



The Louisiana legislature finished its special session without solving the looming financial problems. The regular session convenes March 12.

Legislative Session Begins March 12 Bill for School Violence Prevention Calls for More Mental Health Evaluations

Representative Tony Bacala, Republican from Prairieville, representing District 59, has submitted a bill, HB511 which seeks to address reporting of threats of violence and mental health issues.

The legislation would address matters relative to the reporting of threats of

violence and terrorism at schools and requires mental health evaluations.

According to the digest of the bill, currently, the law does not require that teachers, principals, or other school employees report threats of

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Representative Falconer Files “La Suicide Prevention Act”

Representative Reid Falconer, District 89, has submitted a proposal for a state suicide prevention plan that if passed, is to be called the "Louisiana Suicide Prevention Act."

The proposal creates the "zero suicide initiative" to be administered by the office of behavioral health of the La. Department of Health (LDH) in accordance with the provisions of proposed law. The initiative shall be based upon the model set forth in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention published in 2012 by the U.S. Surgeon General and further developed by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

The bill and digest note that the 2016 America's Health Rankings report, the number of deaths due

to suicide per one hundred thousand population in the United States rose steadily from 2012 through 2016, and Louisiana's rate of deaths from suicide is nearly ten percent higher than the national average.

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Nemeth, Olivier Win Publishers' PROSE Award

Dr. Darlyne Nemeth and Dr. Traci Olivier, co-authors of *Innovative Approaches to Individual and Community Resilience: From Theory to Practice*, have had their work chosen for the PROSE Award, sponsored by the Professional and

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LSU's Dr. Ray Tucker on Suicide Film Panel

Dr. Raymond Tucker, member of the Board of Directors, American Association of Suicidology and Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at Louisiana State University, helped answer questions at the recent screening of *Suicide: The Ripple Effect*.

The *Baton Rouge Parents Magazine* and Louisiana Film Society presented the world premier of the documentary at AMC Mall of Louisiana in Baton Rouge on the evening of February 23, followed by the Q&A with the filmmakers and an expert panel, according to the press release.

The film chronicles the story of Kevin Hines, who at age 19 attempted to take his life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. Since then, Kevin has been on a mission to use his story to help others find recovery and stay alive, and has become the world's most prominent suicide prevention speaker and advocate. The film also features some of the world's leading suicide prevention experts and shines light on people who are using personal experiences with suicide to help others find the hope they need to stay alive.

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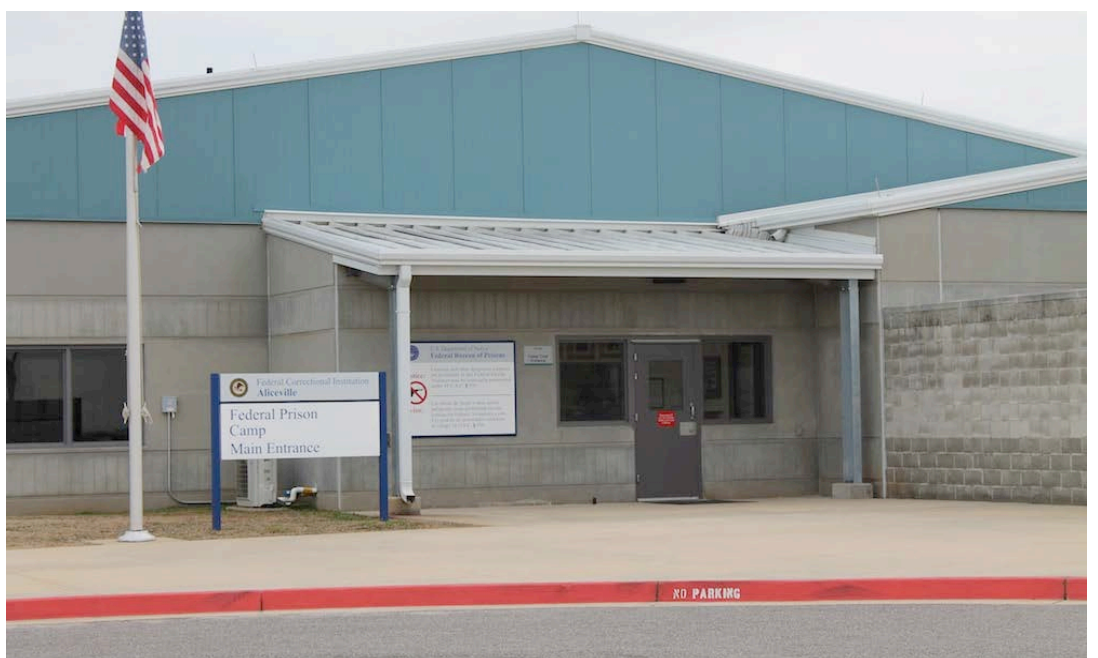


What Happened to Beverly Stubblefield?

by J. Nelson

In 2016 a respected member of the Louisiana psychology community and past member of the state psychology board, Dr. Beverly Stubblefield, entered a plea agreement of guilty in a Medicare fraud case. Dr. John Teal, a Louisiana medical psychologist, was also charged. Both Stubblefield and Teal pleaded guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud, surrounding the high profile case against Mississippi psychologist Dr. Rodney Hesson and his business partner, Gertrude Parker, an occupational therapist and Hesson's mother.

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The Aliceville Federal Prison Camp visitors' entrance, where Beverly Stubblefield, friend and colleague to many in the community, has been sentenced to serve 30 months.

Editorials and Opinions

The First Duty

by Times publisher, J. Nelson

The Oscars are out and our movie reviewer Dr. Burstein has leaped ahead once again and reviewed the Best Movie, *The Shape of Water*. See his clever review on page 14.

I hardly noticed the Oscars this year. Besides *Darkest Hour*, *Dunkirk*, and *Blade Runner*, I've seen none of winners. Archimedes and I have almost given up trying to find good movies.

So when I want to watch something really good, I watch *Star Trek* reruns. I found a scene recently in *Next Generation* where a gruff Captain Picard is mentoring young Wesley Crusher, asking him, "Have you read that book I gave you?" Wesley hems and haws and says, "I just don't have much time. And William James isn't going to be on the Starfleet entrance exam."

"The important things never will be," Picard says, and continues to say, "Anyone can learn the mechanics of piloting a starship." Study philosophy, art and history—"and all *this* might mean something."

The father-son exchanges between the two are often poignant but perhaps the most famous one for fans comes from the well-loved episode, "The First Duty."

Wesley is now a cadet at the Starfleet Academy and becomes a member of an elite flying squad. The squad, led by a charismatic senior cadet, decides to perform a spectacular but prohibited and very dangerous maneuver at the Academy's graduation.

The flying team's attempt to grab glory goes horribly wrong and one of the young flyers is killed. An investigation ensues and the remaining cadets agree to cover up.

The story is a common one. Roddenberry probably didn't call the



Star Trek's Captain Jean-Luc Picard showing his disdain.

plot points "identity threat" or "group think" or "boundary rigidity," but it is all there.

Wesley attempts a lie by omission, but Captain Picard figures out the ruse and confronts Wesley. The scene is as meaningful and as beautifully acted as any from Shakespeare.

Picard, the archetypical warrior-king, sets out the moral principle and it rings like a bell.

"The first duty of every Starfleet officer is to the truth," Picard tells Wesley. "Whether it is scientific truth, or historical truth, or personal truth. It is the guiding principle on which Starfleet is based. And if you can't stand up and tell the truth about what happened, you don't deserve to wear the Starfleet uniform."

Even for those who aren't fans of *Star Trek*, the scene is worth watching (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xefh7W1nVo4>)

There are many roles those of us in the psychological and behavioral sciences community take on in our hope to be of use to the larger society. Some of us focus on helping, perhaps as psychotherapists, counselors, or coaches. Some of us focus on teaching and education. Some of us focus on research. Some of us do a little bit of everything.

One of the societal roles a psychologist can take up is that of scientist-practitioner. In 2009 APA president James Bray asked, "Where have all the psychologists gone?" I think he was referring to the scientist-practitioner, the person LSU professor Ed Timmons once described in this way: "You should be able to pick a psychologist up by the ear and drop them in anywhere."

For the psychologist who is a scientist-practitioner it is about truth. It can't be about politics, or group identification, or emotions, or perception. It isn't about altruism or interpersonal harmony or even cooperation. It is hard to lead by this principle, especially these days, because we are each of us embedded in our social context, with our group identities, and our fast-think brains.

