

Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology 2005 Annual Report

COMPOSITION

The six members of the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP) for 2005 were Greg Taliaferro, PhD, (Chair); Arnold Abels, PhD; John Chang, PhD; Doug Johnson-Greene, PhD; Izabela Schultz, PhD; and Cheryl Shigaki, PhD (Chair-elect).

MEETINGS

The Committee held two formal meetings in the Washington, DC area on March 18-20, 2005 and September 29 - October 2, 2005. Additionally, the Committee accomplished other business matters by e-mail exchanges and three conference calls.

LIAISON FUNCTIONS

Currently, there are three liaisons to the Committee: Monica Kurylo, PhD, from Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology); Irene Leigh, PhD, from the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI); and Christine Szostak, BA, from APA Graduate Students (APAGS). Liaisons are asked to provide written reports of their respective groups' activities that may be of interest to CDIP members or have implications for Committee activities. The Committee has invited Divisions 33 (MR/DD) and 45 (Ethnic Minority Issues) to consider appointing liaisons to CDIP.

COMMITTEE MISSION

The mission of the Committee is to further the central purpose of APA – to advance psychology as a science and as a profession and as a means of promoting health and human welfare – by ensuring that people with disabilities receive the full attention of the Association in order that all human resources are actualized.

The mission of CDIP is to:

- Promote the psychological welfare of people with disabilities;
- Promote the development and implementation of psychological service delivery models responsive to the needs of people with disabilities;
- Promote the awareness of disability issues in psychological research as well as specific research activity in disability areas;
- Promote inclusion of knowledge about disabilities and disability issues in education, training programs, and professional development of psychologists.

The Committee reports to Council through the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI).

SUMMARY OF 2005 ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED TASK FORCES

During the past two years members of CDIP conducted literature reviews and developed a proposal for a Task Force to develop guidelines for therapy and assessment of persons with disabilities. The proposal is currently pending before the Board of Directors and Council of Representatives.

Over the last few years CDIP has been concerned about graduate students with disabilities being unable to obtain test materials in alternative forms. In the March 2005 Consolidated Meetings, BAPPI approved the development of a Task Force to formulate an action plan for the best ways to obtain test materials in alternative formats. The proposed item awaits approval from the Board of Directors and the Council of Representatives.

DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION MATERIALS

In order to share disability-related information with Division 22, the Committee develops articles four times per year for inclusion in the division's *Rehabilitation Psychology News*, CDIP Update section. In 2005, the following articles were developed and submitted for publication:

- *A Welcome Opportunity: APAGS' First Liaison to the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology* (Rehabilitation Psychology News, 32), submitted by Christine Szostak
- *Evidence-Based Practices and Disability* (Rehabilitation Psychology News, 32), submitted by Greg Taliaferro
- *Recovery from Hurricane Katrina: Elderly and Persons with Disabilities* (Rehabilitation Psychology News, 33), submitted by Jyh-Hann Chang
- *My Years on CDIP, Final Report*, (Rehabilitation Psychology News, 33), submitted by Greg Taliaferro

In addition to the above, a committee member coauthored a part of a book chapter in *Evidence-Based Practices in Mental Health*. The chapter examined disability issues related to evidence-based practices.

CDIP is developing a newsletter about the Committee's activities. It is hoped this newsletter will highlight disability issues in general as well as CDIP's activities.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Committee met with staff from the Public Interest Public Policy Office and revised CDIP legislative priorities to include 1) advocacy for mental health services targeted to vulnerable populations, including persons with physical and mental disabilities, and 2) advocacy for training opportunities for health care providers in delivering culturally competent services.

During the summer of 2005, one member took part in the coordinated advocacy campaign organized by the APA Public Interest Public Policy Office by visiting his U.S. Representative to promote and provide expertise on legislation related to people with disabilities.

In the past year CDIP has developed a draft resolution in support of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Committee will revise the document in the coming year and then submit the document to APA governance for approval.

Finally, CDIP continued its work on the maltreatment of children with disabilities, to follow up on the previously approved APA Resolution on this topic. Toward this goal, one member (Greg Taliaferro) co-wrote an article with previous CDIP member (Kathleen Kendall-Tackett) on maltreatment of children with disabilities for the journal on *Child Abuse and Neglect*.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

For the 2005 Annual Convention in Washington, D.C., CDIP developed the following programs:

Psychological Disability in the Workplace: Employment as Opportunity and Therapy

Co-sponsored with Division 14, this symposium summarized the latest data and findings on the employment of people with psychological disabilities, provided case studies demonstrating effective practices and outcomes, and offered guidance to psychologists working with individuals, their coworkers, and managers. This symposium was developed in collaboration with the Department of Labor's Office on Disability Employment Policy.

Ethical Practice Issues and Persons with Disabilities

Several CDIP members conducted a CE workshop titled "Ethical Practice Issues with Persons with Disabilities". The goal of this Continuing Education workshop was to help psychologists develop cultural competence and ethical assessment and practices with regard to clients with disabilities. The workshop introduced the social model of disability as a framework by which to conceptualize the disability experience, and its implications on clinical practice was highlighted. The CE workshop was enthusiastically received and we have been asked to again present it at the 2006 Annual Convention.

The Committee also hosted a *conversation hour* by which to gather input on increasing the visibility of disability issues in psychology.

CONSULTATION

The Committee provided consultation to a variety of entities, including task forces, other committees, and the Disability Issues Office. For example, through its Division 22 liaison, CDIP provided feedback to the Draft Report of the Task Force on End-of-Life Issues for Children and Adolescents. Drs. Abels, Johnson-Greene, and Leigh reviewed and provided feedback to the Disability Issues Office's Toolbox Project Survey instrument.

DIVERSITY

CDIP neither provided nor received diversity training in 2005. However, the committee actively seeks diversity in its own membership, including race and ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, and disability status.

COMMITTEE ROSTER CHANGES

Dr. Schultz and Dr. Taliaferro rotated off CDIP at the end of 2005. I want to thank all of the CDIP members, and especially our staff liaison, Anju Khubchandani, who have contributed their time and energy to the Committee's work.

Submitted by
Greg Taliaferro, Ph.D., Chair, 2005