



South Dakota Psychological Association – Winter 2009

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Message from the President

News about the 2010 SDPA Conference May 14 – 15, 2010

Division 1 of SDPA will kick things off with their meeting on the evening of Thursday, May 13.

Friday, May 14 there will be a seminar by APA Insurance Trust: "Legal and Ethical Risks and Risk Management in Professional Psychological Practice. Sequence II: Risk Management in Specific High Risk Areas." The workshop objectives are: "Providing a basic introduction to identifying legal and ethical risks involved in working with high risk patients and situations. The workshop will focus on three specialized areas of practice: working with couples and families, involvement with lawyers and the legal system, and working with potentially suicidal clients." Participants in this workshop will earn 6 CE. (Psychologists then are eligible for a 15% discount on the cost of their liability insurance if insured through the Trust-sponsored Professional Liability Program.)

Saturday, May 15 will be presentations on the implementation of Tele-behavioral health programs, including the process used by the military (TRIAP program providing online tele-behavioral health services to

active duty service members and their dependents 24 hrs/day). Also on the 15th is the Annual SDPA meeting, student presentations, and a presentation by the SD Licensing Board.

For more information, feel free to contact the SDPA office or the website.

Laura Hughes Psy.D, SDPA President

MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE

CONCERNS ABOUT MEDICAD REIMBURSEMENT

In February 2009, the Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services (Medicaid) conducted a “post payment review” for psychological services provided to Medicaid recipient psychiatric inpatients by two Rapid City psychologists. The Division of Medical Services (DMS) requested reimbursement from both psychologists for 90801 Diagnostic Intake and 96101 Psychological Testing Services provided during the summer of 2008. The Division of Medical Services later amended their request to wanting reimbursement for 90801 Diagnostic Intake services only.

The position of the Division of Medical Services was that these psychological services were a part of the routine daily care of the Medicaid recipient, and payment should have not been made by DMS, but rather the respective hospital as part of the per-diem reimbursement rate paid to the hospital. Similar reimbursement requests for group psychotherapy services to inpatients in Sioux Falls had been made by the DMS earlier in the year. These reimbursement requests came without any prior discussion or announcement that Medicaid administrative rules for independent mental health practitioners were going to be enforced or interpreted differently. As a result, psychological services to Medicaid recipients at the psychiatric units in both Rapid City and Sioux Falls were largely suspended. This resulted in some Medicaid recipients being underserved during their psychiatric hospitalizations.

One of the Rapid City psychologists appealed this request for repayment. As a result of this appeal, the Division of Medical Services

eventually withdrew their request for reimbursement in late July before the formal administrative hearing.

In a November email communication DMS stated that “medically necessary psychological services can be billed outside of the per diem rate” until these rules are clarified. DMS has formed a workgroup with “exempt unit psychiatric facilities” only, to clarify how psychological services will be paid for.

This leaves psychologists out of the discussion and any revisions. Psychologists are encouraged to convey to the Division of Medical Services the importance of psychological services and that these administrative rules need to be clarified and communicated. Psychologists need to be willing to help with this process, advocate for both our profession and patients and communicate amongst ourselves. It is still not clear if 90801 Diagnostic Intake services with inpatients by psychologists are authorized by DMS. Psychologists providing services to psychiatric inpatients would be wise to have the services preauthorized with DMS. Additionally, it is important that psychologists clarify the position of their respective hospital regarding reimbursement of psychologists for these services. Ultimately, this will result in the better service to Medicaid recipients who are psychiatric inpatients.

The Administrative Rules are available at <http://legis.state.sd.us>, Chapter 67:16:03 Hospital Services and Chapter 67:16:41 Mental Health Services by Independent Practitioners.

Mark Perrenoud, Ph.D.
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(Editor’s note: Two representatives of Division I of SDPA will be meeting with SD DSS officials on January 4th to discuss this important issue.)

STUDENT NEWS

(Editor’s note: This section is devoted to news from student psychology organizations on campuses of our state universities.)

USD Advocacy Coordinating Team Addresses Licensure Requirements

The Advocacy Coordinating Team at USD recently formed a Task Force to address a licensure issue for early career psychologists in the state. Our primary goal centers around changing the current one- year postdoctoral requirement for licensure to an hourly based requirement, which would include time during the pre-internship years.

Nearly thirty years ago, codified law 36-27A-12-4 was passed by the South Dakota legislature. This law requires that psychologists have at least one year of supervised postdoctoral training in order to be eligible for licensure. The adoption of this requirement was driven by the APA Model Licensing Act that recommended a year of supervised postdoctoral clinical training. Such a requirement was timely, given that a majority of programs training professional psychologists at that time relied primarily on the APA-required internship year in order to ensure that trainees received sufficient supervised clinical training. Since this law was passed, however, the process of training psychologists has changed dramatically. Unfortunately, laws regarding the qualifications necessary for licensure have failed to accommodate these changes.

More recently, in order to produce more competitive internship applicants, a vast majority of APA-accredited training programs have begun to require a number of supervised training experiences prior to internship. As late as 2005, the median number of total pre-doctoral clinical hours recorded by students applying to internship was 2,187 with a median of 906 direct client contact hours (APPIC, 2005). This equates to over a year's worth of full time work. Coupled with the internship year, students being conferred the doctorate degrees in APA-accredited programs commonly have two full years worth of supervised clinical experience upon graduation.

These emerging changes in the training of psychologists prompted APA to significantly shift its recommendations to states concerning licensure. In its most recent "Model Act for the State Licensure of Psychologists," the APA's Commission on Education and Training Leading to Licensure in Psychology recommends that postdoctoral training be detached from licensure requirements that are designed for entry level practice in favor of hour-based standards.

