.”

For the upcoming Symposium, topics include:

Internet/Cell Phone Addiction: Overuse Disorders, presenter by John Simoneaux, PhD.

Handling Gender Stereotypes for Effective Counseling, presenter Linda Brannon, PhD.

The Truth About Obesity, presenter Dorian Driscoll, MS, LDN, RD.

Delusional Disorder, presenter John Simoneaux, PhD.

Substance Abuse: A Long, Strange Trip In Assessment and Treatment, presenter, Don Clausen, LCSW, LAC.

Ethics and Dealing with Diverse Populations, presenter, John Simoneaux, PhD.

Professional Training Resources is a business where teaching, learning, and having fun is near and dear to the Simoneaux family. Wife Gayle, a retired teacher, helps register and makes sure everyone is comfortable. Byron and Stephen help as well, when they are in town. PTR conducts multiple presentations a year. They provide training for the Office of Community Services, individuals, and organizations like Regions. “We do a fair amount of training with judges and attorneys, the ‘Judicial College,’ a summer school for judges in Florida, and multiple talks on family law and competence” for a variety of legal and healthcare professionals.



Dr. John Simoneaux (center) with son Steven (left) and son Byron (right) Both sons are frequent musical contributors to “Summer Symposium,” a three-day conference presented by PTR, Dr. Simoneaux’s Training firm. (Courtesy photo.)

Susie Marie PhD



So here I am again, still Susie Marie PhD. I've settled on my in-the-media public name, supported by positive responses from a sampling of both sexes across age groups, including rural and city dwellers, workers, retirees, and students. I came up with the name of my new TV show, South River Stories, several years ago, and waited for the rest of my life to catch up with my idea. That's life as a Myers-Briggs intuitive. I had the idea, I loved the idea, and finally I am implementing the idea.

The first step toward realization of my idea was to file for federal registration of "South River Stories" with the U.S. Patent and Trademark office. Well over a year after I began that process, I received confirmation that my mark had been approved. Now, as I write this column and develop my show, I look on the wall in front of me and see my certificate, inspiring me to continue to go forward on this media mission.

A service mark is a big deal in business. If you look closely at various items on

your desk, you will see the ® after the brand names. For example, I see Liquid Paper®, Kleenex®, and Scotch® (. . . my tape dispenser, y'all . . . I live life sans alcohol . . .). Sometimes those registration marks are really tiny, but, if you look closely, you will see them. They are supposed to accompany the registered words wherever they appear. And so, without further adieu, I am happy to invite you to watch South River Stories® - The TV Show, premiering this November. You want to know where? Where? Well, I am in negotiation for airtime and funding, so stay tuned for confirmation of that detail. As an independent producer I am putting the show together from scratch, i.e., from my intuitive bank of ideas, and banking on sponsors to invest in the show.

The Psychology Times

CLASSIFIED ADS

Psychology Practice looking for professionals interested in joining our practice in **Metairie**. Two fully furnished offices in beautiful atrium building available 3 days per week. Rental includes telephone, fax, wireless internet, basic office supplies and receptionist. Contact Lynn at 504-455-0109.

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Position Wanted: Research Associate, Health Psychology. Accomplished and dynamic masters level professional with degree in health psychology. Competencies include: Health Care · Patient Assessments · Patient Relations · Health & Safety Regulation · Care Coordination Policies / Procedures Compliance · Time Management · Needs Assessment · Email for more info at Neurology579@yahoo.com

Private Office Space for Rent in complex with other mental health professionals: **Baton Rouge, South Sherwood area**. Utilities included. \$650 per month. Call 850-564-0077 for more information.

LSU Positions Available

The Clinical/Counseling Psychologist position is a senior staff position in the Mental Health Service of the Student Health Center, Louisiana State University. The professional position will report to the Director of Mental Health Service. This is a full time (100% effort/40 hours per week) position for 12 months per year. Qualifications: Doctoral degree in Clinical/Counseling Psychology; license to practice psychology in Louisiana or obtainment of LA license by time of hire; three years of clinical experience. Posted 5-28-2013, open until filled.

Professor, Faculty: Roy B. Crumpler Endowed Chair in Psychology. Duties will include teaching and supervision of assessment and treatment in our APA accredited Ph.D. program in clinical psychology, undergraduate teaching, attracting research funding and maintaining a highly visible research program. Qualifications: Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology; established national/international reputation; should be licensed or license eligible. Posted 11-2-2012, open until filled.

Instructor, part-time: School of Social Work –College of Human Sci and Ed. The Instructor teaches one course in any of the following areas during the Fall 2013, and Spring 2014 semesters: Human Diversity & Oppression, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Program and Practice Evaluation, Research, Social Work History and Policy, and Social Work Practice, Juvenile Delinquency, electives and internship courses. Qualifications: (Clinical Practice Courses) Master's of Social Work (MSW) degree; three years of post MSW practice experience; active Louisiana Clinical Social Work license (LCSW) in good standing. (Non-Clinical Practice Courses) Master's degree in Psychology or a closely related field and five years of professional experience OR a Doctorate in Psychology or a closely related field. Posted 4-17-2013, until filled.

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None of the content is intended as advice for anyone.

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists Seeking Contractual Investigator, Deadline June 14

According to a recent announcement, the LSBEP is looking for qualified applicants to investigate complaints for the board. "The LSBEP requires the professional services of an individual qualified to conduct investigations on complaints, provide written summaries of investigations with recommendations for the Board's review and consideration, participate in face to face meetings concerning investigations, assist in negotiating and preparing consent orders, and participate in hearings." Applicants can submit cover letter, references and proof of investigator's license to Ms. Kelly Parker by June 14, 2013.



The state psychology board with "Holo," Dr. John Courtney's Goldendoodle as visitor. The board has an opening for an investigator.