

Public Interest Directorate
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Public Interest Directorate
Highlights of Recent Activities
August '07 – January '08

Public Interest Directorate Mission

Fulfill APA's commitment to apply the science and practice of psychology to the fundamental problems of human welfare and social justice and the promotion of equitable and just treatment of all segments of society through education, training and public policy.

Public Interest Directorate Strategic Plan: Key Result Areas

The Public Interest Directorate developed and continues to refine a strategic plan that identifies the following major key result areas:

- Education and Training
- Advocacy
- Governance Relations
- Collaboration and Partnership-Building
- Resource Procurement
- Operations and Management
- Culture, Morale and Work Environment

For details on specific goals in these areas and the complete strategic plan, please contact the Directorate Executive Office.

Public Interest Directorate: Highlights of Recent Activities **August '07 – January '08**

This report summarizes activities from August 2007 through January 2008, by office and major work areas in the Directorate. (Major areas addressing work, stress, and health and violence prevention are staffed out of the Directorate Executive Office.) The Council priorities addressed are indicated with each activity reported.

Public Interest Directorate: Top 10 Most Viewed PI Web Pages in 2007

<http://www.apa.org/pi>

Addresses Council Priority 3

Total page views in 2007 for these pages only: 3,848,679

1. Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls Report: /pi/wpo/sexualizationrep.pdf (439,916)
2. Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls “landing page”: /pi/wpo/sexualization.html (74,360)
3. Directory of Selected Scholarship, Fellowship, and Other Financial Aid Opportunities for Women and Ethnic Minorities in Psychology and Related Fields: /pi/wpo/financialaiddirectory.pdf (55,359)
4. Lesbian and Gay Parenting: /pi/parent.html (51,587)
5. Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice, and Organizational Change for Psychologists: /pi/multiculturalguidelines.pdf (48,708)
6. Elder Abuse and Neglect: In Search of Solutions: /pi/aging/eldabuse.html (44,623)
7. Developing Adolescents: A Reference for Professionals /pi/cyf/develop.pdf (40,654)
8. Racism and Psychology: /pi/oema/racism/homepage.html (39,557)
9. Intimate Partner Abuse and Relationship Violence (Intimate Partner Abuse and Relationship Violence Working Group of Divisions 43, 35, 44, 45, and 51): /pi/iparv.pdf (36,858)
10. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Home Page: /pi/lgbc/homepage.html (31,961)

Public Interest Executive Office

<http://www.apa.org/pi>

7th Work, Stress, and Health Conference: March 6-8, 2008

<http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh.html>

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 5, 6, 8

Since 1989, APA’s work, stress, and health initiative, in collaboration with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), has convened six conferences on work, stress, and health, focusing on the impact of the constantly changing nature of work on worker health, safety, and well-being. APA, NIOSH, and the Society for Occupational Health Psychology will convene the seventh international conference, entitled "Work, Stress, and Health 2008: Healthy and Safe Work Through Research, Practice, and Partnerships," in Washington, DC, on March 6-8, 2008, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Continuing Education Workshops will be held on March 5, 2008. Over 500 paper, symposia, and poster presentations have been accepted for this broad and diverse program. Between 650 and 800 participants are expected.

Violence Prevention Program

<http://www.apa.org/pi/preventviolence/>

Parents Raising Safe Kids Program (*Addresses Council Priorities 3, 6, 9*): This APA national initiative educates families and communities through partnerships with

community-based organizations and agencies and by training professionals and other adults who work with or are in regular contact with families. The parent education program is organized into eight, 2-hour sessions for parents and other adults; it is currently implemented in 35 communities in 18 states, including Latino communities. In several of the sites the program is lead by a psychologist member of the Association.

- The office director worked with a psychologist and developed a program guide for those providing childcare with activities for children while their parents attend the parent program classes. The guide will be published in March.
- APA established four ACT Regional Centers (Chicago, Toledo, Miami, and Concord, CA) to coordinate the program implementation in those areas of the country. The centers will function as a training hub to prepare professionals to take the program to their communities. They are coordinated by a psychologist and have been actively offering the 2-day workshops for professionals and establishing networks and collaboration with others in their communities.

New Program for Pediatricians and Psychologists on Early Violence Prevention

(Addresses Council Priorities 3, 5, 6): Planning was begun for a proposal for a program that will involve pediatricians and psychologists in addressing health and mental health issues related to early violence prevention. Conference calls and emails were exchanged with child abuse managers at the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition, a meeting with members of Division 54 was conducted in December to outline goals for the future program proposal, identify psychologists' contribution, and brainstorm ideas for intervention models. A meeting APA-AAP to discuss concepts and elements of the proposal is scheduled for April 21st at the APA headquarters.

Working Group on Child Maltreatment Prevention Through Community Health

Centers (Addresses Council Priorities 3, 5, 6, 9): CDC contracted with Public Interest Directorate Violence Prevention Program to create a working group to prepare a report identifying promising practices and strategies to prevent child maltreatment in community health centers. The 7-member working group has been selected and is starting its work in January with a conference call. The report is scheduled for release this fall.

2007 APA Convention

The Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI) sponsored a series of symposia addressing "The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice" (*Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 4, 6, 10*):

- "The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice: Public Policy and Mental Health Implications of Immigration: Local, State, and Federal Perspectives," Saturday, August 18 (sponsored by BAPPI, Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, Divisions 27, 51, 9). Chaired by Jose M. Cervantes, PhD; Presenters included Margarita Alegria, PhD; The Honorable Antonio R.

Villaraigosa, JD; The Honorable Gloria Romero, PhD; The Honorable Michael Honda, JD; The Honorable Lelan Y. Yee was Discussant.

- “The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice: Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? A Preview of a PBS Documentary and Discussion,” Saturday, August 18 (sponsored by BAPPI, Divisions: 9, 27, 45, 51). Chaired by Margy B. Heldring, PhD; Presenters included Larry Adelman, California Newsreel; Nancy E. Adler, PhD; Troy Duster, PhD.
- “The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice: Vulnerable AND Impressionable: Social Inequality and Children's Exposure to Health Risks,” Sunday, August 19 (sponsored by BAPPI, Committee on Children, Youth and Families, Committee on Women in Psychology, Divisions: 9, 27, 45, 51). Chaired by Barbara H. Fiese, PhD; Presenters included Eileen Zurbriggen, PhD (author)/Tomi-Ann Roberts PhD (presenter); Brian Wilcox, PhD; Barbara H. Fiese, PhD.
- “The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice: Aging and Health Disparities: Cumulative Effects of Race, Gender and SES,” Sunday August 19 (sponsored by BAPPI, Committee on Aging, Divisions 27, 45, 51, and 9). Chaired by Rosemary Blieszner, PhD; Presenters included David Chiriboga, PhD; Barbara Yee, PhD; James S. Jackson, PhD; Toni C. Antonucci, PhD was Discussant.
- “The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice: Mental Health Effects of Racial Profiling and Stereotyping,” Sunday, August 19 (sponsored by BAPPI, Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology, Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs). Chaired by Allan Noonan, MD; Presenters included Nadia Hasan, MA; Muninder Ahluwalia, PhD; Rhoda Olkin, PhD Irene Leigh, PhD; James Jones, PhD was Discussant.

Also sponsored by BAPPI: Conversation Hour: “Human Rights Watch: Psychology Can Go Global,” Sunday, August 19 (sponsored by BAPPI, Divisions 9, 27, 45, 51). Chaired by Margaret B. Heldring, PhD; Presenter: Allison Parker, Human Rights Watch. (*Addresses Council Priorities 3, 4, 6, 10*)

Governance Support: Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest
Addresses Council Priorities 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

The PI Executive Office also provided staff support to the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest for their November 2-4, 2007 meeting.

The Executive Office also provided staff support to the Task Force on the Implementation of the Multicultural Guidelines and to the Task Force on Diversity in Course Content, Publications, and Training.

Green Door Transitional Employee

For more than 10 years, the Public Interest Directorate has provided a transitional employment position for clients of Green Door. Green Door is a local community program that prepares women and men with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other mental illnesses to work and live independently in the Washington, DC area. In 2007, three individuals served as Green Door Transitional Interns, providing office administrative support to other Public Interest staff.

Office on Aging

<http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/homepage.html>

The Office on Aging is the focal point for APA activities pertaining to aging. It works to promote aging issues within APA, among its members, other professionals, policy makers and the public. The Office strives to bring psychological knowledge to bear on issues that affect the health and well-being of older adults and their families. During this report period, the Office provided staff support to the Committee on Aging, The Presidential Task Force on Integrated Healthcare for an Aging Population, the APA/ABA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project Workgroup, the Cultural Competency in Geropsychology Working Group, and the National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging.

Priming the Geropsychology Pipeline Project

Addresses Council Priority 2

In order to infuse geropsychological science and practice at all levels of education and training, the *Priming the Geropsychology Pipeline Project* develops new and updates existing curricula and resource materials on geropsychology topics and career opportunities.

