

# South Dakota Psychological Association



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## SDPA Transitions to a New Executive Director

Brittany Novotny, MBA, JD has been chosen as the new Executive Director for SDPA. She is the President of Midwest Solutions, which is a full service association management and development firm located in Pierre, SD. Midwest Solutions specializes in providing association management and lobbying services to non-profit health care associations. Midwest Solutions believes in a team approach to projects. The talents, expertise and experience of all the staff is utilized on each project to ensure optimal service for an organization.

To provide some background, Ms. Novotny received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Dakota in 2001. She went on to obtain her Master of Business Administration from the University of South Dakota, School of Business and a Juris Doctor from the University of South Dakota, School of Law in 2005, graduating with honors. After graduating from law school, She joined the law firm of May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson LLP, where she focused on business law and government relations/lobbying. In 2007, she and business partner, Jennifer Stalley, founded Midwest Solutions and began working exclusively with nonprofit associations, providing association management and government relations services.

Important to the day-to- day operations, is the administrative team of Midwest Solutions. There is a full

time project manager and a full time administrative professional with a background in finance. Both of these individuals will also be working with the SDPA. Novotny stated, "we truly enjoy the work that we do and look forward to working with the SDPA."

Updated contact information for the SDPA is listed below. Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions. We hope to meet many of you at the upcoming Convention and future SDPA events!

-Brittany Novotny, MBA, JD

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# APA Raises Serious Concerns About Message, Tone of NAPPP Ad Campaign

(Washington, DC)-- The American Psychological Association (APA) is a committed proponent of integrated, interdisciplinary health care delivered in primary care settings and highly values collaborative relationships with other healthcare providers. For many decades, APA members have worked on health-care teams with primary care providers, including pediatricians, family physicians, internists, and obstetricians/gynecologists. In so doing, psychologists provide mental and behavioral health services, and assist patients to adopt healthy lifestyles, adhere to treatment regimens, and cope with physical illness and injury. APA encourages psychologists and physicians to consult with and refer to one another to ensure the best treatment for their patients, including those with co-occurring mental and physical health conditions.

We have received concerned inquiries about the "Truth in Drugs" print and video advertisements recently created and distributed by the National Association of Professional Psychology Providers (NAPPP). These advertisements denigrate the role of primary care physicians in the treatment of depression and other mental and behavioral disorders, and criticize the use of medications to treat these conditions. The materials include statements that are misleading and inflammatory.

We are particularly concerned that the NAPPP "public education campaign" will confuse patients

and may dissuade them from sharing their mental health concerns with their primary care physicians, taking prescribed medications, and/or pursuing referrals to mental health professionals. Research has shown that effective treatment for various mental and behavioral disorders involves psychotherapy, medication, or some combination of the two. For certain conditions, psychotherapy is recognized as the front-line treatment.

APA is the principal professional and scientific association representing psychology and comprises 150,000 clinicians, consultants, researchers, educators and students. NAPPP has no affiliation with APA in any form and in no way speaks for the profession of psychology. APA had no advance knowledge of, or role in, the development or distribution of the NAPPP print advertisement or video and has serious concerns about their message and tone.

Counter to NAPPP's stated goal to build public support for effective treatment, it is our belief that the NAPPP advertising campaign does a disservice to the public, to primary health care professionals, and to the profession of psychology.

(Statement of the American Psychological Association communicated in email to Michael Wyland 022511)

## Council of Representatives

Of interest to SDPA is an issue regarding APA Dues. At our last Council meeting, we voted to offer a \$25 discount to APA Members who were also members of their state association.

Since that meeting, a task force assembled to attempt to simplify the dues and "level the playing field" so that ALL members receive the same discount. Their proposal was to UNDO all the other decisions that had been made regarding discounts for this or that entity, and to give ALL members a \$40 discount.

This sounds simple until you realize that for some entities that were enjoying a large discount, this would actually mean an increase in their dues.

