

Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology
(CRSPPP) 2006 Annual Report

Membership of CRSPPP for 2006: Elena Eisman (Chair), John-Stuart Currie, Raymond Folen, Claire Guthrie Gastañaga (Public Member), Sally Singer Horwatt, Neil Alan Massoth, Roberta Nutt (Vice-Chair), Lynn Rehm, and Reiko True.

CRSPPP held two (2) meetings in Washington, DC in 2006: May 20-21, and October 27-28, 2006 and a business meeting at the APA annual convention on August 12, 2006. CRSPPP conducted the remainder of its business via conference calls and e-mail.

Petition reviews:

CRSPPP reviewed and acted upon the petition for the continued recognition of Psychoanalysis in Psychology as a specialty. In addition, CRSPPP reviewed the deadline date for the continued recognition of Behavioral Psychology as a specialty by CRSPPP. CRSPPP advised the Behavioral Synarchy to submit a petition for continued recognition utilizing the recently revised CRSPPP specialty petition form. A petition for continued recognition is expected in 2007.

CRSPPP subcommittees:

CRSPPP assigned subcommittees to review and discuss: a) the policy documents associated with the petition process for specialty recognition, b) the policy documents associated with the petition process for proficiency recognition, and c) a suggested taxonomy for the profession as part of its self-study process. CRSPPP discussed and acted upon the following:

Specialty recognition process: Commissioner Roberta Nutt led the CRSPPP subcommittee that reviewed and suggested changes to the petition and principles documents related to specialty recognition. The petition and principles documents have been reorganized to reflect the organization of the criteria into four distinct sections: 1) Information on the Petitioning Group, 2) Public Need and Distinctiveness of the Specialty, 3) Information on the Education and Training Required in the Specialty, and 4) Information on Evaluation and Assessment of the Specialty.

The revised specialty petition document was presented as an information item to the APA Board of Directors (December 2006) and forwarded to those organizations interested in submitting a petition for specialty recognition or renewal. The revised specialty principles document has been forwarded to all APA boards and committees for review and comment.

Proficiency recognition process: Commissioner Raymond Folen led the CRSPPP subcommittee that discussed suggested changes to the petition and principles documents related to the recognition of proficiencies. CRSPPP is discussing revising the current proficiency petition document to reflect: a) similar organizing and clarifying concepts that a separate CRSPPP subcommittee included in a revised specialty petition document and b) language from the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) Task Force on Quality Assurance of Education and Training for Recognized Proficiencies in Professional Psychology. The petition and principles document related to proficiency recognition will continue to be discussed by CRSPPP in 2007.

Taxonomy: Commissioner Lynn Rehm led the CRSPPP subcommittee that discussed the recommended action by CRSPPP to develop a taxonomy for the profession. In December CRSPPP requested that the Board of Directors approve discretionary funding to convene such a meeting in 2007.

Review of CRSPPP Procedures

CRSPPP is engaged in an ongoing review of its procedures. As part of this review CRSPPP is considering the possibility of requesting annual updates from the administrative organizations responsible for the development and continuance of specialties and proficiencies rather than the current procedure which only requires updates when a specialty or proficiency is being considered for renewal. CRSPPP expects to continue consideration of this proposal in 2007.

Periodically CRSPPP considers revisions to the document, *Procedures for Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology*, which describes the process by which the APA and CRSPPP consider petitions for initial and renewed recognition of specialties and proficiencies in professional psychology. CRSPPP made a number of revisions, most only for clarification of existing procedures, forwarded the revised document to all APA boards and committees for review and comment.

CRSPPP review of reports from other APA boards and committees:

CRSPPP reviewed and discussed the report of the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) Task Force on Quality Assurance of Education and Training for Recognized Proficiencies in Professional Psychology. The report of the Task Force on Quality Assurance raises a number of issues which CRSPPP had previously identified related to the proficiency recognition policy and process, such as, accountability and oversight of organizations responsible for education and training in proficiencies.

CRSPPP discussed a request from the APA Membership Committee to recommend Criteria for Recognition of Specialty Certification Bodies for inclusion of member credentials in the APA Membership Directory. These issues will continue to be discussed by CRSPPP in 2007.

CRSPPP Convention 2006 sessions:

CRSPPP sponsored two sessions at the August 2006 APA Convention held in New Orleans, LA. The first session, entitled "Specialties and Specialization in Psychology: What's in a name? Education and Training," featured the following participants: Drs. Lynn Rehm, Michael Roberts, Ronald Rozensky, and Beverly Thorn. The second session, entitled "Specialties and Specialization in Psychology: What's in a name? Professional Practice," featured the following participants: Drs. Elena Eisman, Eugene D'Angelo, Nancy Lane, and Katherine Nordal.

CRSPPP liaison activities:

CRSPPP continued its liaison activities with the Council of Specialties (CoS) and the Council of Credentialing Organizations in Professional Psychology (CCOPP). CRSPPP representatives attended meetings and provided updates on activities.

Diversity Representation:

In 2006 CRSPPP's membership included 5 women, one of whom is an ethnic minority, and 4 men. Each year, CRSPPP includes in its call to APA Boards a request for ethnic minority representation.

Diversity Policies:

In 2006 CRSPPP reaffirmed its position that all petitions, submitted by APA divisions, boards and committees, that seek review of APA recognition or renewal of recognition as a specialty or proficiency in professional psychology are required to articulate how programs will address education, training, and the practice of psychology related to individual and cultural diversity consistent with APA documents, such as, the Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice, and Organizational Change for Psychologists (American Psychological Association, 2002c).