National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging

Addresses Council Priority 3

The National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging, a coalition 50 national and state organizations, works to improve the availability and quality of mental health services for older Americans and their families through education and increased public awareness. Office on Aging Director, Deborah DiGilio, is currently serving her second, two-year term as NCMHA Chair. NCMHA meets three times years at APA and the Office on Aging provides staff support.

ABA/APA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project Working Group

Addresses Council Priority 3

The ABA/APA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project Working Group works to improve the assessment of capacity of older adults. The Working Group is currently developing a handbook for psychologists. It will be the third in a series that includes

handbooks for lawyers (2005) and judges (2006). 30,000 copies of the lawyers' handbook have been downloaded from the APA website and it has been presented at National Association of Elder Law Attorneys, National Guardianship Association and National College of Probate Judges' meetings, as well as at numerous local CLE programs. The judicial book was the focus of the 2006 NCPJ conference and consistently receives approximately 1,500 online "hits" per month (available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/>).

NIMH Strategic Plan/NIA Living Long and Well in the 21st Century
Addresses Council Priority 4

The Office coordinated the geropsychology community's response to the *National Institute on Mental Health Strategic Plan* and the National Institute on Aging on *Living Long and Well in the 21st Century – Strategic Directions for Research on Aging*. These comments were incorporated into APA's formal response.

Task Force on Integrative Healthcare for an Aging Population
Addresses Council Priority 5

The Office Director provided staff support to The Presidential Task Force on Integrative Healthcare for an Aging Population (IHAP), an initiative of President Sharon Stephens Brehm. The IHAP report, *Blueprint for Change: Achieving Integrated Health Care for an Aging Population*, informs psychologists about how to enter and function within an integrated team of health care professionals to ensure appropriate and effective health care for older adults. The *Blueprint* is ready for dissemination pending Council's action in February.

Advocacy Related to SAMHSA Reauthorization
Addresses Council Priority 4

The Office assists Public Interest Governance Relations Office efforts to advocate for the enactment of Title II of the Positive Aging as part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reauthorization. This would support integration of mental health services into primary care. These efforts build upon last year's successful effort to expand the Older Americans Act to include increased attention to mental health care by integrating mental health screening and treatment services into community settings as specified in Title I of the Positive Aging Act.

The Office also assisted in the rewriting of the Education Government Relations Office's geropsychology Graduate Psychology Education briefing sheets.

AHRQ Stakeholder Group
Addresses Council Priority 5

The Office coordinated the nominations of geropsychologists to serve on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Stakeholder Group to support the work of the Effective Health Care Program that develops evidence on the effectiveness and comparative

effectiveness of different treatments and health care interventions of importance to the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Child Health Insurance.

IOM Committee on the Future Health Care Workforce for Older Americans
Addresses Council Priority 5

The Office coordinated the geropsychology community's response to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on the Future Health Care Workforce for Older Americans urging the Committee to specifically address professional workforce needs related to mental health and to consider the inclusion of a geropsychologist on the Committee.

Governance Support: Committee on Aging
Addresses Council Priorities 1, 6, 7,8, 9, 10

The Office provided staff support for the Committee on Aging (CONA). For 2008, CONA established and filled an ethnic minority psychologists slate. In addition, CONA works to encourage participation of racial ethnic minority group members in APA governance broadly. CONA continues to mentor its early career member selected in January of 2007.

The Office on Aging and CONA continues to advocate for efforts to keep older psychologists engaged as active members in APA through the establishment of a reduced fee and/or a one day registration fee for APA members with Life Member status for Convention. Increasing the attendance of older psychologists would also result in opportunities for sharing their knowledge and skills with early career psychologists to facilitate the achievement of this priority.

The Office also coordinated the submission of nominations of geropsychologists or others with expertise in aging issues for APA Boards and Committees.

Working Group on Cultural Competency in Geropsychology
Addresses Council Priority 9

The Office on Aging staffs the Working Group on Cultural Competency in Geropsychology. The working group is currently writing an article that will identify core principles of infusing cultural competency into geropsychology; set an agenda for achieving cultural competency in education and training, practice, research, and policy; and provide resources for practitioners and researchers interested in this issue.

Outreach, Education, and Resources
Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3

Office on Aging continued to expand efforts to educate and inform individuals and groups inside and outside psychology, regarding issues related to psychology and aging:

- The Director of the Office is invited annually as a speaker for graduate psychology classes at Gallaudet University and Loyola College in Maryland.
- Geropsychology information and materials were distributed at the APA Annual Convention and to state psychological associations, divisions and educational institutions upon request.
- Geropsychology education materials were distributed at the Gerontological Society of America and National Association of State Units on Aging annual conferences.
- Office Director, Deborah DiGilio conducted a brown bag presentation for APA staff that provided an overview of the diverse, growing U.S. older adult population, the aging process including the normal changes that accompany aging and common misconceptions regarding growing old, prevention and management of chronic disease including mental health disorders, and resources to help individuals proactively plan for their continued well-being and that of the older persons they love.
- The updated web-based *Aging and Human Sexuality Resource Guide* joins four other guides that summarize research studies and resources on important topics related to the well-being of older adults (<http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/sexuality.html>).
- Dissemination of the brochure, *Life Plan for the Life Span: a Guide for Psychologists* continues. It translates the wealth of empirical evidence in the aging research literature into practical steps to assist young, middle-aged and older psychologists in planning for the variety of challenges that often arise as we age (http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/Life_Plan.pdf).
- The Office on Aging has advocated for additional coverage of aging issues in the *Monitor on Psychology*. During this six month period, the Office contributed to six articles.
- Deborah DiGilio is a member of the American Society on Aging (ASA) Mental Health and Aging Network Leadership Council. ASA works to enhance the knowledge and skills of people working directly with older adults and their families.

Office on AIDS and End-of-Life Care Activities

<http://www.apa.org/pi/aids/homepage.html>

The HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10

In September 2007, the APA Office on AIDS was awarded an additional \$150,000.00 from the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) to continue the HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program for another year. During the past 6 months, program staff conducted a train-the-trainer conference for HOPE Program Trainers who plan to deliver the HOPE Program curriculum entitled, *Ethical Issues and HIV/AIDS Mental Health Services*. Program staff also provided technical assistance to HOPE Trainers as they developed and implemented local continuing education workshops. Since its inception in 1991, the HOPE Program has trained over 27,000 mental health providers.

Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer Program

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10

The Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) Program is a national HIV prevention technical assistance program for health departments, community planning groups (CPGs), and community-based organizations (CBOs). In September 2007, the BSSV Program received an additional \$189,600.00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to operate the program until June 30, 2008. Additional funding to continue the program is anticipated during the spring of 2008. Since its inception in 1996, over 600 organizations have been served by BSSV Program volunteers. Recently, BSSV Program staff has been working with CDC to develop a Resource Guide for community-based organizations who wish to adapt evidence-based HIV prevention interventions for local populations that they serve.

NIMH Funding for Internet-based Education Program on End-of-Life Issues

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10

In June of 2006, the APA Office on AIDS and its small business collaborator, eNursing LLC, received \$750,000.00 of Phase II funding from the Small Business Innovations Research (SBIR) Program of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for developing a ten-module, internet-based, continuing education program to train psychologists and other mental health providers about working with people near the end of life. During the past six months, program staff has been working with a large cadre of experts to develop the training modules and prepare for a large-scale study to evaluate their effectiveness.

Submitted Proposal to NIMH for Internet-Based Mentoring Program for HIV/AIDS Researchers Working in Minority Communities

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA) developed online formative evaluation surveys for potential mentors and mentees. Data from the surveys were used to inform the proposal that was submitted to NIMH on September, 2007. The proposed project entitled, *Cyber Mentors: A Sustainable Model for Developing Minority HIV Researchers*, is designed to develop and maintain an innovative and sustainable research mentorship program to prepare promising early career scientists to develop successful independent research careers in HIV/AIDS prevention. The two-year long mentorship program will utilize state of the art distance learning technologies (e.g., webcasts, online classrooms, etc.) to prepare mentees to submit a successful NIH grant application and to facilitate developing professional relationships to support their research efforts.

Developed and Submitted Proposal to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) New Partner Initiative

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10

Members of COPA and staff of the APA Office on AIDS collaborated with the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) and the Kenyan Psychological Association to develop and submit a proposal to fund the development of a curriculum to train SWAA volunteers, non-governmental organization (NGO) staffs, and indigenous psychologists in Africa to work with Kenyan women in connection with the issues of HIV/AIDS, violence, trauma, coping, grief, and stigma. Because SWAA currently works with women, girls and their children in 40 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the idea is to pilot the program in Kenya and then scale up to other countries where SWAA determines that there is a sufficient need and infrastructure.

Psychology and AIDS Exchange

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10

Members of COPA worked with staff of the APA Office on AIDS to develop and produce a 28-page, theme-based, newsletter focusing on internet-based HIV prevention interventions.

Office on Children, Youth, and Families

<http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/homepage.html>

The Children, Youth, and Families Office coordinates APA's public interest, health, human welfare, and social responsibility activities in the areas of children, youth, and families. The office provides staff support to the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice with Children and Adolescents; the Task Force on Resilience and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents; and the Presidential Task Force on PTSD and Trauma in Children and Adolescents.

