

Ad-Hoc COMMITTEE ON PSYCHOLOGY AND AIDS (COPA)
ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Prepared by: Karen Ingersoll, Ph.D., Chair

2005 Committee Members:

Lisa Bowleg Ph.D.
Maria Isabel Fernandez Ph.D.
Bianca Guzman, Ph. D.
Karen S. Ingersoll, Ph.D.
David Martin, Ph. D.
Jeffrey T. Parsons, Ph. D.
Javier Salazar

Staff Liaison:

John Anderson, Ph.D.
Robert L. Beverly

PPO Liaison:

Karen Chen Ph.D,

Special Advisor:

Janet St. Lawrence Ph.D.

The mission of the Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA) is to guide the development and implementation of the American Psychological Association's organizational response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Members of COPA carry out this mission each year by attending two, face-to-face meetings held in conjunction with the spring and fall consolidated board and committee meetings and by participating in monthly, one-hour conference calls. Additionally, members of COPA regularly communicate with AIDS Office staff and each other by e-mail and phone in order to plan and implement the committee's various initiatives.

During 2005, members of COPA included one African-American female, one Latino and one Latina, two Caucasian women, and two Caucasian men. Sexual orientation on the committee was diverse with one lesbian, three gay men, and three heterosexual women. No diversity training was received or offered during 2005.

During the past year, COPA performed a variety of consultative functions and also developed and implemented numerous projects. These projects are briefly summarized below in terms of general areas of COPA's mission:

1. Provide Direction and Oversight for Policy and Advocacy Activities Related to HIV/AIDS:

COPA members held periodic meetings with Public Policy Office (PPO) staff to receive updates on important legislative issues and to provide direction to PPO about HIV/AIDS policy issues. Dr. Karen Chen took the lead in working with COPA and provided updates for members during monthly conference calls. COPA members provided written and oral feedback to the staff of PPO on policy initiatives associated with HIV/AIDS.

During the past year, members of COPA, in collaboration with AIDS Office and Public Policy Office staff, have engaged in the following advocacy activities:

Ryan White CARE Act

1. The American Psychological Association presented their recommendations on the CARE Act on April 18, 2005 to the Senate HELP Committee. Isabel Fernandez, presenting on behalf of APA, addressed not only the mental health and substance abuse issues afflicting people living with HIV/AIDS, but also the critical need for mental health and substance use services within the

CARE Act. A briefing sheet was developed for distribution at the presentation. The briefing sheet included background information regarding the mental health and substance abuse issues of individuals with HIV/AIDS and also APA's proposed Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization recommendations.

2. PPO, Office on AIDS, and COPA wrote a letter to Secretary Michael Leavitt in response to HHS's Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization principles, which was released in late July. The letter addressed concerns about the Administration's intent to establish a set of core medical services, which could potentially exclude mental health and substance abuse services, and its intent to devote 75% of Ryan White CARE Act funding to these "core medical services".

HIV/AIDS Appropriation

1. The PPO and Office on AIDS office developed briefing sheets around the need for increased funding for the Rapid HIV Testing Initiative within SAMHSA and the need for increased funding for the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative within SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). Denis Nissim-Sabat and Karen Chen from the PPO met with both Senate and House staff on the Committee on Appropriations to advocate for increased funding for the Rapid HIV Testing Initiative and for the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative within CMHS for FY2006. Language was included in the House FY2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriation report that highlights the role of substance abuse and mental health service providers on rapid HIV testing and prevention counseling and recommends an additional \$1 million towards the Rapid HIV Testing Initiative. The Senate FY2006 LHHS Appropriation report included similar language, but without the funding increase.

Coordinated Advocacy Campaign and Hill Visits

1. Drs. David Martin, Jeff Parsons, and Bianca Guzman met with their Senate staff in their home district in late May to advocate for increased HIV/AIDS funding issues within NIH's Office of AIDS and SAMHSA's CMHS for FY2006. Drs. David Martin and Bianca Guzman met with the office of Dianne Feinstein and Dr. Jeff Parsons met with the office of Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Charles Schumer (D-NY).
2. Drs. David Martin, Isabel Fernandez, and Lisa Bowleg participated in an advocacy training/hill visit on September 29, 2005. The advocacy training was conducted by the Public Policy Office, and the COPA members met with their Senators and Representatives to advocate for needed mental health and substance abuse services within the Ryan White CARE Act. All three of the COPA members had the opportunity to meet with Senator Jack Reed (D-RI). In addition, Dr. David Martin met with the offices of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA). Dr. Lisa Bowleg met with the offices of Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI). Dr. Isabel Fernandez met with the offices of Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Rep. Jim Davis (D-FL).