But for those psychologists, who are scientist-practitioners, truth is the first duty. As ragged, complicated, or as incomplete as it is, truth and its application, is our first duty.

Then we go to whatever is second.

[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, organizational consultant, and publisher of the Times. She also holds other various 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 advertizing. Email her at dri@drjulienelson.com, —she welcomes feedback.]

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Corrections & Clarifications

We did not receive corrections for February. Please send your corrections or clarifications to the *Times* at: psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

Dr. Chaney On LPB
Governor’s Task
Force Provides
Guidance

This past December Governor Edwards created a Task Force to “review current harassment and discrimination policies within every state agency that falls under the executive branch, as well as research and identify the most effective ways to create work environments that are free from any form of harassment or discrimination.” The Task Force was created after Governor Edward’s deputy chief of staff, Johnny Anderson, voluntarily resigned amid an investigation of a harassment claim against him. Anderson says he is innocent of any wrongdoing.

The key recommendations reported March 1 by the Task Force are that the state government should “start from scratch and create a uniform sexual harassment policy that applies to all state employees, and those workers should be required to take part in sexual harassment prevention training each year,” reported Greg LaRose of the *Times-Picayune*, this week.

The state lacks a uniform policy on sexual harassment and training is not required, LaRose reported.

These were the guidance points that are going to be provided to the legislature so that initial requirements can begin.

Lawmakers filed three bills having to do with requiring training and other issues.

Senator Hewitt put forth SB404 setting out a “Louisiana State Employees’ Sexual Harassment Prevention and Training Act.” Senator Barrow proposed SB447, which requires each public employee and elected official to receive at least one hour of



Dr. Chaney being interviewed on LPB.

sexual harassment training annually. And Representative Johnson put forth HB578 that would prohibit an employer from mandating forced arbitration in sexual harassment claims.

Louisiana Public Square addressed these issues on “Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment in Louisiana” Wednesday, which aired late February on LPB in Baton Rouge and in New Orleans on WLAE.

Governor Edwards named Industrial-Organizational Psychologist Dr. Courtland Chaney to the Governor’s Task Force and Chaney was one of the experts interviewed by LPS.

Speaking on the LPB panel were Craig Broome; Louisiana Society for Human Resource Management, Sen. Sharon Hewitt, R-Slidell, Allison A. Jones; Downer, Jones, Marino & Wilhite, LLC, and Janice Lansing, also from the Governor’s Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy.

LPB CEO, Beth Courtney, and Southern University Vice President for External Affairs, Robyn Merrick, hosted the show. The episode can be seen online at:

http://www.lpb.org/index.php/publicsquare/topic/02_18_-_drawing_the_line_sexual_harassment_in_louisiana/

School Violence
Prevention, continued

violence or terrorism on school campuses to law enforcement. The present law does not require any person who threatens violence or terrorism in a school setting to undergo a mental health evaluation.

HB511 would require any school employee who learns of a threat of violence or terrorism at a school or a school-related function to report the threat to law enforcement.

“Any administrator, teacher, counselor, bus operator, or other school employee, whether full-time or part-time, who learns of a threat of violence or threat of terrorism, whether through verbal communication, written communication, or electronic communication, shall report the threat to local law enforcement.”

The proposed law provides for procedures for law enforcement upon receiving a report of a threat of terrorism or violence on a school campus or school-related function.

The legislation would require mandatory mental health evaluations for individuals who make threats of violence or terrorism at schools or school-related functions. Any individual making a threat of violence or terrorism at a school or school-related function is prohibited from being within 500 feet of the school until undergoing a mental health evaluation and being cleared by a mental health professional to do so.

“If the person who is reported to law enforcement is a minor, then the local law enforcement agency shall contact the local child protection unit of the Department of Children and Family Services. The local child protection unit shall file a motion with the appropriate judicial district court for a medical, psychological, and psychiatric examination as authorized by Children’s Code Article 760.”

Representative Bacala is a retired Deputy of the Ascension Parish Sheriff’s Office, and attended LSU and the FBI National Academy.



Members of the Governor’s Task Force at a meeting. (L to R) Suzette Meiske, human resources director, Louisiana Community Technical College System; Dr. Courtland Chaney, industrial-organizational psychologist; Janice Lansing, CFO, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; Makayla Weber-Harris, staffing assistant division administrator, Louisiana State Civil Service; Sandra Schober, deputy director of administrative services, Louisiana Attorney General’s Office; and Terrence Ginn, deputy commissioner for finance & administration, Louisiana Board of Regents. Not shown, Tina Vanichchagorn, deputy executive counsel, Office of the Governor.
(Photo courtesy Dr. Chaney)

State & National News

Falconer Files “La Suicide Prevention Act”*continued*

Suicide is a pronounced public health concern among military veterans nationwide and in Louisiana particularly, as Louisiana's veteran suicide rate is over ten percent higher than that of the nation and of the southern region.

The proposed law stipulates that the office of behavioral health shall ensure that the initiative incorporates, at minimum, all of the following components as set forth by the zero suicide model of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center: Leadership development; Healthcare provider training; Identification of suicide risk factors; Patient engagement; Treatment; Health system transition; Health system quality improvement.

The initiative requires the office of behavioral health to ensure that administrators of all healthcare facilities licensed by LDH and that all healthcare professionals licensed by any Louisiana board or commission have ready access to informational resources and technical assistance necessary for implementation of the zero suicide initiative.

The office of behavioral health is to examine and coordinate the use of existing data to identify priority groups of patients, improve the quality of care for persons who are suicidal, and provide a basis for measuring progress in the ongoing operation of the zero suicide initiative.

Proposed law expresses the intent that La. healthcare providers do the following: Work in collaboration to adopt and operate the zero suicide initiative as promulgated in administrative rules by LDH; Work with advocacy groups, faith-based organizations, and any other entities with an interest in suicide prevention to support the adoption by health systems in La. of the suicide prevention plan provided for in proposed law; Make efforts to connect persons and groups who are at higher risk for suicide with services provided under the suicide prevention plan established by proposed law.

A “State Suicide Prevention Plan” is to be created and office of behavioral health shall collaborate with criminal justice and health systems, including mental health and behavioral health systems, primary care providers, physical and mental health clinics in educational institutions, colleges and universities, community mental health centers, advocacy groups, emergency medical services professionals, public and private insurers, hospital chaplains, and faith-based organizations to develop and implement all of the following, which shall be included as elements within the state suicide prevention plan: A plan to improve training on means by which to identify a person with trends, attributes, and indicators of suicidal thoughts and behavior across criminal justice and health systems; A plan to improve training on the provisions of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and regulations issued pursuant thereto; and on other applicable federal and state laws and regulations concerning privacy of health information; Professional development resources and training opportunities regarding indicators of suicidal thoughts and behavior, risk assessment, treatment, and management.



A previous view of the Health and Welfare Committee at the Legislature.

Governor, Attorney General Announce Coordinated Effort Against Opioid Manufacturers

Governor John Bel Edwards and Attorney General Jeff Landry have agreed to coordinate efforts in the State of Louisiana's litigation against opioid manufacturers, said the Governor's office on February 20.

Under this agreement, the Attorney General's office will take over primary responsibility for the suit filed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) in the 19th Judicial District Court.

LDH is seeking damages and penalties for the amounts it has already paid for excessive opioid prescriptions and treatment costs as a result of those prescriptions. The lawsuit alleges that the drug companies engaged in fraudulent marketing regarding the risks and benefits of prescription opioids, which helped fuel Louisiana's opioid epidemic.

"The opioid crisis is sweeping the nation; and this is due, in large part, to the drug companies that mislead physicians and the public," Governor Edwards said. "A coordinated effort from the State will produce the best

results for the families who have lost loved ones to this epidemic. Justice for them is our number one priority."

"The Opioid Epidemic is one of the most challenging and complex problems facing our State," General Landry said. "Tackling this problem will take a concerted effort on many fronts and joining together to coordinate this legal effort is in the best interest of the people of Louisiana."

Special Session Accomplished Little

Governor Edwards' long and passionate speech opening the special session apparently had no or a reverse effect. He asked lawmakers to face the dramatic financial cliff by passing tax legislation.

The special session adjourned without a significant tax measure. Sources say another special session is planned.

Senator Fred Mills Renews Efforts to Restructure Boards

Senator Fred Mills has paired down last year’s effort to restructure the health care boards, and is proposing SB40 which contains several of the components of last year’s SB75, including adding a consumer member to each board and removing the professional associations from the board’s nomination process.