Liaison Relationships with Council and Divisions

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 7

The office liaisons with the Council of Representatives' Caucus on Children and Adolescents and the following APA divisions: Division of Developmental Psychology (7); Division of School Psychology (16); Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (37); Section on Child Maltreatment (37, Section 1); Division of Clinical Neuropsychology (40); American Psychology-Law Society (41); Division of Family Psychology (43); Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (53); and the Society of Pediatric Psychology (54).

Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice with Children and Adolescents (EBPCA)

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 7

The Board of Directors established EBPCA at their April 2006 meeting. At this meeting, the Board of Directors allocated discretionary funds for all EBPCA meetings held in 2006. In February 2007, the Council of Representatives allocated discretionary funds for all EBPCA meetings held in 2007. The task force was charged with reviewing the extant literature and preparing a comprehensive report on the current state of knowledge

concerning evidence-based psychological practice with children and adolescents. This would include empirically supported principles and evidence applied to psychological assessment, case formulation, possible mediating variables such as therapeutic relationship, and intervention with children and adolescents (and often their caregivers). Also included would be the acknowledgement of the variety of settings in which services are provided to children, including schools, clinics, hospitals, independent practices, and homes and the need to consider setting characteristics when implementing evidence-based practice. In addition, developmental and cultural characteristics that influence the applicability, acceptance, and efficacy of evidence-based practice would be addressed. The task force was encouraged to consider implications of its findings for future research agendas and for the education and training of psychologists with specificity to evidence-based practice with children and adolescents.

2006 APA President Gerald P. Koocher, PhD, appointed the following members to serve on the task force: Anne Kazak, PhD, Chair; Gerard Banez, PhD; Kimberly Hoagwood, PhD; Korey Hood, PhD; Thomas Kratochwill, PhD; Luis Vargas, PhD; and John Weisz, PhD.

EBPCA held three meetings on November 9-11, 2006; April 11-12, 2007; and September 17-18, 2007. At its September meeting, the task force discussed all comments and recommendations received thus far from the reviewers and came to consensus on how to address each of them. The task force also agreed to a final round of review by representatives of select APA divisions. In addition, the task force further developed the report's recommendations and finalized the substantive content to be included in the draft report.

The revised report is scheduled for inclusion on the cross-cutting agenda for the Spring 2008 consolidated meetings. The agenda item will include information regarding reviewers, comments received, and the task force's response to the comments. The report will be considered by the Board of Directors at their June 2008 meeting and by the Council of Representatives at their August 2008 meeting. For additional information, please contact Efua Andoh (eandoh@apa.org).

Task Force on Resilience and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents (RSBCA)
Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 7, 9, 10

The Board of Directors established RSBCA at their February 2006 meeting and allocated discretionary funds for all RSBCA meetings in 2006. The following February, the Board of Directors once again allocated discretionary funds to support the task force's meetings in 2007. The task force was charged with the identification of factors that contribute to the healthy development of Black children and adolescents in three contexts: families, schools, and peer groups. Focus on disparity data in terms of income, female-headed households, academic achievement and criminal justice system involvement fails to inform about attitudes and behaviors that contribute to Black children and adolescents being resilient and strong. The compilation of relevant research data as well as the identification of successful academic programming will provide another lens with which

to view these children and adolescents. Such information can inform policy and programming in communities where African Americans reside.

The following persons were appointed by 2006 APA President Gerald P. Koocher, PhD, to serve on the task force: Stephanie Coard, PhD, Chair; Anne Gregory, PhD; Yolanda Jackson, PhD; Robert Jagers, PhD; Le’Roy Reese, PhD; Caryn Rodgers, PhD; and Anita Thomas, PhD. The task force also had three Senior Advisors: Faye Belgrave, PhD; Robert Sellers, PhD; and Margaret Beale Spencer, PhD. Jessica Henderson Daniel, PhD, (2005-2007 Board Member-at-Large) served as the Board of Directors’ liaison to the task force.

RSBCA held three meetings on October 27-29, 2006; March 9-11, 2007; and November 9-11, 2007. At its November meeting, the task force discussed all comments and recommendations received from the reviewers and came to consensus on how to address each of them. The task force also further developed the report’s recommendations and finalized the substantive content to be included in the draft report.

The revised report is scheduled for inclusion on the cross-cutting agenda of the Spring 2008 consolidated meetings. The agenda item will include information regarding reviewers, comments received, and the task force’s response to the comments. The final report will be considered by the Board of Directors at their June 2008 meeting and by the Council of Representatives at their August 2008 meeting. For additional information, please contact Efua Andoh (eandoh@apa.org).

Presidential Task Force on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Trauma in Children and Adolescents

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 6, 10

In December 2007, the Board of Directors approved the funding of the Task Force on PTSD and Trauma in Children and Adolescents as one of the 2008 Presidential Initiatives.

The goal of the task force is to identify psychological science’s understanding of and contributions to PTSD and trauma, to summarize the current state of knowledge, and to make recommendations to parents, caregivers, health-care providers, policy makers, and government agencies to help children and their families. The charge will include providing particular attention to variations among groups (e.g., by sex, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, (dis)ability status, sexual orientation, age/developmental stage,) or other factors (e.g., rural/urban, geographic,) that have emerged from research in relation to scope, course, or impact of the problem, and will also address access to interventions and social supports.

2008 APA President Alan Kazdin, PhD, appointed the following persons to serve on the task force: Annette LaGreca, PhD, Chair; Beth Boyd, PhD; Lisa Jaycox, PhD; Nancy Kassam-Adams, PhD; Anthony Mannarino, PhD; Betty Pfefferbaum, PhD; Wendy Silverman, PhD; Farris Tuma, PhD; and Marleen Wong, PhD. The task force is funded

for two meetings in 2008. For additional information, please contact Mary Campbell (mcampbell@apa.org).

Governance Support: Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
Addresses Council Priorities 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

The Office also provided staff support to the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF), which works to assure "...that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association in order that all human resources are actualized...including issues related to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability."

The Committee members for 2008 are: Barbara H. Fiese, PhD, Chair; Karen Budd, PhD; John Hagen, PhD; Norweeta Milburn, PhD; Scott Nolen, PhD; and Anita Thomas, PhD. Each member serves a three-year term.

Call for Nominations for Terms Beginning in 2009 (*Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 9*). CYF is anticipating two vacancies in 2009. CYF welcomes nominations from individuals interested in linking research and policy for children and families within APA and the profession. The Committee is particularly interested in candidates with substantial expertise and demonstrated experience in applying psychological knowledge to the well being and optimal development of children, youth, and families; and in issues advancing psychology as a science and profession in the area of promoting health and human welfare. Candidates are sought who have particular expertise in addressing research and policy relevant to contemporary issues facing children, youth, and families in the context of their socioemotional and cognitive development and mental health. Candidates who have particular interest in culturally and linguistically diverse, understudied, underserved and diverse populations (e.g., ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, and those with disabilities) and who have expertise in topics relevant to these populations are particularly encouraged to apply. (See <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/ccyf/callnominations.html> for the complete call for nominations.)

Federal Advocacy Priorities (*Addresses Council Priorities 4, 9, 10*). During their September 28-30, 2007 meeting, the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families reviewed and revised their Federal Advocacy Priorities. The priorities are divided into sections addressing mental health, physical health, education, diversity, family support, and children's rights and civic engagement. The Office works with committee members and the Public Interest Government Relations Office on defining and implementing advocacy goals related to children, youth, and families.

Diversity Representation and Advocacy (*Addresses Council Priority 9*). Diversity is a longstanding and continuing concern of the Committee. In all its efforts from Committee membership to policy statements, the Committee works diligently to ensure that diversity issues receive the Committee's full attention. For example, CYF's 2007 membership was diverse with respect to ethnicity (i.e., one African-American, one Hispanic-American,

four European-Americans), gender (two females and four males), and geographic location. This year, the Committee solicited nominations from ethnic minority psychological associations, which enhanced the ethnic diversity of the 2008 candidate pool. The Committee also advocates for and develops publications, policies, and programs that are appropriate with regard to age and developmental level, culture, ethnicity, language (certain public information materials are available in both Spanish and English), disability, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Further, advocacy priorities established by the Committee pay special attention to issues uniquely important to those from diverse backgrounds. This commitment is reflected in the Committee's federal advocacy priority focused on diversity. In that priority, CYF calls for advocating for federal funds for research on the normative development of minority children, youth and families; funding to support training for psychologists to work with children, youth and families from diverse backgrounds in culturally sensitive ways; supporting and funding research based policies that promote the healthy development of children in all families, including those from married, unmarried, single parent, lesbian, gay, and grandparent-headed households; and for preserving and protecting the rights of and services to immigrant, migrant, and refugee children and youth and for funds for research and programs to serve these families; among others. This year, the Committee also reviewed its strategic plan to ensure its consistency with overarching APA diversity goals.