COPA began working on developing a collaborative relationship with three ethnic minority caucuses to address the growing HIV/AIDS issues within the communities of color. On October 25, 2005, Dr. Isabel Fernandez, who was in Washington, DC for a meeting, met with the offices of several Latina Congresswomen (two of whom were members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus) to advocate for needed mental health and substance abuse services within the Ryan White CARE Act. She met with the offices of Rep. Hilda Solis (Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's Health Task Force), Rep. Grace Napolitano (Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Chair of the Mental Health Caucus), and Rep. Ilena Ros-Lehtinen (Congresswoman in Miami, FL).

2. Advise APA Staff and Establish Liaisons with Governance Groups and Organizations Outside of APA Regarding HIV/AIDS Issues:

Cross-Cutting Issues

COPA provided written feedback to APA governance boards and committees in response to the following items placed on the Cross-Cutting Agenda during the spring and fall consolidated board and committee meetings:

1. 2005 Presidential Initiative: Promoting Health Care for the Whole Person The APA Presidential Task Force on Enhancing Diversity in APA: Report and Recommendations;
2. APA President's Task Force on Enhancing Diversity in APA: Proposed Resolution on Enhancing Diversity in APA;
3. Amendment to the APA Bylaws Regarding Board and Committee Election Slates
4. Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major; and,
5. Report of the Board of Directors Work Group on the Recommendations of the Commission on Education and Training Leading to Licensure in Psychology

Consultation with Office on AIDS staff

COPA provided feedback to APA staff regarding the ongoing activities of two federally-funded training and technical assistance programs administered through the Office on AIDS (i.e., the HOPE Program, funded by the Center for Mental Health Services; and, the BSSV Program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

COPA members provided consultation to the Director of the Office on AIDS, John Anderson, Ph.D., in his efforts to establish and obtain funding for Office on AIDS programs associated with international HIV/AIDS issues. During 2005, the APA Office on AIDS worked on developing partnerships with two different groups of organizations to develop concept papers in response to funding announcements associated with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Program. One of the partnerships involved the Kenya Psychological Association (KPA), the Uganda Counseling Association (UCA), and a private, nonprofit development organization called Africare. This partnership developed a concept paper to mobilize indigenous psychologists and counselors to assist in building the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Kenya and Uganda to develop, implement, and evaluate science-based programs that respond to the HIV prevention needs of youth and the psychosocial needs of AIDS orphans. The other partnership involved Stellenbosch University located in located 50 kilometers from Cape Town, the University of Texas Southwestern, and the Corporate Council on Africa. This partnership developed a PEPFAR concept paper that focuses on the expansion of the Stellenbosch University Postgraduate Program for the Management of HIV/AIDS in the World of Work.

COPA members assisted Office on AIDS staff in providing HIV/AIDS updates for the field through its quarterly newsletter entitled, *The Psychology and AIDS Exchange*. This publication provides APA members and others with breaking developments in HIV/AIDS practice, research, education, and policy. During the past year, COPA members took the lead in developing two, theme-based editions: (1) an edition on HIV/AIDS and poverty under the direction of Dr. Guzman; and, (2) an edition on internet-based HIV prevention interventions under the direction of Dr. Parsons.

3. Formulate New APA Initiatives and Policies to Meet the Continually Changing Challenges Posed by the Epidemic.

Policy Development

COPA members developed a policy resolution entitled, *Resolution on Drug Abuse Treatment to Prevent HIV among Injecting Drug Users*. At the spring and fall consolidated board and committee meetings, governance groups were invited to review the *Draft Resolution on Drug Abuse Treatment to Prevent HIV among Injecting Drug Users* and provide suggestions for modification. Suggestions for modification informed subsequent revisions of the resolution and a final draft of the resolution was forwarded to the Board of Directors and the Council of Representatives for final decisions as to whether the resolution will be adopted as official APA policy.

