Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office

The mission of the APA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns Office is to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge on gender identity and sexual orientation to benefit society and improve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people's lives.

Policy Analysis, Development and Advocacy (1a, 2c, d, e, f, g, 3c)

- Worked with the APA Office of General Council on marriage briefs in several cases:
  - Baskin v. Zoeller (Indiana) and Wolf v. Walker (Wisconsin), United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit;
  - DeLeon v. Perry (Texas), United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit;
  - Robicheaux v. Caldwell (Louisiana), United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; - Involves a federal challenge to the anti-same-sex marriage laws in Louisiana;
  - Conde-Vidal v. Garcia-Padilla (Puerto Rico), United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit;
  - Brenner v. Armstrong (Florida), United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.
- Supported the Public Interest Government Relations Office.
- Supported Joint Division 44/CLGBTC APA Task Force on Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Clients.
- Supported joint working group of the Divisions 16 and 44; the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; CLGBTC; and the National Association of School Psychologists to develop Resolution on Gender and Sexual Orientation Diversity in Children and Adolescents in Schools, adopted by the Council of Representatives at the August 2014 meeting.

International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Issues in Psychology (2g, 3c, d)

- Supported the APA representatives to the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet), Sharon Horne and Jose Toro-Alfonso, and the Oversight Group for APA’s participation whose current members are Armand Cerbone (Division 44), Neal Rubin (Division 52), Gary Harper (BAPPI), Arpana Inman (CIRP), Nicholas Grant (APAGS), with one vacancy to be filled by a CLGBTC member;
- Provided secretariat for IPsyNet, in collaboration with the Office of International Affairs.
- Refined objectives for the IPsyNet strategic plan.
- Revised and updated work plan for years 2 and 3 of the Arcus Foundation grant.
- Secured agreement from the organizers of the International Congress of Psychology, 2016, for the following:
  - Indexing term: Sexuality, LGBTI
  - Invited Address:
    - Minority Stress, Resilience, and Health Disparities in LGBT Populations; Ilan Meyer
Invited Symposia:
- Current Issues Related to LGBTI in East Asia – Illustrations from Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong
- Mental Health and Well-Being of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People
- Beyond Bodies: A Lifespan Approach to the Treatment of Disorders of Sex Development

Meeting time and space for IPsyNet meetings.
- Established IPsyNet Committees: Policy, Programming, Workshops.
- Met with and discussed potential collaborations with LGBTI organizational leaders from Australia (Organization Intersex International), Lebanon (Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality), and Russia (Resource LGBTIQ Moscow).
- Translated public interest brochures on sexual orientation and transgender/gender identity into Simplified and Traditional Chinese (to be published online soon).

Capacity Building Assistance for School-Based HIV/STD Prevention (2e, f, g, 3 c)

The Safe and Supportive Schools Project (SSSP), funded through a 5-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), promotes safe and supportive environments to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among adolescents. Through customized training, technical assistance and consultation, the project increases the capacity of 19 funded state education agencies to help their selected school districts create safe and supportive school environments for all students and staff and for groups of youth at disproportionate risk. During the reporting period:
- Project staff provided technical assistance to 16 state education agencies.
- The SSSP trained 43 school professionals, from across Rhode Island, with APA’s Respect Workshop: Preventing Health Risks and Promoting Healthy Outcomes among LGBTQ Youth in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Education. The project partnered with APA’s HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program and the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education to offer the Respect Workshop for 21 DC school professionals.
- The SSSP launched a new website to provide evidence-based resources for school professionals about bullying and sexual harassment prevention, parent engagement in schools, and school connectedness.

Technical Assistance, Consultations and Resources (1a, 2b, c, e, f, g, 3b, d)
- Provided complimentary copies of APA’s LGBT resources on request.
- Consulted with affiliated psychological associations on responding to issues regarding restroom and locker room access for transgender students.
- Provided assistance to APA president-elect in presentations on bullying and gun violence.

Media Relations, Publications, and Communications (1a, 2b, e, f, g, 3d)
- Responded to interview requests from two documentary films, one on attitudes toward homosexuality and another on policy in Ireland and Alabama;
- Responded to reporters on LGBT topics--most inquiries focus on sexual orientation change efforts or lesbian and gay parents, but inquiries on transgender issues are becoming more frequent.
- Consulted on Monitor articles on conscience clauses.
• Wrote response to a letter to the editor published in the February edition of the Monitor on the topic of sexual orientation change efforts.
• Provided content for the Public Interest Directorate’s electronic newsletters, contributions to the APA Facebook page, content for “tweets” from the PI executive director, and assisted with blog postings.
• Continued to promote new LGBTCO webpage content periodically.

Governance Support: Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns (1a, c, 2b, e, g, 3d)

• Provided support to the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns (CLGBTC).
• Supported joint working group of CLGBTC and CYF working to revise and update the public information brochure Answers to Your Questions About Individuals with Intersex Conditions.
• Maintained liaison relationships with APA divisions and affiliated state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations with an interest in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns members included Jose Miranda, PsyD (Chair); Helen Hsu, PsyD; (Drs. Miranda and Hsu, outgoing as of December 31, 2014) Sand Chang, PhD (incoming Chair); Ruth Fassinger, PhD; Tania Israel, PhD; Mark Brennan-Ing PhD; Kimber Shelton, PhD; and Seth T. Pardo, PhD (Drs. Shelton and Pardo, incoming for 2015)