2007 Convention Activity

(Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 4, 6, 10)

The Office worked with the Committee on development and implementation of the following 2007 APA Convention events:

- “The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice: Vulnerable AND Impressionable: Social Inequality and Children's Exposure to Health Risks” (sponsored by BAPPI, Committee on Children, Youth and Families, Committee on Women in Psychology, Divisions: 9, 27, 45, 51). Chaired by Barbara H. Fiese, PhD; Presenters included Eileen Zurbriggen, PhD (author)/Tomi-Ann Roberts PhD (presenter); Brian Wilcox, PhD; Barbara H. Fiese, PhD.
- Social Hour cosponsored with the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (Division 37). The social hour was attended by current and former members of CYF, Division 37, other various child-focused divisions, and current task forces assigned to the Children, Youth, and Families Office.
- “Resiliency and Strength among African American Children and Adolescents” (sponsored by the Task Force on Resilience and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents, APA Board of Directors). Chaired by Stephanie Coard, PhD (RSBCA Chair); Presenters included RSBCA members Anne Gregory, PhD; Anita Thomas, PhD; Le'Roy Reese, PhD; and Yolanda Jackson, PhD; Jessica Henderson Daniel,

PhD, was the Discussant. The symposium focused on ways in which to promote resilience among African American youth across various domains of development.

- “Evidence-Based Practice for Children and Adolescents” (sponsored by the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice in Children and Adolescents; APA Board of Directors). Chaired by Anne Kazak, PhD (EBPCA Chair); Presenters included Alan Kazdin, PhD; Jessica Henderson Daniel, PhD; Carol D. Goodheart, EdD; Guillermo Bernal, PhD; and Thomas R. Kratochwill, PhD (EBPCA Member). The symposium centered on various factors affecting evidence-based practice with children and adolescents such as implementation, dissemination, training, setting, and cultural context.

Office on Disability Issues in Psychology

<http://www.apa.org/pi/disability/homepage.html>

The Office on Disability Issues in Psychology works toward the elimination of bias against and the promotion of equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in education and training, research, and professional practice. The office serves as an information and referral resource on disability issues; develops and disseminates reports and other written materials on professional and consumer issues; monitors the welfare of these groups as consumers of psychological services; and promotes the development and application of psychological knowledge to address public policy issues affecting them.

Barriers to Students Project

Addresses Council Priorities 1, 7

The overall goal of this project is to develop evidence-based information and resources identifying the major barriers to training by students with disabilities and how those barriers can be addressed. The project seeks to increase the capacity of educators and directors of training by providing resources that will improve and increase learning opportunities for students with disabilities. Resource materials will be developed from data and information gathered by three separate on-line surveys soliciting information from psychology students with disabilities, directors of training, and internship directors. The survey has been circulated to various listservs, posted onto specific APA web pages, and announced in the *GradPsyc* magazine inviting students to complete the survey. To date, 88 surveys have been completed.

APA Convention: Disability Resource Room

Addresses Council Priorities 1, 7

The Office set up and maintained the Disability Resource Room at the 2007 APA Convention. The Resource Room is wholly dedicated to providing services to convention attendees with disabilities so that each may take full advantage of the convention's offerings. It is managed by the APA Disabilities Issues office and is housed each year in the main convention center.

The Disability Resource Room was formally established at the 1982 convention and was originally stationed on the fringe of the main convention area. Prior to that time, attendees with disabilities requesting assistance could check with individuals located in the Convention Office beginning in 1979.

Since then, the Resource Room has grown into a bustling center of activity that serves, on average, 85 to 90 conference attendees each year. Psychology graduate student volunteers provide a significant amount of the staff time needed to operate the Resource Room. Since its inception, this volunteer base has nearly tripled in size to nearly 50 students.

In addition to direct service provision on-site, many hours are dedicated to providing services prior to the convention. Specific convention and pre-convention needs are ascertained for each attendee contacted by office staff and each individual's needs are addressed as fully and flexibly as possible.

For additional information on disability-related services available at APA's Annual Convention, please visit www.apa.org/pi/disability/convention.html

Disability Mentoring Program

Addresses Council Priorities 1, 7

The office oversees and provides functional support to its on-line Disability Mentoring Program. Launched in 2002, the program supports psychology students with disabilities, disabled psychologists entering the field, and newly disabled psychologists in their educational and professional pursuits by providing them with a mentor. Mentors are APA-member psychologists with disabilities. To date, the program has established 44 mentor-mentee matches. The mentoring database is currently being updated to include enhanced reporting capabilities, improved mentor-mentee matching features, and compliance with Section 508. For further information on our mentoring program, please visit www.apa.org/pi/cdip/mentoring/homepage.html

APA Task Force on Guidelines for Assessment and Treatment of Persons with Disabilities

Addresses Council Priority 2

The major charge of this task force is to develop a set of guidelines focused on assessment and treatment involving persons with disabilities. The task force held two meetings, one in June and the second in November. During these meetings, the following objectives were accomplished: reading, collecting and evaluating the literature; completing a draft of the Guidelines; obtaining initial comments and feedback from interested individuals and subject matter experts beyond the Task Force; and revising the document in preparation for submission for further review within the APA.

Advocacy and Legislative Activities

Addresses Council Priorities 4, 10

Office on Disability Issues and the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP) work with Public Interest Government Relations Office staff on advocacy related to disability issues and concerns and on the development of advocacy goals and activities. APA advocates policy by participating in coalitions, by preparing testimony, letters, and other educational materials, and by assisting APA members in their advocacy efforts.

Disability-related coalitions. The Disability Issues Officer continues to be actively involved with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with mental and physical disabilities. The Office serves on CCD's Rights and International task forces.

Governance Support: Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology
Addresses Council Priorities 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

The Office on Disability Issues provides continuous staff support to APA's Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP). Current priorities of the Committee include:

- Development of a proposed APA resolution on the Americans with Disabilities Act (pending Council approval this February);
- The development of several convention activities, including one symposium, a CE workshop, and conversation hour on mentoring;
- The development of disability-related information and content for introductory psychology courses at the community college and high school levels; and
- Increasing the visibility of disability issues within the APA.

Through its nomination process, the committee actively seeks diversity in its own membership, including race and ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, and disability status. In 2007, the Committee was diverse in its membership with respect to ethnicity, gender, geographic location, and disability status. In its nomination slates for 2008, the committee prioritized a balance of disability, gender and ethnicity. The committee continuously advocates for inclusion of, and sensitivity to, diversity and cultural issues as publications, policies and programs are developed within the association.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office

<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/homepage.html>

The mission of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office (LGBTCO) is to advance psychology as a means of improving the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, as a means of increasing understanding of gender identity and sexual orientation as aspects of human diversity, and as a means of reducing stigma, prejudice, discrimination, and violence toward LGBT people. The office provides support and guidance to all aspects of APA governance in activities related to this mission. The office provides high-quality, timely, and cost-efficient psychological products and services to the APA membership and to relevant others who

look to APA for psychological resources that promote beneficial change in society for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

The APA has established the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office because psychology as a science and as a profession has played a central role in policy debates and public discussions both within the social movement to improve the social status of LGBT people and within the organized opposition to that movement and because the APA constituencies concerned about LGBT populations have high expectations for the organization's contributions to the important social issues related to the role and status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in society.

During the current period, the LGBTCO provided support to the APA Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns, the International Network on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Issues in Psychology, the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation, the Task Force on Gender Identity, Gender Variance, and Intersex Conditions, and the Division 19 and Division 44 Joint Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Service. The LGBTCO also maintained liaison relationships with APA divisions, especially Divisions 27, 44, and 51, and affiliated state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations that have an interest in lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues. The Office provides policy analysis and staff support for APA policy development, and advocates APA policy on lesbian, gay, and bisexual concerns in psychology. It promotes psychological knowledge development and dissemination, and provides technical assistance, information and referral, and consultation to APA members, other professionals, policy makers, the media, and the public. The LGBCO staff includes Clinton W. Anderson, PhD, Director, and M. Charlene DeLong, Administrative Coordinator. The Office includes the Healthy, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project, a five year, \$320,000 per year cooperative agreement with the CDC Division of Adolescent School Health. The project staff includes Hank Tomlinson, PhD, Director, and Jo-Anne Fournier, Administrative Coordinator. For more information about the activities of the LGBTCO, please see the office website www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/ or contact the office at lgbc@apa.org or (202) 336-6041.

Addition of Transgender to the Mission of the Office

The Office has been systematically adding transgender, as appropriate, to its publications and website to bring the office in line with the addition of transgender to the name and mission of the then Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns by the Council of Representatives in February 2007. The Office has joined the World Professional Association for Transgender Health and invited Shannon Minter, an expert on transgender legal issues who works for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, to meet with the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns in September.