SB40 would transfer the extensive list of boards, commissions and agencies to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). Included will be the boards for psychology, counselors, social workers, and the other 22 healthcare boards. These are the boards for dentistry, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, medicine, physical therapy, speech-language, addictive disorders, vocational rehab, behavior analyst and others.

SB75 would also remove repealed and obsolete cites and references and categorizes those entities statutorily created within the department.

The proposed law adds at least one consumer member to any board that did not previously have one and provides standardized eligibility criteria of consumers to serve on any board.

Present law provides for professional trade associations and other entities to select and submit nominees to the governor for board appointment.

The proposed law opens board nomination eligibility to any member licensed by the board who is interested and eligible. Proposed law requires the board to send notice to its licensees to fill board positions and submit the names of those interested and eligible to serve to the governor for board appointment.

Last year, SB75 included sweeping changes in the disciplinary processes of the boards, his measures fueled in part by the 2015 anti-trust decision of the Supreme Court, and Mills’ own views that boards have “virtually no detectable oversight.”

Mills’ previously explained to the *Times*, “... there has to be

a place for consumers and practitioners to go when they feel they haven’t gotten a fair shake from their boards.”

Perhaps the most dramatic change Mills proposed in 2017, missing from this year’s SB40, is in disciplinary hearings. Last year the Senator wanted to remove final adjudicatory hearing authority from the boards and transfer that to the division of administrative law. The Division of Administrative Law will preside over hearings in which a final action of the licensee is being pursued by the board.

For the 2017 failed proposal by Mills, “... final adjudicatory proceedings shall be transferred to the division of administrative law, that administrative hearings shall be held in the administrative law location closest in proximity to the licensee, and that venue for appeal of the administrative law judge’s ruling shall be the district court for the parish in which the licensee is domiciled.”

Another of Mill’s efforts in 2017 aimed to restrict board investigations to a one-year time limit. “If a board does not issue notice of an adverse or disciplinary action within one year from the date upon which a sworn complaint is received or, if no sworn complaint is received, within one year from the date the board voted to commence an investigation, the matter shall be dismissed. The one-year period shall be prescriptive.”

Senator Mills’ 2017 effort was stopped in the House Health & Welfare Committee after passing the Senate. At the committee meeting Mills said that there had been some misinformation and he clarified that the measure did not affect the duties or powers of the boards, or the scope of practice that some members of the boards had believed. He said that the changes are not new ideas. “Forty-four states have Administrative Law Judges for disciplinary hearings,” he said. “We don’t want you to be the sheriff, the DA, and the judge.”

“We revised the Ethics laws in 2008 and said that, as a body, we don’t want the sheriff and



Senator Fred Mills is introducing a measure to add a consumer member to all the state regulatory boards, as well as move them under the Louisiana Department of Health. A version of this bill made it through the Senate last year but failed in the House.

the DA to be the judge and the executioner,” said Mills. “This bill is for the little man and the little woman. If you have to go in front of a full hearing, you should not go in front of a hearing that are those who’ve been investigating you.”

One source told the *Times* that psychology board members helped derail Mill’s 2017 effort. And sources said other boards also helped derail SB75. Ironically, in about that same time, a District Judge found that the psychology board’s investigation methods to be violations of due process.

SB72 Suggests Changes to Executing Orders of Protective Custody

Senator Martiny is putting forth SB72 regarding language for procedures used when dealing with persons suffering from mental illness or disorders.

Present law provides procedures when executing an order for protective custody and the use of forced entry when executing a protective order. Further provides for civil immunity for law enforcement agencies when executing an order of protective custody.

The proposed law provides that a coroner or his staff may apply to the court for an order of protective custody that allows law enforcement to use forced entry to gain access into

premises when executing an order of protective custody.

The proposal provides for accompanying documents for an order for protective custody and provides for both oral and telephonic orders of protections under exceptional circumstances.

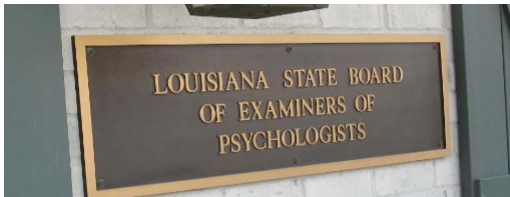
The proposed law further provides for immunity from civil liability to law enforcement agencies and its officers for acts done in good faith while executing an order of protective custody. Further, it provides certain exceptions for serious bodily injury or wrongful death, and for acts to third parties.

Sen Morrell to Extend ABA Board to 2028

Currently the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board terminates on July 1, 2018. Senate Bill 99 by Senator J.P. Morrell will change the year of termination from 2018 to 2028.

Bill to Limit Factitious by Proxy

House Bill 145 by Rep. Kenny Cox would place limitations on diagnosing of factitious disorder imposed on another (formerly known as "Munchausen syndrome by proxy"), and on circumstances in which state child welfare proceedings may be initiated.



From the Minutes

Selected Items from January and December Discussions of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

JANUARY 12, 2018

Executive Director Report

Ms. Monic reported those results to the Board as follows: Of 768 electors, 211 participated. Dr. Greg Gormanous received 169 votes. 42 electors abstained.

Ms. Monic reported that LPA should report these results in accordance with LA R.S. 37:2353.A(2).

Ms. Monic reported that oral arguments were heard in the LA First Circuit in the matter of Dr. Eric Cerwonka (Plaintiff/Appellee) and LA State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Defendant/Appellant) on January 10, 2018. No updates were available with regard to the Motion to Dismiss filed in the Civil Suit against the Board by Eric Cerwonka in the U.S. District Court.

Finance Committee Report

Ms. Monic reported the need for a contract amendment for Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, LLC in relationship to the ongoing litigation and that the matter was on the agenda as a discussion item.

DISCUSSION ITEM[S]

2. Contract Amendment: Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, LLC - The Board discussed amending the dollar amount of the contract for Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, LLC in relationship to the ongoing litigation. Dr. Henke, moved in favor of increasing the current contract amount by \$7,500. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Griffin - YEA, Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Crouch– YEA.

3. Contract Renewal: with Deborah Harkins for 2018 Regular Legislative Session [Rodel, Parsons, Koch, Blanche, Balhoff & McCollister] - The Board discussed renewing the contract with Ms. Harkins for the 2018 Legislative Session. Dr. Griffin recommended renewing the terms and amount (\$7,500) of the contract with Ms. Harkins for the remainder of the 2017-18 Fiscal Year. Dr. Henke moved in favor of the recommendation. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Griffin - YEA, Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Crouch– YEA.

4. Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) Part I and Part II - The Board discussed concerns with the development of the new EPPP and ASPPB’s requirement that jurisdictions require both Part I and II for licensure in Louisiana. Additional concerns were raised regarding the substantial fee increase, lack of data provided for exam validity, and the preadmission

and vetting of candidates by ASPPB rather than by licensing jurisdictions. The Board agreed to formulate a response and request for additional information

DECEMBER 15, 2017

Executive Director Report – Ms. Monic reported on the following: Elections opened on November 22, 2017 and will close on December 22, 2017.

The LSBEP appeal in the LA First Circuit in the matter of Dr. Eric Cerwonka (Plaintiff/Appellee) and LA State board of Examiners of Psychologists (Defendant/Appellant) was set for oral argument on January 10, 2018. A Motion to Dismiss was filed in the Civil Suit against the Board by Eric Cerwonka in the U.S. District Court, and is set for Oral Argument on January 18, 2018.

Complaints Committee: -

Dr. Griffin reported that he and Ms. Monic interviewed two qualified candidates for the contract position of Complaints Coordinator II. Dr. Griffin moved in favor of offering the contract for Complaints Coordinator II to Dr. Erin Skaff. Which role will be to serve the Board in reviewing and

overseeing the direction of complaint investigations, including negotiating Consent Orders for the Board when needed, where the primary Complaints Coordinator I may be recused due to conflict of interest, or unable to serve due to workload. The contract amount shall not exceed \$5,000, with standard terms and travel reimbursement established by contract. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Griffin - YEA, Lambert – YEA, Boggs – YEA, Henke – YEA. Ms. Monic was directed and empowered to facilitate the contract with Dr. Skaff.

Dr. Griffin noted for the record that upon the execution of Dr. Skaff’s contract, the Board will have three Complaint Coordinators contracted for complaint reviews.

