



South Dakota Psychological Assn. – Summer 2008

In This Issue:

- [Message from the President](#)
- [Federal Advocacy](#)
- [2008 Annual Conference](#)
- [Report from the Student Rep.](#)
- [SAVE THE DATE](#)
- [Please Share With a Colleague!](#)

Letter from the President

Greetings. My name is Kari Scovel Hendrickson, Ph.D. I work in my private practice, Scovel Psychological and Counseling Services, LTD. I also work in hospital and correctional settings with adult and youth. I enjoy the practice of psychology and am excited to be the new president of the South Dakota Psychological Association.

This year brings new opportunities to recruit new members and interest old members who have discontinued their membership. SDPA offers opportunities for socializing, networking and new business opportunities for psychologists and mental health practitioners in South Dakota.

I encourage all members of SDPA to continue to gather new membership, as this makes us not only a bigger voice in the legislature, but also enables us to get to know one another throughout the state.

I support SDPA members to become actively involved in Division I – Division of Professional Practice for SDPA, where issues are discussed in regards to legislative actions that either threaten or positively affect the practice of psychology. This Division also supports the advancement of our profession. It is important that we support the profession of psychology in getting better reimbursement rates and having an active voice in legislative action.

At the 2008 annual state conference, we had a successful presentation by Dr. Joel Dvoskin, Ph.D. The feedback from the members was positive and we all became more knowledgeable in regards to court testimony and being an expert witness.

The executive committee members are now putting together next year's annual conference.

Executive Committee 2008

Current President: Kari Scovel Hendrickson

Past President: Sally Weyer

President Elect: Michael Stone

Secretary/Treasurer: Nancy Wise Vanderlee

Member at Large: Stephanie Klemme

Mental Health Coalition: Mark Perrenoud

Federal Advocacy Coalition: Scott Pribyl

Student Representative: David Mitchell

APA Council of Representatives: Jodi Owen

Executive Director: Michael Wyland

H.R.6331 Medicare Bill Becomes Reality!

Despite a veto by the President, both the House and Senate have voted to override the veto and enact the Medicare bill ([H.R. 6331](#)). This action is final – the Medicare bill will now become the law of the land.

The override succeeded in the House by an overwhelming [383-41](#) vote, gaining the support of all Democrats present and 153 Republicans, 24 more than voted for the bill on June 24.

On the Senate side, the vote was 70-26, gaining the support of all Democrats present and 21 Republicans, including new YES votes by Senators Dick Lugar (R-IN), Thad Cochran (R-MS),

Roger Wicker (R-MS), and Kit Bond (R-MO).

This is a huge victory for psychology. Due to your tireless efforts, H.R. 6331 will restore for 18 months \$45 million to psychotherapy and related services cut as a result of the five-year review, halt the 10.6% Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) cut, provide a 1.1% update for 2009, and phase in Medicare coinsurance parity. Please stay tuned in the days and weeks ahead as we provide more information on what the enactment of this critical legislation will mean for your patients, your practice, and your profession.

For some history about the action, see below:

Senate and House Achieve Historic Agreement on Parity, as per information provided by APA on 06-18-08

From the time that the House passed its version of the parity bill, H.R. 1424, in early March (the Senate passed its version, S. 558, last September), the two chambers have been engaged in intense negotiations to reconcile differences between the two bills. The APA Practice Organization has been deeply involved in these negotiations, along with other key stakeholders from the mental health, insurer, and employer communities, including the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Retail Federation, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), BlueCross BlueShield Association, and Aetna.

The final gap between the Senate and House bills was closed as negotiations led to agreement over three key outstanding issues—

Preemption. The House accepted the stronger Senate language, which defers to the current HIPAA standard. This standard is extremely protective of state law, ensuring that stronger state parity and other consumer laws will remain in place.

Out-of-Network Services. The Senate accepted the stronger House language that makes clear that out-of-network mental

and substance use disorder services will be provided at parity when a plan provides out-of-network physical health services.