Network for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Issues in Psychology

Addresses Council Priorities 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10

The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Office has continued to provide staff support to the International Network for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Issues in Psychology, in which the Board of Directors authorized APA participation and leadership in June 2004, as a follow up to the international conference sponsored by APA and several other national psychological associations in 2001. The Network is composed of national, multinational, and international psychological associations that are cooperating to achieve the following aims:

- (1) To increase cross-cultural collaboration among psychological researchers and practitioners who are concerned about the mental health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations;
- (2) To increase knowledge among psychologists and other mental health practitioners about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations;
- (3) To apply psychological research and mental health practice guidelines that address the needs and concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations to international health policy;
- (4) To increase the number of national, multinational, and international psychological associations that formally reject the mental disorder conception of homosexuality and that promote mental health practice that is affirmative of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

APA is represented in the Network by Armand R. Cerbone and Oliva M. Espin with the oversight of BAPPI (Mark Pope), CIRP (Danny Wedding), CLGBTC (Alicia Lucksted), Division 44 (Maria Cecilia Zea), and Division 52 (Gloria Gottsegen).

In the period from August 2007-February 2008, two program goals have been the main focus of the Network and of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office support to the Network. First, the Network has worked to increase lesbian, gay, and bisexual concerns and transgender issues in the programs of international psychological meetings, in particular the 2008 International Congress of Psychology. Second, the Network has established a policy committee that will develop plans for policy initiatives for the Network. The first policy initiative was one recommended by CIRP and included in the Resolution on Opposing Discriminatory Legislation and Initiatives Aimed at Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Persons--that APA propose that the United States National Committee of Psychology, which represents the United States in the International Union of Psychological Sciences (IUPsyS), initiate a policy development process within IUPsyS related to sexual orientation discrimination. The LGBTCO in collaboration with the Office of International Affairs has written to the United States National Committee of Psychology about this policy initiative and about the other activities of the International Network aimed at increasing lesbian, gay, and bisexual concerns and transgender issues in the International Congress of Psychology.

Resolution on Opposing Discriminatory Legislation and Initiatives Aimed at Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Persons

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10

The LGBTCO has initiated discussions with the Arkansas Psychological Association about joint activities in opposition to a ballot measure that would prohibit unmarried cohabiting couples from adopting children or service as foster parents. The hope is to develop a funding proposal that will allow APA and Arkansas Psychological Association to provide resources that would facilitate psychologists' involvement in opposing the ballot measure.

Revising and Updating "Just the Facts about Sexual Orientation and Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators, and School Personnel"

Addresses Council Priorities 3, 4, 10

The LGBCO took the lead in revising and updating *Just the Facts about Sexual Orientation and Youth*, a joint publication of 14 education, health, mental health, and religious organizations that assists schools in responding to advocacy for schools to provide information to their students about "reparative therapies" and "transformational ministries."

Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project (HLGBSP)

Addresses Council Priorities 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10

In 2007, the Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project continued activities funded by APA's 5-year, \$1.6 million cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to build the capacity of youth-serving organizations to prevent HIV among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning youth below the age of 18. The project, now in its 9th year, has been continuously funded by the CDC since its inception. The project was awarded \$320,000 for the second year of the current award period and continues to provide capacity building assistance to education agencies and youth-serving organizations across the country.

During 2007, the project entered into four-year collaborative relationships with two large local education agencies—the District of Columbia Public Schools and the San Diego Unified School District—and with two state education agencies—the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the Massachusetts Department of Education. Project staff and trainers have begun working with these partners to develop their local capacity to disseminate APA's professional development workshop, *"Preventing Health Risks and Promoting Healthy Outcomes among LGBQ Youth: A Training Workshop for School Counselors, Nurses, Psychologists, and Social Workers."* The project sponsored trainings in Washington, DC in October, San Diego in November, and has trainings planned in Massachusetts in February and North Carolina in March.

The project's efforts to build the capacity of other youth-serving organizations to prevent HIV infections among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning young people has been met

with initial success. In partnership with the Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) program housed in APA's Office on AIDS, the project has deployed behavioral and social scientists across the country to help community-based organizations improve their ability to implement effective, science-based HIV prevention activities. The project marketed its services to approximately 160 LGBQ-youth-serving organizations and received requests for assistance from 11 of them. Capacity building efforts have been completed or are currently underway with community-based organizations in Charlotte, Colorado Springs, San Francisco, Tampa, and Tulsa.

Finally, project staff continues to play an integral role in the nationwide effort to raise awareness of the HIV prevention needs of LGBQ youth. Hank Tomlinson, PhD, the project's Director, has presented papers or moderated panels at several conferences, including the annual meetings of the CDC/DASH Funded Partners, the American School Health Association, and the North Carolina Healthy Schools Institute, and the CDC-sponsored National HIV Prevention Conference. The project continued to work with other APA Offices around issues of overlapping interest. During August, project staff published two articles on HIV prevention with young men of color who have sex with men, one in the Office on AIDS' *Psychology and AIDS Exchange* and one in the Office on Ethnic Minority Affairs' *Communiqué*.

Sexual Orientation and Military Service *Addresses Council Priorities 4, 6, 10*

In 2007 the LGBTCO worked on three projects related to sexual orientation and military service. The first project is a briefing sheet on sexual orientation discrimination in the U.S. Military. The second project is a letter to the Secretary of Defense requesting a policy on sexual orientation disclosures in psychotherapy. The third project is an online survey of military clinical psychologists to determine the perceptions of military clinical psychologists about policy concerning homosexuality in the armed forces. More information about these projects can be found at <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/publications/militaryhomepage.html>.

Minority Fellowship Program

<http://www.apa.org/mfp/>

The MFP was established at APA in 1977 and is one of the oldest, most prestigious graduate fellowship programs of its kind in the U.S. The mission of the MFP is to increase the knowledge of issues related to ethnic minority mental health and neuroscience and to improve the quality of mental health treatment delivered to ethnic minority populations. MFP does this by providing financial support and professional guidance to individuals pursuing doctoral degrees in psychology and neuroscience.

The office provides fellowship stipends directly from federal training grants from NIMH and SAMHSA, with additional support provided by the NIMH Office on Aids, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Institute of Neurological

Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). There are three distinct training fellowships administered by the MFP:

- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (predoctoral and postdoctoral support)
- Mental Health Research (with subspecialties in HIV/AIDS Research and Substance Abuse Research)
- Diversity Program in Neuroscience (predoctoral and postdoctoral support)

Professional Development and Networking

In August 2007, the Minority Fellowship Program held professional development and networking events at the annual APA convention in San Francisco, and in November 2007, the Diversity Program in Neuroscience (DPN) held professional development and networking events at the annual Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting in San Diego, CA. In addition, the MFP opened its online application system to over 200 applicants and convened an initial planning committee to discuss funding and program options. In early 2008, the MFP will prepare and review these applications and nearly 100 progress reports from currently funded Fellows.

Events at the 2007 Annual APA Convention *Addresses Council Priorities 1, 9*

August 14-20, the MFP sponsored events at the annual APA Convention in San Francisco, CA. MFP's activities began with its annual Professional Development Workshop for new fellows. The MFP also hosted its annual "New Directions Symposium," where fellows who have recently graduated present their dissertation research. The topic for this year's "MFP Special Interest Symposium" was "Conversation on Racial and Ethnic Identity; Where Do We Go from Here?" MFP also held its annual Poster Session/Social Hour/Awards Ceremony at the APA Convention. Finally, a breakfast was hosted for advisors of MFP fellows to discuss program activities, their roles as advisors, and the funding climate.

MFP Program Promotion *Addresses Council Priorities 1, 9*

To increase the numbers of applicants from PsyD programs, a meeting was held at the Convention with the Ethnic and Racial Diversity Committee of the National Council of Schools of Professional Psychology (NCSPP), and an information session was held for students in PsyD programs.

In October, the MFP reviewed its promotional materials, website, and applications and made changes consistent with program and funding priorities. These materials were distributed to members of the psychology and neuroscience communities. This entails mailing brochures, posters and applications, sending electronic messages to listservs, and setting up links to the MFP websites from other websites. From the combined mailing

lists and listservs, it is anticipated that over 5,000 professionals and students were sent materials.

The Diversity Program in Neuroscience participated in activities at the annual Society for Neuroscience (SfN) conference in San Diego, CA, November 3-8. On Saturday, November 3, the DPN held its annual Professional Development Workshop for all DPN Fellows attending the annual SfN meeting. The workshop was led by members of the DPN Training Advisory Committee. On Saturday evening, the DPN, along with other programs funded by NIMH, convened its annual scientific poster session/awards ceremony. The DPN also hosted its annual SPINES/DPN reunion and an annual breakfast for the university advisors of DPN Fellows. Throughout the SfN annual meeting, DPN staff, DPN advisory committee members, and DPN Fellows and alumni staffed the DPN recruitment booth in the main hall of the convention center.

November 8-11, the MFP recruited undergraduate students attending the annual Career Opportunities in Research, Education, and Training (CORE) Colloquium. Students interested in the fields of psychology and neuroscience discussed fellowship and career opportunities at the MFP booth.

MPF Newsletters

Addresses Council Priorities 1, 9

In conjunction with the events at the Convention, MFP produced *Variability*, its newsletter for psychology. This newsletter is distributed to the MFP community, applicants, federal agencies, and others who are interested in ethnic minority training issues.