DISCUSSION ITEM [s]

- 1. Audit for Reciprocity requirements with ASPPB, Certificate of Professional Qualifications and ABPP Diplomate* -** Due to time constraints, this matter was tabled
- 2. Letter from Texas Board of Examiners of Psychologists RE: Reciprocity Agreement* -** The Board reviewed the letter from Darrel Spinks, Executive Director for the Texas Board of Examiners of

Psychologists, wherein Texas terminated reciprocity with Louisiana, effective December 18, 2017, due to recent legislative changes which no longer require Texas to administer an oral examination for licensure. By motion of Dr. Lambert, the Board accepted the termination letter from Mr. Spinks. Ms. Monic was directed to facilitate the necessary revisions on the application process.

3. Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) Part I and Part II - Due to time constraints, this matter was tabled.

4. Request for Quarterly Verification Report from the Office of Behavioral Health* - The Board reviewed the email request from LDH, to assist them with auditing MHO’s by providing a quarterly report to LDH so they could audit a sampling of the providers credentialed by MHO’s. Noting that such a report is not currently developed and further that this information is readily available at the LSBEP website for LDH to access, the Board suggested Ms. Monic discuss the needs of LDH further and also direct LDH to the information available on its website.



American Board of Medical Psychology

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

Medical Psychologists are post doctorate trained and licensed psychologists with training in psychopharmacology, behavioral medicine, and health psychology. A medical psychologist is more than a psychopharmacologist and clinical psychologist and they are prepared for the mainstream healthcare system.

They have passed a national oral and written examination and have completed a preceptorship.

Join our interest society or present your credentials and training for examination and diplomat status at:

www.amphome.org

LSU's Dr. Raymond Tucker on *Suicide: The Ripple Effect* Film Discussion Panel, continued

The discussion was led by Kevin Hines, with the goal of enhancing suicide prevention efforts in the Baton Rouge area.

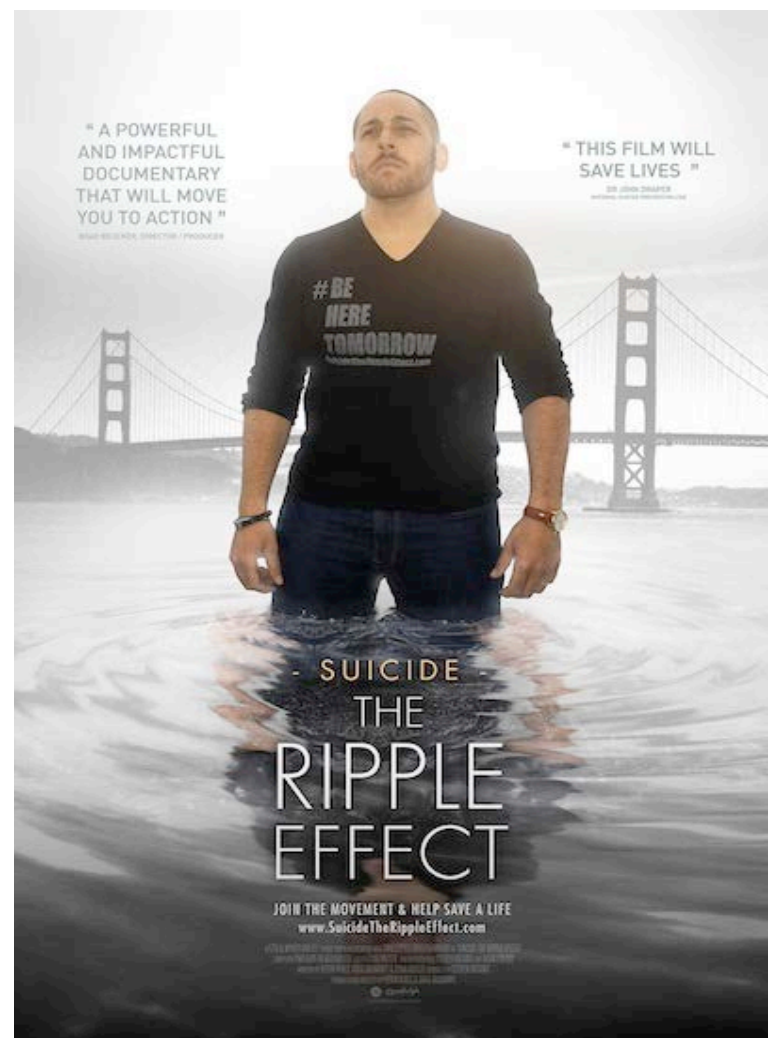
Panelists also included Greg Dicharry from SmileStyle Entertainment, Co-Director and Co-Producer of the film. Greg is a person in recovery who has led a national youth program for over 10 years.

Tonja Myles of Set Free, a US Veteran, radio host, ordained Minister and suicide attempt survivor also participated. Also Emma Benoit from Life Rejuvenated, a high school student and suicide attempt survivor answered questions.

The film will be officially released March 13th, it has received strong endorsements from some of the world's leading suicide prevention experts and organizations.

"Suicide: The Ripple Effect is a film that should be seen by anyone who has known despair, and anyone who is or has been close to someone in a suicidal crisis. This film will save lives." Dr. John Draper, Director, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

This event also serves as an opportunity to raise awareness and funds to support the Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center, whose mission is to provide prevention, intervention, and postvention services that provide support in times of crisis and reduce the impact of suicide, homicide, and violence.



Dr. Christiane Creveling-Benefield (L) speaking with UNO Assistant Professor and Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Elliott Beaton at the Science Café hosted by the Louisiana Psychological Association last fall. UNO will be offering a new, applied masters program.

UNO to Offer New Applied Degree

The Department of Psychology at the University of New Orleans (UNO) will offer a new graduate degree option to prepare students to work in a psychology-related, applied field or under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

"We are admitting students into a 12-month, non-thesis master program," said UNO Department Chair Dr. Laura Scaramella. "The degree is geared towards students who are interested in pursuing graduate education in psychology but may be undecided in the actual field of study." Requirements will include graduate level statistics,

developmental psychopathology, ethics, electives as well as two assessment and two practicum courses, she said.

"Focused on childhood disorders, assessment courses will provide students with training in assessment of autism and related disorders, intelligence testing, and developmental psychopathology," explained Dr. Scaramella. She anticipates openings for seven to 10 students, with admissions in both the fall (April 1) and spring (November 1).

For more information go to <http://www.uno.edu/cos/psychology/graduate.aspx>.

Dr. Michael Chafetz Authors Chapter for *Textbook of Clinical Neuropsychology*

Dr. Michael Chafetz has authored a chapter for the *Textbook of Clinical Neuropsychology*, editors Joel Morgan and Joseph Ricker, published in December by Taylor & Francis. Chafetz contributes the chapter on Disability, in Part III: Forensic, Ethical and Practice Issues. The *Textbook* is considered a standard in the field, in its scope and scholarship, notes the publisher's materials.

Dr. Chafetz is also the author of *Intellectual Disability: Criminal and Forensic Issues*, published by Oxford Press, which includes many of these issues.

Chafetz is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist working in independent practice in New Orleans, LA. His research program has involved validity assessment in low functioning children and adults being assessed for Social Security Disability, state rehabilitation, and child protection. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and consulted for a United States Senator on Social Security policy concerning validity assessment, testified at hearings at the Institute of Medicine, and consulted for the Office of the Inspector General on these issues. He consults and lectures around the country and internationally.

Seminar on Implementing AOT For Seriously Mentally Ill Held

A seminar on Implementing Assisted Outpatient Treatment in Louisiana, designed to assist local communities to create and implement assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) programs for the seriously mentally ill was held in February in Baton Rouge. AOT is known by different terms in different states, such as "outpatient civil commitment" or "mandatory outpatient commitment". Organizers, Janet Hays of Healing Minds NOLA and Dr. Jan Kasofsky, PhD, of Capital Area Human Services, discussed the benefits of AOT to behavioral health providers, families, law enforcement and the judicial system, coroners, emergency medical personnel, and those dedicated to the homeless.

Science & Education

Nemeth, Olivier
Win PROSE
continued

Scholarly Publishing (PSP)
Division of the Association
of American Publishers.