Specifically, Canadian Psychological Association members who were also members of APA were paying dues at a 50% rate. There was a LOT of opinion about how to handle this particular piece of this legislation, given our long partnership with CPA. Accordingly,

COR voted to separate this proposal from the rest of the vote about the dues and to deal with the CPA issue separately.

Outcome was that COR voted to pass the undoing of former dues discounts (except for CPA), and offer ALL APA members a \$40 discount. (This is good news for SDPA members who would have otherwise only received the \$25 discount for membership in both SDPA and APA).

We voted to "table" the part of this that affects Canada, and a group will work on this issue cooperatively with CPA and bring a suggestion for a resolution to our August meeting.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or issues you need representation about and I will do my best to bring your voice to the Council of Representatives.

--Jodi Owen, PsyD., SDPA

# New Faculty and Research at BHSU

The Psychology department at Black Hills State University has a lot to offer its students in the area of research and community involvement. This year with new faces in the department students are seeing even more opportunities to become involved. The department has taken on two new professors who have brought with them new and exciting student based research. The Psychology Club at BHSU has also once again been very active within the school and community. Below is highlighted the work of the Black Hills State Psychology Club, as well as the individual research of BHSU psych students and faculty.

BHSU Psychology Club takes part every year in the Take Back the Night event to bring awareness to the community about the prevalence of sexual assault. The event invites students and members of the community to anonymously submit personal stories of survival which can then be presented to the audience. The floor is then opened to questions which are answered by a panel of informed professionals within this realm. Take Back the Night invites insight into the devastating effects of sexual assault on the individual, as well as the community.

The Psych Club also coordinates and hosts a dance party for the residents of the Northern Hills Training Center, a program that offers jobs and assistance for handicapped individuals. The dance is held in April and has been a long standing and anticipated event for both the residents and the members of the club.

The main event of the Psychology Club, and perhaps the most fun and talked about, is the annual Rat Race. This event educates the community on the aspects of behavioral psychology, as well as serves as the clubs main income. The rats are trained and then bet on by students, faculty, and community members for winning time and rat. These events bring students and community together to spread the knowledge of psychological science in a fun and inviting manner.

**Dr. Emilia Boeschen**, new to Black Hills State, offers some of the most advanced and forward looking research opportunities that expand into international territories and beyond. Dr. Boeschen's research looks at performance anxiety within Special Olympics athletes. Her research is done in the hopes of finding universal characteristics of anxiety within this population and developing means of testing that will bring a better understanding to this area. The future goals of the project are to test current means of measuring performance anxiety and then molding these tests to work within a handicapped population. With her team of students, Dr. Boeschen plans to explore the cross cultural aspects of performance anxiety and within two years hopes to collect data in collaboration with the Asian Special Olympics.

**Dr. Aris Karagiorgakis**, also new to BHSU, brings a more open and individualistic research experience to the table. Currently, Dr. Karagiorgakis has a seven student research team and has encouraged them to work together to form research projects designed, created, and carried out by them individually and as a group. He encourages a collaborative environment that has the students relying on one another for ideas and support. Brief descriptions of a few of the team member's projects are presented below.

**Erin Murtha** is currently working on a study that explores the relationship between perceived social/cultural pressures and levels of body dissatisfaction in college age students. Erin is looking specifically at ethnic differences as well as gender and college education level differences on these measures.

**Matthew O Luebeck and Jordan Thayer** are researching compliance behaviors in college students, specifically looking at gender differences.

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"The department has taken on two new professors who have brought with them new and exciting student based research."

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SDPA  
CONFERENCE  
MAY 13-14,  
2011

The experiment involves asking random passing students to deliver important papers to an individual at the opposite end of the campus. Luebeck and Thayer are observing how many times they can convince the unknowing students to deliver papers back and forth between the two experimenters. They will vary the gender of participant and experimenter to determine its effect on compliance.

**Jessica J Solstad** is investigating the variables that influence satisfaction levels in soldiers during military training. Jessica will be surveying soldiers in the National Guard for level of satisfaction following drills each month. Specifically, the study is looking for a possible relationship between the amount of down time at each training session and satisfaction rates.