Covered Services. The House agreed to drop mandated coverage for all DSM diagnoses but ensured that all mental health conditions and substance use disorders would be covered by mirroring the standard for mental health under the current federal parity law.

Together, we have worked for the better part of a decade to end mental health and substance use benefits discrimination. This tremendous breakthrough would not have been possible without the tireless perseverance and dedication of psychologists across the country who have advocated year after year on behalf of their patients. When enacted the new federal parity law will—

Completely end insurance discrimination against mental health and substance use disorder benefits for over 113 million Americans, requiring full parity coverage with physical health benefits.

- Extend to all aspects of plan coverage, including day/visit limits, dollar limits, coinsurance, copayments, deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums.
- Preserve strong state parity and consumer protection laws while extending parity protection to 82 million more people who cannot be protected by state laws.
- Ensure parity coverage for both in-network and out-of-network services.

Scott Pribyl, Ed.D., SDPA-FAC

CREDIBILITY IS KEY!

That's the message Joel Dovskin, Ph.D. stressed to the participants of the 2008 SDPA Annual Conference when he presented on preparing and presenting court testimony. With a message sprinkled with humor and real case vignettes, he offered guidance and advice to those who find themselves

providing testimony in the courtroom.

Topics discussed included writing reports, doing depositions, counteracting bias, being objective, and the practical matter of how to charge for one's services.

He offered 5 mistakes to be mindful about and they are:

- Relying only on the information provided by an attorney.
- Forgetting you are not an advocate for the case, but for opinion or methodology.
- Putting too much in writing, too soon, and too casually.
- Being myopic.
- Sounding too much like an expert.

With his engaging style and attention to participants' questions, discussion was lively and informative. For those who are interested, a copy of his PowerPoint presentation is available at the SDPA office. Send an e-mail to Michael Wyland, Executive Director (Michael.Wyland@psysd.org).

Another important part of the conference was hearing about changes in the licensure law for psychologists in South Dakota. Fred Magnavito, Ph.D. from the Board of Examiners offered a session of Q & A for those with questions about the changes. The new law can be accessed through the link on the SDPA website.

REPORT FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Greetings, fellow SDPA members! My name is David Mitchell and I am the newly elected student representative for SDPA. Currently, I am beginning my fourth year in the clinical psychology program at USD, and plan on applying for internship in the fall. Along with the other students at USD, I am continually impressed by SDPA's interest in students and their work. As the student representative, I look forward to

keeping this tradition alive by supplying an open line of communication between the board and the South Dakota student body.


Recently at the 2008 SDPA conference, several students presented their research on various topics. Awards were handed out to three of the participants, along with a generous monetary gift. First place went to Rheanna Kado, BA for “Emotions, Social Context, and the Ethical Decision Making of Psychologists”, second place went to David Mitchell, MA for “Complicated Grief, Trauma, and Response Styles in Child Loss Survivors”, and third place was awarded to Laura Davis, MA for “Parent-Teacher Collaboration as a Predictor of Maternal Caregivers Likelihood to Intervene in School Bullying Situations.” All three students attend the clinical psychology program at USD, and express their gratitude to SDPA for providing an annual venue for research presentation. Congratulations to all the winners!

SAVE THE DATE



May 14, 15 and 16, 2009
SDPA conference will be held at Cedar Shore
Resort, Chamberlain, South Dakota.

(If you have conferences of interest to psychologists let us know.
We will be happy to place them on the calendar of events.)



The e-newsletter has been sent to you as a member of the South Dakota Psychological Association (SDPA) or as a subscriber to this newsletter. SDPA's mailing address is: PO Box 460, Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0460. Phone (605) 336-0244.

Please direct all inquiries to Michael Wyland, SDPA Executive Director, at Sumption & Wyland, 818 South Hawthorne Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104 (605) 336-0244.