Innovative Approaches is
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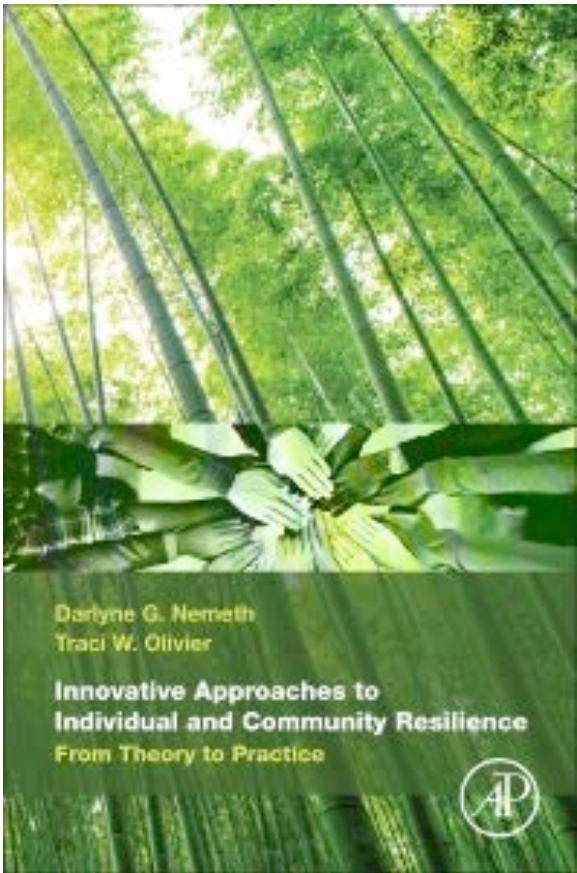
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annually recognize the very
best in professional and
scholarly publishing by
bringing attention to
distinguished books,
journals, and electronic
content in 58 categories.
The award is given to works
that provide
“groundbreaking
contributions to the
scholarly community, are
rigorously researched,
edited, and fact checked,
and that meet standards of
exceptional quality,”
according to the PSP.

“This is an unexpected
honor. The book was
chosen in the category of
Social Work, Nursing, and
Allied Health,” said Nemeth,
a clinical, medical, and
neuropsychologist, has a
broad-spectrum practice at
The Neuropsychology
Center of Louisiana (NCL).

“I do believe that the last
PROSE Award was won by
a book published by LSU
Press in 2009. It is such an
honor to have our book
amongst so many
distinguished writings.”

Nemeth is Co-Secretary
General, World Congress
for Psychotherapy and a
Member of the Organizing
Committee for the II
Congress on Mental Health:
Meeting the Need of the XXI
Century—Mental Health
and Education to take place
in Moscow, Russia in
October 2018. She is a
fellow of the American
Psychological Association
and the World Counsel for
Psychotherapy, served on
the APA Council of
Representatives.

Last year Traci Olivier,
PsyD, presented at a
national neuropsychology
conference, “Systematic
desensitization in a young
adult with pelizaeus-
merzbacher disease,” with
colleagues. Dr. Olivier
completed an internship at
John's Hopkins/Kennedy
Krieger and then a post-doc
in Pediatric Neuropsych-
ology at St. Jude's in
Memphis. She previously
was an assistant at NCLA.



Social Work Faculty May be
Exempted from SW Practice Act

Senator Fred Mills is putting
forth SB24 that would
amend the Social Work
practice act to exempt
faculty at a social work
program of higher
education.

The change would add the
language, “Social work
practice shall not include
social work education
administered by a faculty
member at an accredited
institution of higher
education. A person who
serves as a faculty member
in a social work program at
an institution of higher

education is not required
to hold a license under
this Chapter, to the extent
that the faculty member's
activities are limited to
teaching, scholarship,
service, and research.”

The proposed law retains
present law that allows
social workers to use, or
interpret tests of
language, education and
achievement, adaptive
behavioral tests, and
symptom screening
checklists instruments, as
well as tests of abilities,
interests, and aptitudes.

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“My son has grown over the years, his professional development has been aided by the ‘reminders’ that Dr. Costelloe’s testing and counseling revealed.” - **Former client**

William H Costelloe III Ph.D
(Industrial Organizational psychologist, President)

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(Career Consultant Vice President)

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What Happened to Beverly Stubblefield?

Continued

Hesson and Parker owned and operated regional companies, Nursing Home Psychological Service and Psychological Care Services. They marketed to nursing homes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, and built on requirements in federal regulations, 42 CFR 483.20, a law requiring nursing home residents be evaluated every three months in a “...comprehensive, accurate, standardized, reproducible,” manner.

At the trial, Hesson said that his company served up to 72 nursing homes and that the company was “...inundated with referrals.” He said that at times the company had to cap how many people could be seen.

Physicians ordered the assessments and nursing homes needed them. According to the regulation, evaluations were to include information about “cognitive patterns,” “mood and behavior patterns,” “communication,” and “psychosocial well-being.”

Hesson designed a service that paired each contract psychologist with an assistant, called a “clinical coordinator.” The total units/hours billed was a sum of both the psychologist’s and the assistant’s procedures. The companies billed Medicare between three and eight hours of CPT code 96101, psychological testing, for which Medicare reimbursed an average of \$80 per unit/hour.



Dr. Beverly Stubblefield (L) at a workshop in 2015 with colleagues Dr. Kim VanGeffen (C) and Dr. Charles Burchell. Dr. Stubblefield was sentenced to serve 30 months at a Federal Prison Camp last year.

Hesson testified he typically employed between 23 and 26 psychologists and between 18 and 20 clinical coordinators. One of the prosecutors stated that the firm has assessed 9,000 individuals and was one of the top billers for psychological testing in the country.

Contract psychologists were paid a flat fee of between \$90 and \$100 per case. Psychologists would go to a nursing home and see as many as 10 residents in a day, or more, along with the assistant.

In an interview with Dr. Stubblefield, she explained that the evaluation process was standard and set by the company. The evaluation included six components with tests, behavioral observations, review of chart information, and meeting with staff. She explained that the goals were often to “... get them off meds or increase functioning.”

In his testimony, Dr. Teal said the coordinator would complete information for the psychologist’s review and then prepare the “formalized report”

which the psychologist would review and edit.

The prosecution argued that the service was fraudulent because it was a screening, because it was not medically necessary, and because the time the psychologist provided in face-to-face client contact was exaggerated and inflated.

At trial Hesson testified that Medicare had audited the design of the service in 2011 and the approach passed. He said, “When I was audited, we were billing 96101 and -- 36 claims is a lot of claims, to my knowledge, to get in an audit,” he said. “Within those claims, we were billing 96101. Within those specific records, it was evident that there was an assistant...,” he said. “Under the diagnostic tests provision, all diagnostic tests are assigned a certain level of supervision,” he said, reading from the Medicare rules.

The defense attorney asked, “Did you rely on that in making your decision whether you could bill 96101?”

“Yes,” Hesson said, referring to Federal Code 42 CFR 410.32 for diagnostic tests. Under this regulation psychological testing is payable if “... personally furnished by a clinical psychologist, or “Furnished under the general supervision of a physician or a clinical psychologist.” And under Louisiana law, a psychologist



The entrance for visitors at the Aliceville, Alabama Federal Prison Camp.

What Happened to Beverly Stubblefield?

Continued

may utilize assistants but billing must “... not be in the name of an assistant.”

Despite the fact that the evaluations were ordered by medical doctors, the Government prosecutors said that the defendants’ actions were fraudulent, “... by scheduling repeat tests for the same nursing home residents at three- to four-month intervals, notwithstanding Medicare’s stipulation that re-testing is not medically necessary unless it is required for a diagnosis or continued treatment.”

“The prosecution insisted that we were doing screening instead of testing,” Dr. Stubblefield explained to the *Times*, “and therefore we committed fraud and everyone who was compliant with the procedure was a conspirator. That is the gist of things.”

The Government presented other issues at trial, producing several individual cases where it was clear that cognitive testing had to be discontinued because the resident was too disabled to participate.

One attorney asked Dr. Teal, “Looking back on it, sir, was there a benefit to these patients for the tests you were performing on them?”

Teal said, “In general, that kind of testing could be helpful once perhaps, but the benefit of continuing to do that repeatedly over time the way we did it is limited and certainly questionable as far as how clinically useful it could be.”

The prosecution also presented charts where, based on Medicare data, large numbers of hours had been billed for a single psychologist. According to Hesson’s testimony this was due to *locum tenens*, where one doctor bills under another.

Also presented by the prosecution at trial was the Medicaid fraud case against Hesson from Mississippi that occurred in 2012. He had pleaded guilty to billing patients on one day when the services had been delivered on another day.

Dr. Stubblefield said that Hesson had described this as a bookkeeping error, but “Now, I’m not so sure,” she said.

Charges against all four defendants were elevated to “conspiracy,” which carries some of the harshest legal treatment that Government prosecutors can bring to bear on defendants, through laws that allow pre-trial and pre-conviction seizing of assets and property.