**Dr. Patricia Murphy** of the BHSU psych department presents students with a more experimental approach to psychological research. Dr. Murphy researches the behavioral effects of the Ketogenic diet on the behavior of 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. Specifically this semester, Dr. Murphy and her team of students are observing effects of the diet on displays of “behavioral despair” in rat subjects.

**Psychologists will hear a proposal for a new licensure law at the SDPA Annual Conference in May.**



## Licensure Task Force Report

Last year, at the SDPA annual meeting, a decision was made to establish a task force that would review recent changes in the landscape of clinical psychology training. The APA Commission on Education and Training Leading to Licensure in Psychology is recommending changes that would offer more opportunity for licensure for new graduates of clinical training programs.

Specifically, this would allow graduates the opportunity to become licensed following internship given they have “sufficient sequential, organized, and supervised professional experience equivalent to two years of full-time training.” (APA, 2009). Graduates that have sufficient, supervised hours at the pre-internship level can count these hours towards those needed for licensure.

The task force has met and a proposal is being presented to the South Dakota Board of Examiners for Psychologists for their review. The same proposal will also be presented to the public at the SDPA Annual Conference in May.

American Psychological Association (2009, March). Model act for state licensure. Washington, DC: Author.

## SDPA Conference to Focus on Treatment for Gambling

The 2011 SDPA conference will focus on treatment for gambling addiction. Deb, Hammond, CCGC, Director of Choices Treatment Center in Lincoln, NE will be the featured speaker. Ms. Hammond has provided treatment for problem/pathological gamblers and their families for the past 23 years. She currently serves on the Nebraska Compulsive Gambling Counselor Certification Advisory Board, The Gamblers Assistance Program Evaluation Advisory Board, and the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling Board.

The dates for the Conference are May 13-14, 2011 at the Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD. Continuing Education credits will be offered.



# South Dakota State Legislature - Budget Highlights

The South Dakota State Legislature concluded its session in March with the passage of the General Bill, a.k.a. the 2012 State Budget. On average, Medicaid providers sustained an approximately 6% cut in State reimbursement – less than the 10% cut originally proposed. It is important to remember that the reduction in cuts is considered one-time. Unless additional revenues and/or cost savings can be found to sustain the current levels of reimbursement, the 2013 base will revert back to a 10% cut. Details of the cuts by provider groups are included below.

- Medicare PPS Hospitals (11.48%)
- Medicare CAH Hospitals 0.0%
- Long Term Care
  - oNursing Homes 0-50% Medicaid occupancy (4.00%)
  - oNursing Homes 51-56 % Medicaid occupancy (3.75%)
  - oNursing Homes 57-66% Medicaid occupancy (3.00%)
  - oNursing Homes 67% + Medicaid occupancy (1.80%)
  - o9 Critical Access Nursing Homes (SB 140) (1.80%)
  - oAssisted Living and Hospice (4.50%)
- Physicians
  - oPrimary Care / Pediatricians (4.50%)
  - All other Physicians (5.10%)
- Dentists (6.40%)
- Durable Medical Equipment (6.40%)
- Emergency Medical Transportation (5.10%)
- Optometrists/Ophthalmologists (6.40%)
- Chiropractors (6.40%)
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment (Medical Services) (4.50%)
- Elderly Nutrition Program – Senior Meals (3.20%)
- Pharmacies (3.80%)
- In-home Services for the Elderly (3.20%)
- Community Mental Health Centers (4.50%)
- Group Care Providers (Child Protection) (4.50%)
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment (Child Protection) (4.50%)
- Substance Abuse Providers (4.50%)
- Dept. of Human Services – Community Services (4.50%)
- Dept. of Corrections – Community Services (4.50%)
- Unified Judicial System – Community Services (4.50%)

Report provided by  
Brittany Novotny,  
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**Editor: Sally Weyer, Ph.D.**

**This 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:**

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