

Dana Lasek, Ph.D., HSPP
Council of Representatives
Update-Council Meetings August 2nd and 4th, 2017
Washington, DC

The Council of Representatives met during the APA Convention in DC on Wednesday August 2nd and Friday August 4th. The Council meetings in August are very fast paced due to the short amount of time allotted for the meetings and the coinciding Convention. Many issues were presented, yet I have highlighted the most relevant issues below. Please contact me through IPA if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Masters Training and Practice in Psychology

History

The issue of APA providing training for and accrediting Master's level programs in Psychology is an issue which has been ongoing for 70 years. In the last decade, Masters degrees in Psychology have doubled while Master's degrees in health services have increased by 70%, one-third of these have been Master's in Counseling. APA does not accredit Masters level programs, only Doctoral programs. CACREP is the largest credentialing organization for Counseling degrees. CACREP has successfully passed legislature in several states which limits the licensure of LPC candidates to students graduating from CACREP approved programs only and faculty within these programs who have graduated from CACREP approved programs.

Issues-

- Masters in Psychology, these students will no longer be eligible to seek a LPC, no clear path to licensure
- Psychologists not able to teach within these programs.

Discussion

-Council approved the motion to move forward with looking into the issues of Masters level licensure in Psychology, specifically: that "current issues and developments [have] risen to the level that APA should take a position on master's level training and/or practice," and that, "Council direct[s] staff and governance to identify and explore options for APA to pursue." Further action is expected on this issue in February.

Commission on Ethics Processes – The Council accepted a report from the Commission on Ethics Processes, which was in response to the findings identified by the Independent Review. The project was led by some of the nation's leading psychologists and lay leaders in ethical thought and practices. The only update regarding the Independent Review was that the legal case against APA is ongoing. The legal team representing APA has been retained and updates will be made available as the case progresses.

Diversity Workgroup Report – Council received a comprehensive report and presentation from the Council Diversity Work Group recommending policy and procedure shifts, participation and representation, and diversity training and cultural shifts within Council and APA, as a whole, to make greater strides in promoting the greater inclusion of diversity issues and the promotion of psychological health for racial and ethnic minority communities within the business of the Council. During the Council meeting while this information was presented, it became clear to Council members and leadership that Council itself has a great deal of work to do internally to promote and respect diversity within the meetings. The report itself will be reviewed in greater detail in February.

Multicultural Guidelines for the Twenty-First Century – As the result of a ten-year long project, the Council adopted an update to the Association's 2002 *Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice and Organizational Change for Psychologists*. The update reflects the significant

growth in research and theory regarding multicultural contexts since the original 2002 guidance was adopted. The 2017 version of the Multicultural Guidelines encourages psychologists to take into account how understanding identity comes from and is disseminated within professional psychological practice. The approach to understanding identity incorporates developmental and contextual antecedents of identity and how they can be acknowledged, addressed, and embraced to engender more effective models of professional engagement. The Guidelines incorporate broad reference group identities such as Black/African American/Black American, White/White American, and Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander to acknowledge within group differences and the role of self-definition on identity (Summary provided for Council by Dr. Puente).

Resolution Affirming Support for Research and Teaching with Nonhuman Animals – Council adopted an important resolution reaffirming its long-standing support for ethically sound and scientifically valid research with nonhuman animals and the scientists who conduct it, noting that the application of such research has “significantly improved the health and well-being of both human and nonhuman animals.”

Time constraints did not allow for the discussion of the following items: police conflict with communities, pregnant and postpartum adolescent girls and women with substance-related disorders, and health disparities in boys and men. These issues will be discussed at the February meeting.