“Conspiracy” laws originate from prosecution of individuals in organized crime and terrorists. “Federal prosecutors can, and should, use civil forfeiture to enhance criminal cases and further the Department of Justice’s (Department) goal of effective law enforcement,” writes Craig Gaumer in the *U.S. Attorney’s Bulletin*, “A Prosecutor’s Secret Weapon: Federal Civil Forfeiture Law.”

Cont’d next pg

Going to Aliceville

by J. Nelson

It took me four hours on back roads to get to Aliceville, Alabama, the small, rural community where one of the Federal Correctional Institutions is located, on Highway 14 a few miles out of town. The facility is a low–security prison for up to about 1,500 female offenders, with a minimum-security satellite camp for another 200 women. Dr. Beverly Stubblefield is serving a 30-month sentence at the satellite camp.

I got there at exactly the time when Beverly had said not to, because the entrance was closed for “count,” the guards making sure all of the offenders were where they are supposed to be. There are no fences. I waited at the front door with a middle-aged woman and two teenage boys, and we were all eventually allowed in to the small, bare, reception area where we were met by the guard who instructed me to fill out a visitors’ form.

He was a crisp, pleasant-looking, businesslike, uniformed Black man, about 6’ and perhaps in his early 30s. He took my drivers’ license, car keys and the visitor’s sheet—on which I swore that I had no weapons, drugs, or so on.

Beverly had already told me in an email (we are pen pals now on the prison email system) that I was not to wear “sandals or green.” She said not to wear a watch or smart watch. But, she recommended I dress in layers because the room is cold and coats aren’t allowed. I would not be allowed to bring paper, pencils, or a tape recorder.

What I was to bring, she said, were quarters. “Bring two rolls of quarters in a clear, zip lock bag.” This was so we could have lunch out of the vending machines. I was all in. I arrived with four rolls.

The guard disappeared behind the glass door with my form, license and car keys. I had a short flash of Zimbardo and losing my identity in a Federal prison.

But, I could see Beverly through the window, and she looked just fine. She was visiting with two young women and an adorable baby. I waved at her and she waved back at me and soon the two women came out and introduced themselves as Beverly’s relatives. They thanked me for coming and I thanked them.

Then the guard ushered me through the door. Beverly and I hugged and said how happy we were to see each other. She was wearing a green uniform and looked to be relaxed and in good health. She told me where to sit and explained that we were not allowed to sit side-by-side but only facing each other. I wasn’t sure exactly what the danger would be, but obeyed 100%.

The visiting area was one large rectangular room maybe 50 ft by 150 ft. Two additional guards, these White and similar demeanor to the first one, joined the other and sat around an elevated desk and platform, to one side of the larger wall.

The room reminded me a bit of an airport waiting room with rows of plastic chairs. There were vending machines around the perimeter and at one end, a play section with toys, for children. A family sat there most of the day while two, cute as buttons, twin girls played on the floor.

Beverly and I talked and drank diet cokes, and talked, and ate some chocolate, and talked, and drank more diet cokes. I wound up putting the quarters in the machines for us because she was not allowed to touch money. This rule took me a couple of reminders to learn and I kept trying to hand her quarters and was probably annoying.

The room was full of visitors and inmates. Beverly later said that there were physicians, nurses, and attorneys in the group and many were in their 50s or 60s. She seemed to know everyone and it was clear that she was in some type of informal, supportive role. She introduced me to several inmate friends, including one whom she was teaching to play the piano and one that was the photographer. When I commented that the restroom was unusually clean and thoughtfully supplied, she said, “We do that, the inmates take care of everything.” She told me she is the senior orderly in the Chapel Library and that she does a lot of supporting of the other women.

During the day another of her friends showed up to visit, unexpectedly. The three of us continued to chat about the world, life and what happened to Beverly.

What Happened to Beverly Stubblefield? *Continued*

Based on documents, prosecutors seized all assets from Hesson’s company, personal bank accounts, cash and real estate, including the family home, immediately once charges were formal.

According to Stubblefield, her home and accounts, including her retirement accounts, were seized. She said her elderly father placed a second mortgage on his home and that money allowed her to hire an attorney.

“I didn’t have the money to fight it,” she told the *Times*. “I never had the chance to defend myself against the conspiracy charge. Federal courts cost two or three times as much as other courts. It takes \$100,000 just as a start. I only had \$75,000.”

The “conspiracy” charge may also relate to areas of harsh treatment. “I never had my Miranda rights read to me,” she said. “I didn’t even know I’d been indicted until a client saw it on the news and contacted me.”

The FBI came to her office and she didn’t know why. In an email to this reporter, she wrote, “The FBI interviewed me without stating why they were there and I was under the assumption that they were there regarding a high profile rape case who was a former patient because my office administrator said that someone was coming in regard to that case.”

It appears that Stubblefield and Teal may have been included in the indictment because of their friendships with Hesson and Parker, and because both accepted company titles for a time.

Teal accepted the title of “clinical education coordinator.” Stubblefield accepted the title of “Clinical Director,” when Hesson asked her to in 2012. This was after Hesson pleaded guilty to Medicaid fraud in Mississippi and was not allowed to work with Medicaid/Medicare. She resigned from that role after five months but she said, “It was too late.”

“I was flattered,” she wrote, “but the position was just a ‘figurehead’ title. I really didn’t get to direct anything but was set up to be the ‘bad guy’ and ‘fall guy’ if things didn’t bode well. Emails to that effect were interpreted by the prosecution as conspiring to commit fraud by encouraging a psychologist to bill as they have done for NHPS...”

Overall, Stubblefield worked contract for the Hesson companies, part-time for about five years. She was paid \$448,000 total or \$89,000 per year. Her restitution is over \$2M.

Teal worked full-time, for four and ½ years. He testified that he made approximately “... \$200,000 a year, some of the years—one year as much as \$300,000.” His restitution is over \$3M.

According to testimony neither had information regarding the billing procedures. Both testified that they relied on Hesson and Parker to understand the laws regarding the CPT codes. Stubblefield told the *Times*, “I never saw the billing. I didn’t want anything to do with that part of the service. I was preparing to retire. I wanted everything simple.”

“When I went to work for in NHPS I was an employee because I didn’t want to file any claims or do any ‘business’ paperwork. I just wanted to be a psychologist.”

In their plea agreements, Stubblefield and Teal agreed that they: 1) documented services that had been “... in fact, provided by unqualified persons working with them; 2) administered tests to residents who were non-responsive; 3) billed for time when they were not present.

Dr. Stubblefield was sentenced to serve 30 months for 1 count. Two counts were dismissed. Her sentence began April 25, 2017. She must pay restitution of \$2,181,378 and upon release at least \$200 per month. Payee is Medicare.

Dr. Teal was sentenced to serve 24 months for 1 count. Two counts were dismissed. His sentence also began April

25, 2017. He must pay restitution of \$3,505,137 and upon release at least \$200 per month. Payee is Medicare.

Gertrude Parker was found guilty of three counts and sentenced to 84 months for Count 1 and 60 months for Count 2, to be served concurrently. She began serving September 2017. Ms. Parker is to make restitution of \$7,313,379 and \$200 per month. Payee is Medicare.

Dr. Hesson was found guilty of three counts and sentenced to 120 months for Count 1 and 60 months as to Count 2, to be served concurrently. He began serving September 2017. He is to make restitution of \$13,800,553 and \$200 per month. Payee is Medicare.

Beverly was sentenced to 30 months incarceration at the Federal Prison Camp in Aliceville, Alabama. This, she explained to the *Times*, was not the hardest part of what has happened to her.

“The worse part is losing my psychology license,” she said. “This...the time, this is just something to be dealt with, something I had to do.”

In February Dr. Stubblefield wrote a letter to past-president of the American Psychological Association (APA), asking that APA take a stand for sentencing reform in regard to white collar, first offenders.

“In regard to white collar crime,” she wrote, “there are many innocent professional women her who have been charged with the ill-defined ‘castnet’ of conspiracy, when the only thing they’ve done was to comply with company procedures or file data given to them. If they went to trial, the sentence was automatically doubled,” she wrote. “Losing one’s license and livelihood is punishment enough, but the Department of Justice seizes or places a lien on everything owned including your home and retirement accounts because judges set unrealistically high restitution of millions of dollars never received by the people charged. The people charged are primarily MDs, PhDs, CPAs and NPs who have licenses, Medicare/Medicaid numbers, and ethical standards or responsibilities, not office managers or company owners who may be the ones submitting faulty claims.”