In conjunction with the events at the Society for Neuroscience meeting, the DPN produced *Synapse*, its newsletter for neuroscience.

Selection of New and Continuing Fellows

Addresses Council Priorities 1, 9

In January and February of 2008, over 200 applications will be prepared for review by the training advisory committees. The MFP has received applications for its Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (MHSAS) and its Diversity Program in Neuroscience fellowship programs (predoctoral and postdoctoral). In addition, nearly 100 currently funded fellows have submitted progress reports for review by the committees.

Planning for MFP's Future

Addresses Council Priorities 1, 9

A meeting was held December 14-15 to begin planning for the MFP's transition to focus on providing training programs that will reach a broad range of psychologists and students, thereby expanding its base beyond fellowship recipients. An initial planning

committee met with federal funding agency representatives to discuss possible avenues of financial support for the program. This initial committee will provide a report to be used by the Transition Planning Committee (TPC) in 2008. The TPC was approved by the APA Board and Council to create a transition plan for developing additional training programs and securing external funding.

Advocacy Training

Addresses Council Priorities 4, 8

At the APA Convention, new MFP Fellows received advocacy training from the Public Interest Directorate's Government Relations Office. This was the second training given by the GRO to MFP Fellows in 2007. The participants were excited to know that they can significantly impact mental health policy at the federal, state, and local levels.

Office on Socioeconomic Status

www.apa.org/pi/ses/homepage.html

The Office on Socioeconomic Status (OSES) is responsible for directing, overseeing, facilitating and promoting psychology's contribution to the understanding of SES in the lives and well-being of the poor. The Office develops and facilitates relationships and activities to advance psychology as a major force in research, policy and advocacy related to SES through various activities and programs. Major tasks of the Office include managing and supporting the activities of the newly formed Committee on Socioeconomic Status (CSES).

OSES Communications (Network, Listserv, Webpage, Newsletter)

Addresses Council Priorities 6, 9, 10

During the reported period, the newly formed OSES initiated several activities to inform the discipline and increase attention and participation among psychologists to social class and SES related issues. The SES Network was initiated in August 2007 to work in partnership with CSES to accomplish the goals of the Committee which are to (a) collect information and documentation concerning SES; (b) promote scientific understanding of the roles of poverty and SES in health, education, and human welfare; (c) develop approaches to the application of psychology that take into account the effects of SES on psychological development and well being; and (d) advocate for social policy that will alleviate or reduce the disparities between SES groups. The SES Network provides a platform to share information and ideas, raise questions, and identify critical problems and issues related to socioeconomic status. The inaugural meeting of the SES Network took place in August 2007 during APA's Convention in San Francisco, CA. Current membership of the SES Network includes 108 representatives of various divisions, state associations, committee members, APA staff and other groups.

OSES is committed to keeping the network informed of the work of the Office and Committee, responding to initiatives that network members raise, soliciting input on issues that come before the committee, and providing information and opportunities for

network members to become more active in APA governance. Therefore, a SES listserv, webpage, and newsletter have been developed to provide a forum for exchange among members of the network, CSES, APA staff, and the public. The SES Network and related informational resources are supported by OSES.

OSES Relations with Other APA Affiliates (e.g., governance, divisions, SPTAs)
Addresses Council Priorities 6, 9, 10

OSES participated in several activities to increase the capabilities of APA affiliates to identify and engage in issues related to SES.

OSES Participation in Division Executive Committee Meetings. The director of OSES participated in several Division Executive Committee meetings during APA's Convention 2007. During the meetings the director of OSES shared information to inform division initiatives, highlighted SES related resources and activities, and gathered division specific information to inform the work of the Office and Committee on SES. OSES participation in Executive Committee Meetings took place among the following Divisions: 18- Psychologists in Public Service, 27- Community Psychology, and 38- Health Psychology.

Appointment of Liaison or Monitor to CSES. OSES invited APA affiliates (e.g., divisions, governance, SPTAs) to appoint liaisons or monitors to CSES. Monitors and liaisons serve as important catalysts to identifying and communicating possible areas of collaboration between APA affiliates and CSES. Monitors will function primarily to alert APA organizations of CSES' actions, programs, and policies that might have implications for their mission, priorities, and responsibilities. Monitors will receive and review agendas prior to CSES meetings and minutes following CSES meetings for review. Monitors are not required to attend CSES meetings. On the other hand, liaisons, in addition to the responsibilities listed for monitors, will attend CSES meetings to represent their affiliate's perspective.

Socioeconomic Status Fact Sheets. The Office on Socioeconomic Status (OSES) seeks to promote the scientific understanding of the roles of SES and poverty in health, education, and human welfare. OSES also serves as an information and referral source on issues related to SES through the development and dissemination of fact sheets. The fact sheets will serve as a tool for working with APA affiliates to address the ways that SES/social class intersect with the needs and concerns of each group. The first 12 fact sheets will focus on the intersection of socioeconomic status (SES) and the following special interest topics: HIV/AIDS; Ethnic and Racial Minority; LGBTQ; Disability; Aging; Children, Youth, and Families; Women; Violence; End of Life; Work, Stress, and Health; International/Global Relations; and Rural (Health). OSES will publish the fact sheets electronically on its webpage in Spring 2008.

OSES Participation in Division Leadership Conference. On January 25-27, 2008, OSES will participate in the 2008 Division Leadership Conference. The leadership conference is designed to help division president-elects get to know APA and its staff,

interact productively with other division leaders, plan for their own presidency, and be better prepared to address emerging issues in the discipline. The director of OSES will present additional information that will inform presidential initiatives, highlight SES related resources and activities, and gather division specific information that will inform the work of the Office and Committee on SES.

OSES Visits Capitol Hill on World Poverty Day

Addresses Council Priorities 4, 6, 9, 10

In observance of World Poverty Day, October 17, 2007, PI's OSES, GRO and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) coordinated several congressional visits to discuss psychological research on poverty and related legislation. Heather Bullock, PhD, current chair of CSES and Marybeth Shinn, Ph.D., SPSSI member, also participated in these visits. The visits included meetings with key congressional offices that have strong track records in poverty-related legislation. In addition to raising awareness of the work that APA and SPSSI are doing on the topic of poverty, the visits laid the groundwork for the infusion of psychological science in poverty-related legislation.

SES Resource Database

Addresses Council Priorities 6, 9, 10

A specific charge of OSES is to develop and facilitate relationships and activities to advance psychology as a major force in research, policy and advocacy related to SES. To fulfill this charge, OSES conducts and promotes activities and programs to collect, synthesize, and disseminate specific research, professional, organizational, and public policy information concerning SES and its impact on public interest constituencies.

One concrete way to collect and distribute SES-related information is through the development and maintenance of a searchable online database. OSES is compiling journal articles, book chapters, news articles, policy briefings, legislation, reports, and other publications that address socioeconomic status and related topics in order to upload this information onto an online resource database that will be housed on OSES website. The anticipated launch of the database is in Spring 2008.

Task Force on Resources for Inclusion of Social Class in Psychology Curriculum

Addresses Council Priorities 6, 9, 10

As an effort to increase training and education in psychology related to socioeconomic status and social class, OSES will publicize and disseminate a new report, titled: *Using curriculum materials on social class to enhance and enrich teaching in psychology*, through OSES webpage and networks. The report is scheduled for release Spring 2008. It was prepared by the Task Force on Resources for Inclusion of Social Class in Psychology Curricula, jointly sponsored by Divisions 9 and 35 of the American Psychological Association. Co-chairs of the report are Bernice Lott, PhD, University of Rhode Island and Heather E. Bullock, PhD, current chair of CSES. The report includes

the following sections: classroom exercises, course syllabi, fiction, legislation on SES related social policy, popular media (film, TV, music, etc.) scholarly books and articles, and websites.

Interdisciplinary Discussion and Strategy Session on Socioeconomic Status
Addresses Council Priorities 3, 6, 9, 10

Recognizing that much of the advocacy, research, educational, and programmatic work on socioeconomic status is interdisciplinary in nature, OSES convened an interdisciplinary discussion and strategy session on December 11, 2007, at the APA's Central Office in Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting was three-fold: 1) to create an environment for interdisciplinary dialogue among organizations and individuals concerned with increasing socioeconomic well-being and reducing socioeconomic disparities; 2) to discuss emerging issues, challenges and facilitators surrounding socioeconomic status; and, 3) to gather information that will help to inform strategies for strengthening research, programming, and advocacy efforts that are tailored, collaborative, and complementary to other efforts.

Representatives from the following organizations participated: American Educational and Research Association; American Society for Public Administration; American Public Health Association; Capital Area Social Psychological Association; Center for American Progress; Center for Social Science Research - George Mason University; Council on Social Work Education; Economic Policy Institute; George Mason University – Department of Psychology; Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors; National Center for Cultural Competence - Georgetown University; National Education Association; Pew Charitable Trusts – Economic Mobility Project; SAMHSA - Center on Substance Abuse Prevention; Society for Public Health Education; and Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. The full report is available on OSES webpage.