4. Improve Psychology Education in the Area of HIV/AIDS and Educate Psychologists and Society at-Large About the Roles Psychologists Can Play in the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

HIV/AIDS Survey of Graduate Interns in Psychology

COPA members conducted a survey of graduate students entering internship to assess their HIV-related training experiences. Dr. Martin took the lead in analyzing the survey data and drafting an initial summary of results. Members of COPA offered feedback on the summary and currently Dr. Martin is working with Dr. Anderson to incorporate the summary in an article on HIV/AIDS training for psychologists which will be submitted to *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*.

Educational Pipeline for Ethnic Minority Researchers

Members of COPA have been working on strategies to promote and enhance the educational pipeline for minority HIV/AIDS researchers. Initially, COPA members developed an action plan focusing on the development of two products: (1) a web-based resource designed to assist undergraduate and graduate students in identifying research and educational programs that can help them develop their research interests in HIV/AIDS; and, (2) a web-based resource to assist students and researchers in developing collaborative minority supplement proposals.

In January of 2005, a draft of an internet-based resource that summarizes HIV/AIDS-related research and training grants found on the NIH CRISP Database was created by Office on AIDS staff and reviewed by members of COPA. In February of 2005, Dr. Nickerson of the Minority Fellowship Program and Dr. Anderson conducted telephone focus groups with past and present HIV/AIDS Fellows of the APA Minority Fellowship Program and with individuals who applied but were not accepted as HIV/AIDS Fellows of the APA Minority Fellowship Program. At the Spring 2005 meeting of COPA, Dr. Anderson summarized results of focus group discussions. COPA members discussed the results and then developed the following list of potential strategies:

- Develop an HIV/AIDS Summer Research Program with the first step in this process being the development of questionnaires for faculty and students that would be used in the matching process. Ideally, the program would provide a stipend, travel and relocation expenses for students and some discretionary funds for the faculty researcher
- Develop a research consultation/technical assistance network for graduate students and faculty in psychology involved with HIV/AIDS research
- Develop a survey for faculty to determine their areas of expertise and to assess their interest in participating in the HIV/AIDS Summer Research Program and/or the research consultation/technical assistance network
- Develop an electronic listserv for students interested in HIV/AIDS research
- Develop an article that discussed career paths for those interested in HIV/AIDS research

- Develop a course on how to survive and thrive as an HIV/AIDS researcher
- Contact CDC to determine if CDC's Minority Fellowship Program could support minority graduate students interested in HIV/AIDS research by providing funding for them to attend the National HIV Prevention Conference and participate in pre- and post-conference debriefings.
- Contact key people at NIH involved with HIV/AIDS to determine what programs and initiatives they have to support or educate minority HIV/AIDS researchers and assess possibilities for supporting an HIV/AIDS Summer Mentorship Program and/or grants for students to attend key conferences
- Contact key people at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) MBRS Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Program and the NIGMS Minority Access to Careers (MARC) Program to assess possibilities for supporting an HIV/AIDS Summer Mentorship Program and/or grants for students to attend key conferences
- Develop a program at the APA Conference which could involve grant-writing workshops, a mentorship program for the conference, an event for HIV/AIDS researchers at the early career stage

At the Fall 2005 Meeting of COPA, members met with David M. Stoff, Ph.D., Chief of the HIV/AIDS Neuropsychiatry Program at the Center for Mental Health Research on AIDS at the National Institute of Mental Health and Lula A. Beatty, Ph.D., Chief of Special Populations Office at the National Institute on Drug Abuse to discuss what their agencies have been doing in this area and explore potential areas of collaboration.

Dr. Stoff encouraged APA to submit a proposal in response to the NIMH Research Education Grant (R25) mechanism. Members of COPA developed a concept paper outlining a proposed program and submitted it to Dr. Stoff for review and feedback. Feedback from Dr. Stoff was received and members of COPA are currently working on a proposal for the NIMH Research Education Grant (R25) mechanism which is due in January of 2007.

Dr. Beatty recommended that APA work with NIDA to develop a training workshop to train minority researchers who are interested in doing work in the area of HIV/AIDS. Dr. Beatty also recommended that APA staff utilize the "in-house" NIDA database to compile information on currently funded researchers who might be in the best position to mentor minority researchers interested in HIV/AIDS. Members of COPA are currently working on both of the foregoing recommendations made by Dr. Beatty.