Dr. Teal said at trial, “I had concerns. I look back on all that time with tremendous regret because of exactly what you just said. I should have. I should have done due diligence and called the Medicare hotline or hired a lawyer and asked him. I should have done those things. Lord knows, I wish I had.”

At trial Dr. Stubblefield, after she was surprised to hear the number of hours billed under her name, was asked how she felt to testify against Ms. Parker.

“Dismayed, disgusted, betrayed, still in shock about everything, remorseful about the whole situation, regretful that I ever went to work for another agency.”

How does she cope? “I use my cognitive-behavioral skills,” she said, “and prayer. I couldn’t get through this without my faith.”

Were you naïve? “Absolutely,” she said.



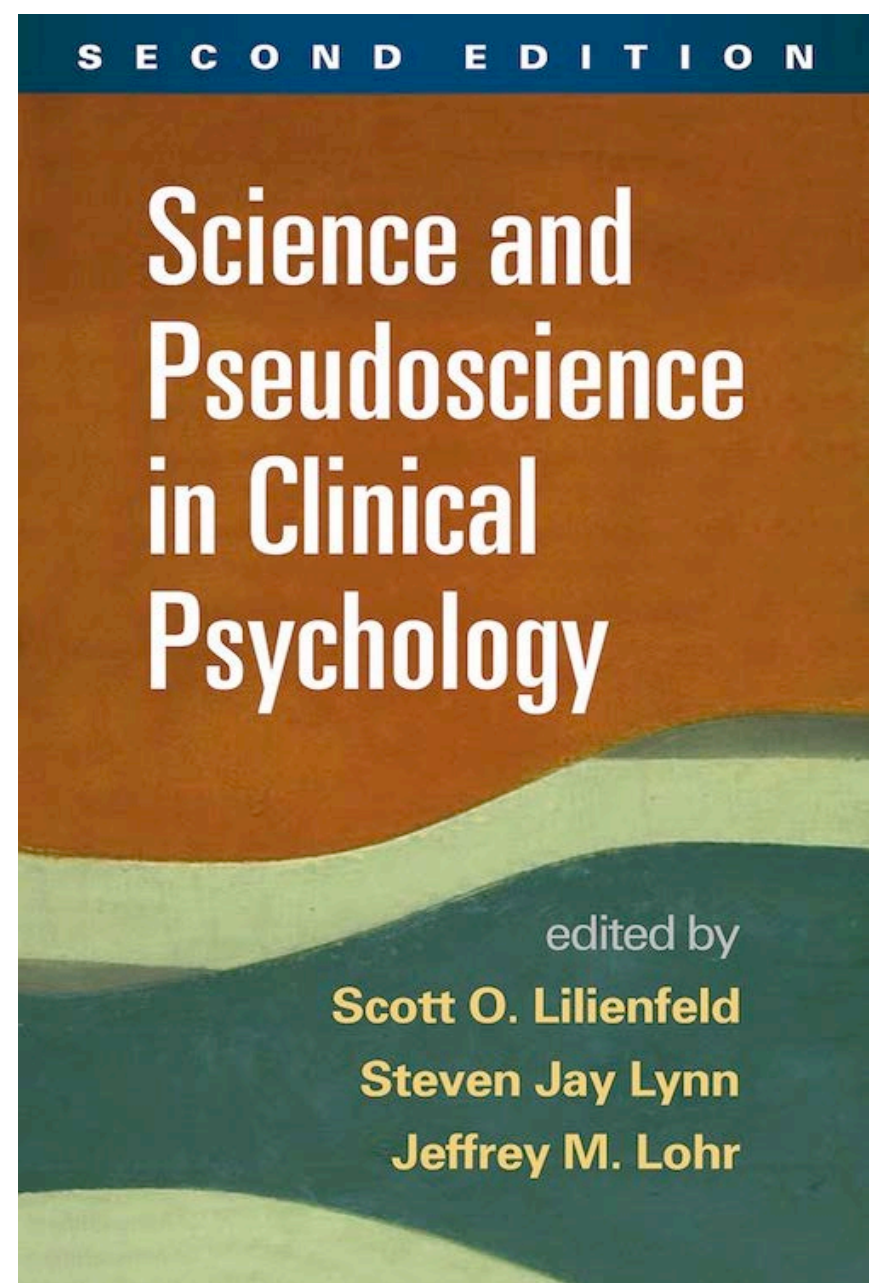
Dr. Julie Nelson (L), Dr. Beverly Stubblefield (C), and Dr. Sharah Tester at the visitors’ room photo area at the Aliceville Federal Prison Camp. Beverly had a number of visitors throughout the day. Nelson and she communicate by email also.



Science and Pseudoscience in Clinical Psychology

2nd Edition Guilford, 2015

Edited by
Scott O. Lilienfeld
Steven Jay Lynn
Jeffrey M. Lohr



In *Science and Pseudoscience in Clinical Psychology*, Scott Lilienfeld and his colleagues have put together a set of ideas and facts for understanding what are science-based methods in clinical psychology and what are not. This edited text lays out the good and the bad for us, and also helps to boil down the reasons why we clinicians can be so confused about what is evidence-based and what is folklore, belief, or imagination when it comes to clinical psychology.

Science and Pseudoscience has something for everyone to feel bad about—readers will find at least one or two of their treasured theories or methods included somewhere in a chapter's section on "Unproven or Controversial" descriptions, or embedded in the discussion of critical thinking using the template of science.

The straightforward benefit for the reader, especially for those who have been away from their scientific training or approach, is this—a bolstering of scientific and logical thinking and practice. Reminders of where we need to double-check ourselves, where we need to apply stronger reasoning and tighten it all down. How to shore up our pursuit of scientific truth.

Included are reviews on the Rorschach, projective drawings, the Myers-Briggs, the diagnosis of Dissociative Identity Disorder, New Age Therapies, memory recovery techniques, herbal treatments, Alcoholics Anonymous, as examples. Some well-known names are included in the contributors, especially Irving Kirsch and Elizabeth Loftus.

The work is organized in five parts, covering Part I: Controversies in Assessment and Diagnosis, Part II: Overarching Controversies in Psychological Treatment; Part III: Controversies in the Treatment of Adult Disorders; Part IV: Controversies in the Treatment of Child and Adolescent Disorders.

This second edition is well organized and takes the reader through the steps of honest assessment of the field, with chapters that point out what we're doing wrong but also chapters that show us why. Among the many strong sections, authors provide an excellent overview of how to understand the types of research information for assessing evidence—the introductory chapter for Part II, "The Science of Psychotherapy: Developing, Testing, and Promoting Evidence-Based Treatments."

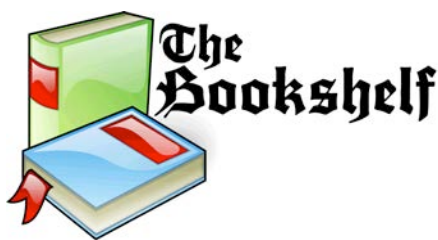
Many readers might also find a particular value in the chapter on self-help therapy and the authors' "Guide for Developing, Selecting, or Evaluating a Self-Help Program: Questions to Ask," which struck me as very useful.

The chapter on stress and trauma sets out the distinctions between evidence and science-based treatments, and critical reviews of EMDR and critical incident stress debriefing, then moving into the solid treatments like prolonged exposure.

A pull-no-punches Forward by Carol Tavris should not be missed. She describes a clueless clinician testifying in court, who was unaware of the reliability and validity weaknesses in her tests, knew nothing about testing clinical assumptions, nothing about confirmation bias, nothing about error rates, and so on. "In short, Dr. M managed to get a PhD in clinical psychology without having acquired a core understanding of the basic principles of scientific thinking."

Lilienfeld has been beating this drum for a while. He is one of the leading professional voices in helping to straighten out scientific clinical psychology and he has assembled an impressive group of contributors to walk the reader through key areas of practice, outlining the science and pseudoscience.

Cont'd next pg



A growing minority of clinicians are basing their work in therapy and assessment on subjective intuition, Lilienfeld says, rather than research evidence and this results in an ever increasing scientist-practitioner gap. And, he believes an increasing number are skeptical even for the need of evidence-based practice.

Lilienfeld quotes one of his mentors, Paul Meehl, on the topic, “It is absurd, as well as arrogant, to pretend that acquiring a Ph.D. somehow immunizes me from the errors of sampling, perception, recording, retention, retrieval, and inference to which the human mind is subject.”

The passion of the true scientist is to not be fooled or to fool anyone else, Meehl says, following Bertrand Russell. The true scientist is to ask “What do you mean?” and “How do you know?” He said, “I see the disturbing signs

that this is happening and I predict that, if we do not clean up our clinical act and provide our students with role models of scientific thinking, outsiders will do it for us.”