Women's Programs Office

<http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo>

The Women's Programs Office (WPO) works to improve the health, education, well-being, and status of women psychologists and consumers of psychological services. WPO activities span the science, practice, education, and policy arenas. The Office works to:

- * coordinate APA's efforts to ensure equal opportunities for women psychologists as practitioners, educators, and scientists;
- * analyze initiatives and trends affecting women within APA and within psychology;
- * eliminate gender bias in research, diagnosis and treatment, and education and training;
- * promote the inclusion of women in research studies and encourage the analysis of sex and gender in the conduct and reporting of the results of research;

- * improve women's access to health and mental health services and promote the inclusion of psychosocial and behavioral factors in women's health research and practice;
- * monitor the welfare of women as consumers of psychological services, analyze the impact of governmental initiatives on women, and promote the development and application of psychological knowledge.

Governance Support: Committee on Women in Psychology

Addresses Council Priorities 3, 6, 8, 9, 10

WPO provided staff support for the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP), which met twice, March 23-25 and September 28-30. WPO also staffed the two meetings of the Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion, established by Council in February 2006.

Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology

Addresses Council Priorities 1, 7, 9

Working with the Committee on Women in Psychology, the Women's Programs Office hosted a pilot program and needs evaluation (phase one) on September 26, 2007, to identify leadership training needs for women. In addition to this qualitative evaluation, a quantitative needs evaluation survey will be disseminated. The goal is a major leadership institute for women in psychology, similar to the leadership institutes that have been established for other disciplines, which will address the leadership training needs and track leadership advancement for women in all their diversity.

CWP is using the content analysis of the focus group discussions to inform phase two of the project, a quantitative survey of leadership development needs designed to reach a broader group of mid-career and senior women psychologists. Phase three of the project, an inaugural APA Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology, is planned for August 2008, just prior to the APA convention. Funding for this project was received from the COR and B/D, as well as the Office of Research on Women's Health, which supported the institute development this year.

Governance Survey

Addresses Council Priorities 1, 7, 9

The Governance Survey, which is used to collect demographic diversity data regarding those who serve on APA Council, boards, and committees was redistributed because of a low response rate for previous year. CWP, working with WPO and the Center for Psychology Workforce Analysis and Research (CPWAR) staff, will assess the results of the most recent data collection and will begin working on revising the survey for distribution at the Fall 2008 Council meeting.

Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls

Addresses Council Priorities 3, 4, 6

The Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls was released February 2007, upon Council's adoption of the report and recommendations. To date, the report

and summary had attracted more than 430,000 hits on APA's web site, and nearly all of the 2,000 printed copies had been distributed.
<http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualization.html>

Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion
Addresses Council Priorities 3, 6, 10

Council established the Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion in February 2006, charged to collect, examine, and summarize the scientific research addressing the mental health factors associated with abortion, including the psychological responses following abortion and produce a report, based upon a review of the most current research. The Task Force convened two meetings April 27-29 and December 10-11, 2007. The Task Force also convenes monthly conference calls to address major issues as they develop and draft their literature review. Task force members have completed a preliminary draft, which was distributed to outside expert reviewers. During the Task Force's December meeting, members reviewed comments from the outside reviewers, and are currently revising the draft to be submitted to ALL boards and committees during the Spring 2008 consolidated meetings.

WPO Strategic Plan

The Women's Programs Office completed strategic plan for 2007/2008, which identifies needs and strategies, long-term planning/goals and procedures for accomplishing goals.

Surveys, Publications, and Resources
Addresses Council Priorities 3, 6, 7, 9

New Brochure: Post Partum Depression. In December 2007, the WPO released "Postpartum Depression," which details symptoms, risk factors, and solutions, in addition to additional resources for women suffering from postpartum depression. This brochure is available at http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/Postpartum%20Depression%20brochure_2007.pdf

2007 Directory of Selected Scholarship, Fellowship, and Other Financial Aid Opportunities for Women and Ethnic Minorities in Psychology and Related Fields. Lists financial aid opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and postdoctoral students, and professionals in a variety of social science disciplines, is the most requested document on WPO's website, registering from 7,000 to 10,000 hits (or "pageviews") each month. Searchable database accessible at:
<http://forms.apa.org/pi/financialaid/>

Internship Opportunities for Women in Psychology (2007). Free online directory of internship programs that include a focus on the specific needs and issues of women.

Women's Psych-E
Addresses Council Priorities 1, 7, 9

WPO staff wrote and disseminated *Women's Psych-E*, a free monthly electronic newsletter that focuses on psychological aspects of women's health and well-being, research initiatives and opportunities for psychologists, announcements about meetings and conferences, WPO and the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP) news, and general information about women and psychology. (To subscribe, send an email to the editor, Tanya Burrwell at tburrwell@apa.org.) Recent issues available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/wpopsyche.html>

Summit on Women and Depression: Proceedings and Recommendations

The *Summit Proceedings*, which was posted to the WPO website in 2002, continues to register between 3,000 and 5,000 hits (or pageviews) per month. Available at: http://www2.apa.org/pi/wpo/summit_on_women_and_depression.pdf

Other resources available at <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo> include:

- ***Graduate Faculty Interested in the Psychology of Women (2005)***
- ***Surviving and Thriving in Academia: A Guide for Women and Ethnic Minorities (1998)***
- ***Women in Academe: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back (2000)***
- ***52 Resolutions and Motions Regarding the Status of Women in Psychology: Chronicling 30 Years of Passion and Progress (2004)***

2007 APA Convention Events

Addresses Council Priorities 3, 6, 9, 10

WPO provided staff support for the following APA Convention events:

- ***Symposium: Negotiation Skills Facilitate Career Advancement for Women in Psychology*** (Co-chairs: Helen L. Coons, PhD and Alfiee M. Breland-Noble, PhD; Participants: Jean Lau Chin, EdD; Nadine J. Kaslow, PhD; Pamela Trotman Reid, PhD)
- ***Research and Training Funding: Discussion with Representatives from Federal Agencies*** (Chair: Charlene E. LeFauvre, PhD; Participants: Harold Perl, PhD; Lisa Freund, PhD; Charlene E. Le Fauve, PhD; Jorielle Brown, PhD; Courtney Ferrell, PhD; Miriam Keltly, PhD; Joyce Rudick; Janet Saul, PhD)
- ***Presentation of the 2007 Committee on Women in Psychology Leadership Awards*** by CWP Chair Sari Dworkin, PhD at the Division 35 Social Hour
- ***Symposium: Sexualization of Girls--How Culture and Corporations Are Harming Our Daughters*** (Chair: Eileen L. Zurbriggen, PhD; Participants: Eileen L. Zurbriggen, PhD; L. Monique Ward, PhD; Tomi-Ann Roberts, PhD; Sharon Lamb, PhD; Deborah L. Tolman, PhD)

- Symposium: *Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice -- Vulnerable and Impressionable: Social Inequality and Children's Exposure to Health Risks* (Chair: Barbara H. Fiese, PhD; Participants: Eileen L. Zurbriggen, PhD (author)/Tomi-Ann Roberts, PhD (presenter); Brian Wilcox, PhD; Barbara H. Fiese, PhD)

WPO also provided staff support for the annual Committee on Women in Psychology Network meeting.

Public Interest Government Relations Office (PI-GRO)

<http://www.apa.org/ppo/pi/>

See the end of this section for a complete list of the Council priorities addressed by each of the following activities.

APA's Public Interest Government Relations staff is actively engaged in promoting psychology in the public interest in Congress and with the Bush administration. PI-GRO activities include the preparation of legislative background materials, statutory provisions, and formal comments on proposed legislation and regulations, as well as mobilizing the APA membership for grassroots advocacy efforts. The office also identifies and invites psychologists to testify at congressional hearings and briefings, and to represent the association on federal agency advisory councils and at executive branch meetings. Additionally, PI-GRO staff administers the APA Congressional Fellowship Program, through which four psychologists spend a year on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee. The office also offers a year-long public policy internship program for psychology graduate students. This document provides highlights of a variety of policy initiatives undertaken in each of the key public interest areas since August of 2007.

- **Aging.** APA members, Patricia Arean, PhD, Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD, and Michelle Karel, PhD, along with Diane Elmore, PhD, MPH, of PI-GRO, presented at a congressional staff briefing of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee regarding mental health and aging issues of importance to the upcoming Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reauthorization, including integrated health care for older adults and the *Positive Aging Act* (S. 982/H.R. 1669). Integrative models of care are particularly helpful in identifying and addressing the mental health needs of older adults, who often have complex health care needs and may be more likely to present for care in primary care and other traditional health care settings. In addition, PI-GRO staff worked closely with the APA Office on Aging and the Education Government Relations Office to draft a letter to the IOM *Committee on the Future Health Care Workforce for Older Americans*. The letter urged the Committee to specifically address professional workforce needs related to mental health and to consider the inclusion of a geropsychologist on the Committee.
- **Children, Youth, and Families.** On October 10, PI-GRO staff in conjunction with APA's divisions representing children organized a congressional briefing on issues impacting children's mental health. The briefing was entitled: *Children's Mental Health:*

Key Challenges, Strategies, and Effective Solutions. Attention was focused on addressing: access to mental health services for children and adolescents; early intervention and prevention, cultural and linguistic competence in children's mental health care, and school mental health with a focus on violence prevention. PI-GRO staff secured the support of several key congressional leaders as co-sponsors of the event. The briefing panelists included APA members: Jane Knitzer, EdD, Janice Cooper, PhD, Kimberly Hoagwood, PhD, Ken Martinez, PsyD, William Pelham, PhD, Patrick Tolan, PhD, and Mark Weist, PhD. In addition, PI-GRO staff has been participating in a Federal Communications Commission Task Force on Media and Childhood Obesity. The Task Force members include representatives from the public health, child advocacy, media, advertising, and food and beverage sectors.