It is an important responsibility of the profession and its leaders to

closely monitor the guidelines set forth for the practice of psychology. As such, we strongly believe that the changing landscape in education and training has necessitated changes in the laws governing the licensure of psychologists. Namely, we believe that the training requirements of psychologists would be more appropriately represented in legislation by the total number of supervised hours that licensing candidates have acquired over the course of their pre- and postdoctoral training, rather a mandatory year of training beyond the doctorate. The benefits of such a change abound. Amid growing student loan debts, psychologists-in-training often struggle to support themselves throughout the doctoral training process, and the postdoctoral training licensure requirement often adds to this burden without significantly benefiting a student's clinical competence. The proposed change would enable those graduating with sufficient supervised clinical training experience to seek employment, regardless of whether that training was pursued before or after the doctorate has been granted. Additionally, such a change would ensure that the state of South Dakota is able to attract thoroughly prepared professionals and to continue to provide qualified professionals in underserved areas. We hope you will join us in ensuring that legislatures and regulators alike make this important revision a top priority.

Tyler Wray and Rob Dvorak
Advocacy Coordinating Team
Clinical Training Program
The University of South Dakota

BHSU PSYCHOLOGY CLUB BUSY WITH RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The psychology club at Black Hills State University (BHSU) plays a very active role within the campus and surrounding community. The club devotes much of its time to volunteering with activities such as visiting nursing homes, holding food drives, and helping out at the local animal shelter. Another big community event held by the BHSU psychology club is a yearly dance party for the Northern Hills Training Center, a program that offers jobs and assistance for handicapped individuals. On campus activities include the annual rat race and newly this year, an event involving the Take Back the Night organization which supports prevention and awareness of date rape and rape. The

numerous efforts and achievements of the psychology club have not gone unnoticed and they have been awarded the BHSU Best School Organization Award, as well as, the Board of Regents Leadership Award.

BHSU also offers its students opportunities to be part of innovative and multidisciplinary research projects which offer different views into the study of psychology. An ongoing research project headed by Dr. Scott Stoltenberg presents students with the genetic perspective of human behaviors. This study looks at the contribution of certain genotypes in the expression of impulsivity and risky behaviors. Specifically, the study is focusing on understanding how genetic variation in serotonin system functioning influences its related behaviors, i.e. impulsivity. Behavior genetics is the new frontier in psychological research and this project gives students vital knowledge for understanding the future findings provided by this perspective.

Another exciting research opportunity for BHSU students is a new project that looks into the behavioral effects of the ketogenic diet on rats. The ketogenic diet is used in humans to treat epilepsy that is unresponsive to anticonvulsant medication. This diet has also been shown to help improve symptoms of autism, act as a mood stabilizer, and aid in the treatment of ADHD. The project lead by Dr. Patricia Murphy will be using the open field test and the porsolt test to record individual differences in the rats' behavior. The study starting in the spring of 2010 offers a better understanding of the different factors that affect behavior, as well as, the importance and usefulness of small scale experiments and the study of individual differences.

Ava Sauter
psychology major
Black Hills State University

SDPA Executive Committee

Current President: Laura Hughes*

Past President: Kari Scovel

President Elect: vacancy

Secretary/Treasurer: Melissa Boyer

Member at Large: Sally Weyer

Mental Health Coalition: Mark Perrenoud

Federal Advocacy Coalition: Scott Pribyl

Student Representative: Rob Dvorak

Council of Representatives: Jody Owen

Michael Stone, prior President resigned his position citing personal and professional obligations. Laura Hughes will complete his term.

SAVE THE DATE

SDPA Annual Conference May 14-15, 2010
Chamberlain, SD. Division 1 meeting on evening of May 13, 2010

Quotes from the Secretary...

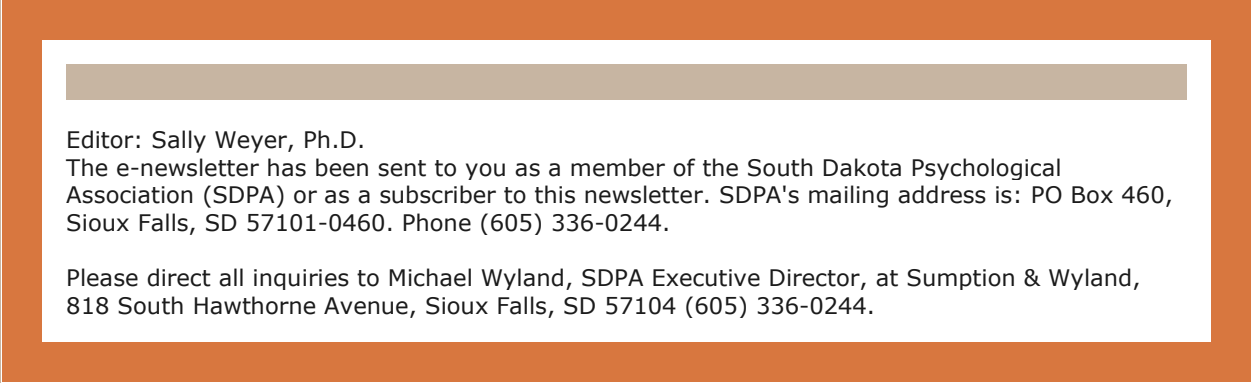
The good life is a process, not a state of being. – Carl Rogers

Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life – Confucius

Be the change you want to see in the world – Mahatma Gandhi

"Service is the rent we pay for living it is the true measure, the only measure of our success." ~ Marian Wright Edelman

"When you're following your energy and doing what you want all the time, the distinction between work and play dissolves." ~ Shakti Gawain



Editor: Sally Weyer, Ph.D.

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.