Science and Pseudoscience is a commendable effort to help with that goal. It can supply a check to one’s metacognitive approach, to help psychologists accurately evaluate what they are doing and why, and to apply the tools of science to their methods, and to help them think about how they are thinking. You might not come away with a single change (although I doubt it) but you will come away with a renewed awareness to being a real psychologist.

Dr. Lilienfeld will be delivering the keynote address at the Louisiana Psychological Association in May.

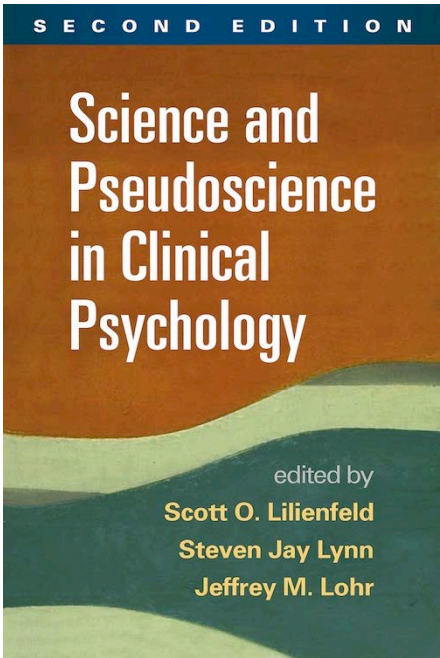


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A Shrink at the Flicks

Guest Columnist,
Dr. Alvin Burstein

Burstein, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, is a professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and a former 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.

The Shape of Water by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

My first reaction was to think of this film as a mash-up of *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*, with its fantastic and frightening monster, and *Splash*, with its mermaid romance.

But more complexity is promised by the beginning and ending epigraphs that frame it:

If I spoke about it - if I did - what would I tell you? I wonder. Would I tell you about the time? It happened a long time ago, it seems. In the last days of a fair prince's reign. Or would I tell you about the place? A small city near the coast, but far from everything else. Or, I don't know... Would I tell you about her? The princess without voice. Or perhaps I would just warn you, about the truth of these facts. And the tale of love and loss. And the monster, who tried to destroy it all.

And the afterword:

Unable to perceive the shape of You, I find You all around me. Your presence fills my eyes with Your love, It humbles my heart, For You are everywhere.

The opening, with its uncertain *ifs* and references to fair princes and last days suggest something other than facticity despite the story's purported setting in the 1950's cold war and space race. It implies a truth that transcends history, the truth of myth or legend.

The central characters are a striking assortment: A possibly divine monster from the deep, capable of bloody wrath, magical healing and striking vulnerability; a totally mute scrubwoman, employed at a top-secret research facility; a closeted gay illustrator, her confidant; a federal agent who combines sadism and phallic narcissism.

As the story unfolds, one striking theme is the federal agent's figuring himself as a Samson castrated by a wily Delilah. He suffers losing two fingers in his battle with the creature, and ultimately rips off the re-attached digits in a desperate effort to avoid being defeated by the woman protecting his captive. This sub-plot includes the agent's trying to act on his urge to sexually assault the mute scrubwoman. When she rejects him, he reacts by having rough sex with his wife and buying a fancy new car—which gets wrecked in the course of the unfolding plot.

The major focus of the film, however, is on the “princess without a voice,” the scrubwoman. During the day, she mops floors and cleans urinals. At home, she luxuriates—and masturbates—in the tub of her decrepit bathroom, and fantasies while watching television movies with her illustrator neighbor. When she encounters the captured monster, she sees past his grotesque and frightening appearance. He, beset by alien humans, recognizes her as a savior—and princess.

That brings us to the closing epigraph. Our prince and princess avoid attending to apparent externalities. They choose to bathe in each other's love.

Amor Omnia Vincit.

Is the mythic lesson of the film that love always wins? Or that love is most important? Or is it that the real monster is not the grotesque creature, but crass and dangerous apparition functionaries ignorant of the meaning of love?

Or does writer/director Guillermo del Toro have all three in mind?



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Up-Coming Events

APA Division of Psychoanalysis to Hold Meeting April 18–22 in New Orleans

The Division of Psychoanalysis, Division 39 of the American Psychological Association, will hold its spring meeting April 18–22 in New Orleans at the Intercontinental Hotel. The theme is *Generations: Ghosts & Guardians*. Louisiana clinical psychologist, Dr. Stephen Anen, who is this year’s conference co-chair, said, “We have tried to create a meeting that recognizes its location, something not always pursued with Spring Meetings in the past...” The theme, *Generations: Ghosts & Guardians*, calls on the quote from William Faulkner, “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”

70th Annual Convention, May 18 & 19, 2018 Louisiana Psychological Association to Highlight “Lunch & Learn” Training

The Louisiana Psychological Association will hold its 70th Annual Convention on May 18 and 19 at the Sheraton, 4 Galleria Boulevard, in Metairie. The theme for the two-day, conference is “Psychology: Essential Partner for Solving Critical Problems.”

A popular experiential training approach, the “Lunch & Learn” series, is again included, said organizers.

Lunch & Learn uses a facilitated, problem-identification, small group experiential format, that uses the participant– as–teacher approach for discovering underlying current ethical challenges facing psychologists. The format promotes an analysis of the issue using group process and combined knowledge of the attendees.

According to the organizers, participants are engaged to explore the ethical and professional challenges facing psychology and psychologists in today’s changing environments and craft solutions through problem-solving group process.

Facilitators will use a consulting approach to engage and form key questions and sort out the critical elements in an open discussion about current issues, problems, and possible solutions in psychology practice. All participants are panelists and discussants, said the organizers, and help craft the main current issues facing today’s psychologists, and participate in analyzing the issue and designing potential answers.

Also highlighted are Governor John Bel Edwards, who has been invited to address the Friday plenary session about critical issues facing the state and its citizens.

A keynote address follows to be given by Scott O. Lilienfeld, PhD, Emory Professor who will speak on, “Being the Essential Partner: Understanding and Overcoming

Skepticism about Scientific Psychology.”

Dr. Lilienfeld is recipient of the James McKeen Cattell Award for Lifetime Contributions to Applied Psychological Science, Association for Psychological Science, and he delivered the Award Address, “Psychology’s Public Image Problem: Why Many Laypersons and Politicians Don’t View Our Field as Scientific.”

In his 2012 *American Psychologist* article, “Public Skepticism of Psychology,” Lilienfeld has examined the importance, prevalence, and sources of public and political skepticism of psychology. He will offer individual and institutional recommendations for enhancing the perception of psychology as a scientific discipline in the public eye.

Conference planners include: Dr. Michael Chafetz, Assessment & Forensics; Dr. Courtland Chaney, Chair, Speakers Bureau; and Dr. William Costelloe, Chair, IO & Consulting Psychology Committee.

Dr. Alan Coulter, Chair, School Psychology Committee; Drs. Michael Cunningham and. ValaRay Irvin, Diversity Committee; and Drs. Ashley Jefferson and Melissa Dufrene, Co-Chairs, Early Career Psychologists Committee and Scientific Poster Session, are also organizers.

Dr. Chris Leonhard, Chair, Health Psychology Committee; Dr. John Magee, Chair, VA & Military Psychology; Dr. Bill McCown, *Southern Psychologist*; and Dr. Julie Nelson, Chair, Convention Committee.

Dr. Rafael Salcedo, Chair, Community Psychology; Dr. Scott Smith, Academic Psychology; Dr. Kim VanGeffen, Chair, Professional Affairs; and Dr. Marc Zimmermann, Chair, Medical Psychology Committee, are also serving on the planning council, according to promotional information.

Registration opens this month.

Mindfulness Workshop Scheduled for April 7

Dr. John Pickering announced the Annual Mindfulness day will be held Saturday, April 7, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Tam Bao Meditation Hall, in Baton Rouge. The theme is “Mindfulness and Resilience: A Day of Mindfulness for Mental Health Professionals.”

Presenters are Thay Dao Quang, PhD, Margo Hasha, PhD, MSW, David Weibel, PhD, and Anne Marie Rossi. Early registration is open until February 28, at \$90 for the day, then afterward at \$110. The event is approved for 6 hours of CPD for psychologists by the Louisiana Psychological Association, for Licensed Professional Counselors by the Louisiana Counseling Association, and for Social Workers by the Louisiana Chapter of NASW.

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