- **Ethnic Minorities.** PI-GRO staff attended the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Annual Legislative Conference to advocate that the CBC take a more active role in promoting mental health care in the African American community. PI-GRO staff, Daniel Dawes, JD, was invited to speak to CBC Members about the role they will play this year in addressing racial and ethnic mental health disparities. On a related front, PI-GRO staff was instrumental in influencing the CBC's Center for Policy Analysis and Research to include an issue forum about the leading mental health issues among African Americans. In addition, PI-GRO staff has been working closely with key congressional offices in developing the *Health Equity and Accountability Act*, which addresses health disparities and also requires each federal agency to develop and implement a system by which individuals with limited English proficiency will have meaningful access, setting minimum standards for these services. PI-GRO staff has been actively engaged in advocacy efforts to ensure passage of the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2007*. This important legislation lays the foundation for providing much needed health care services in Indian Country.

- **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons.** PI-GRO staff has worked closely with the office of Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) in her efforts to advance a bill promoting bullying and gang prevention. To this end, PI-GRO staff is advocating for the passage of H.R. 3438, the *Bullying and Gang Reduction for Improved Education Act*. The bill provides for bullying and gang (as well as drug and violence) prevention and accountability-based programs designed to enhance school safety. In particular, PI-GRO staff worked to integrate language to make the bill more inclusive of LGBT populations. Language from this bill has been included in the House's draft of the *No Child Left Behind Act* reauthorization legislation. In addition, PI-GRO staff has engaged in advocacy efforts on behalf of the *Military Readiness Enhancement Act* (H.R. 1246), which would repeal the military ban of LGB service members and require the reinstatement of individuals dismissed under the policy. Furthermore, PI-GRO staff continues to monitor and engage in advocacy efforts on behalf of the *Employment Non-Discrimination Act* (H.R. 2015), which would provide basic protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

- **HIV/AIDS.** PI-GRO has been in communication with key congressional staff regarding the inadmissibility of HIV-positive noncitizens to enter the United States and

needle exchange programs. PI-GRO staff has also been meeting with SAMHSA and CDC officials to encourage better collaboration between the two federal agencies when addressing HIV/AIDS prevention and early intervention strategies to tackle the disease and to develop prevention interventions that consistently address mental and behavioral issues in an integrative and systematic way. In addition, PI-GRO staff has been actively establishing relationships with key HIV/AIDS groups to impact the National AIDS Strategy, which will be used during the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act to provide more attention to issues impacting prevention and public health. To this end, PI-GRO staff has been working to ensure that mental and behavioral health issues are appropriately addressed during the development of this Strategy. Furthermore, PI-GRO staff has been meeting with national Latino/Hispanic AIDS groups to develop the National Latino/Hispanic AIDS Action Agenda, which will be disseminated to local, state, and federal elected officials.

- **Individuals with Disabilities.** PI-GRO staff successfully gained support for language in the compromise *Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)* bill for a moratorium on CMS' proposed rehabilitative services option rule that would cut spending for the program. This option is used to finance community-based services for people with disabilities. PI-GRO staff also provided comments directly to CMS regarding this issue on October 12. In addition, PI-GRO has been working with Congressional staffers and the Administration to garner support for the *ADA Restoration Act of 2007 (H.R. 3195/S. 1881)*. Currently, individuals with certain health conditions, such as epilepsy, diabetes, psychiatric diagnoses, and other mental health conditions that are controlled with medications or other disease management strategies, are not covered by the ADA. PI-GRO submitted congressional testimony for a hearing held by the House Judiciary Committee on this issue. Furthermore, PI-GRO prepared and submitted comments on the Job Corps Health Questionnaire Form ETA 6-53 highlighting the concern that the form may inappropriately exclude people with mental health problems, particularly those from diverse racial and ethnic minority backgrounds.
- **Socioeconomic Status.** PI-GRO staff in conjunction with the Committee on Socioeconomic Status and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues organized visits with key congressional offices in an effort to bring awareness regarding socioeconomic health disparities and homelessness during World Poverty Day (October 17). To this end, several psychologists with expertise on poverty issues participated in this advocacy initiative. In addition, PI-GRO continues to monitor several legislative initiatives concerning funding for child care and investment in early childhood education. To this end, PI-GRO staff developed and has been distributing a fact sheet on the psychological aspects of child care to key congressional members. PI-GRO staff has also been actively engaged in advocacy efforts along with other child care advocates in an effort to gain a \$75 million increase in funding for Child Care and Development Block Grant program for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education FY 2008 appropriations bill. Furthermore, PI-GRO staff has been actively working to increase flexibility in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program for families who require accommodation due to a disability or for other reasons.

- **Women.** PI-GRO worked closely with the APA Women's Programs Office to develop a fact sheet for policy makers about postpartum depression. This fact sheet was shared with policy makers and members of the public at a hearing convened by the Subcommittee on Health of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce about the *Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act* (H.R. 20). H.R. 20 was approved by the House of Representatives last fall and similar legislation is expected to be considered in the Senate this year. PI-GRO staff will continue to engage in advocacy efforts to ensure passage of this important legislation. In addition, PI-GRO worked with the Science Government Relations Office to draft comments regarding the thematic direction for Intimate Partner Violence Prevention of the Division of Violence Prevention within the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These comments focused on the importance of prevention and health promotion efforts that are evidence-based, culturally competent, linguistically appropriate, and address the needs of diverse populations and urged support for research regarding the risk and protective factors associated with interpersonal violence.

Cross-cutting Initiatives

- **State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).** PI-GRO staff has worked closely with Practice GRO in the reauthorization of SCHIP. In particular, PI-GRO has strongly advocated for the House version, the *Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act of 2007 (H.R. 3162)*, which provided optional coverage for children up to age 25, authorized the provision of adult day health service programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, established coverage of preventive services, provided parity for mental health coinsurance, ensured health care coverage for immigrant children and a moratorium on proposed Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services restrictions. While all of these provisions were not included in the final compromise bill, PI-GRO staff was successful in preserving the disability-specific provisions in the legislation (including mental health parity), coverage for pregnant women and enhanced funding for translation and interpreter services. PI-GRO staff will continue to work towards adding the other provisions as the bill moves through the legislative process.
- **Body Image/Eating Disorders/Obesity.** PI-GRO succeeded in securing the inclusion of report language in the FY 2008 Senate Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations Report urging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct research regarding morbidity and mortality rates of eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, and eating disorders not otherwise specified across age, ethnicity and gender subgroups. In the comments submitted to the House Education and Labor Committee on the reauthorization of the *No Child Left Behind Act*, PI-GRO staff included language supporting required physical education in schools, noting that, along with lowering the risk of health complications that may be related to obesity, physical activity may improve cognition across the lifespan and decrease the risk of depression in students.

- **Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Response.** PI-GRO staff worked closely with Senators Clinton (D-NY) and Domenici (R-NM) to enhance the recently reintroduced *Public Mental Health Emergency Preparedness Act* (S. 1452). This legislation would help prepare first responders and health care professionals to effectively address mental health consequences in the wake of public health emergencies by establishing a National Center for Public Mental Health Emergency Preparedness to coordinate the development and delivery of mental health services in collaboration with federal, state, and local entities. Specifically, PI-GRO successfully secured the inclusion of language to address the needs of potentially vulnerable subgroups, including children, individuals with disabilities, individuals with preexisting mental health problems, older adults, caregivers, and individuals living in poverty.
- **Hate Crime.** As a member of the National Hate Crime Coalition, PI-GRO worked toward the successful passage of the *Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007* (H.R. 1592) in the House of Representatives. In addition, PI-GRO worked with coalition members toward passage of the *Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007* (S. 1105), an identical companion legislation that was recently passed in the Senate as an amendment to the Department of Defense reauthorization bill. This important legislation would expand federal hate crime law to recognize crimes motivated by actual or perceived race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of any person. The legislation would also provide assistance to local jurisdictions in the investigation and prosecution of bias-motivated crimes.
- **Military Service Members/Veterans.** PI-GRO continues to work collaboratively with colleagues in the science, practice and education directorates to share psychological research and clinical knowledge with federal policy makers regarding the mental and behavioral health care needs of service members/veterans. In particular, PI-GRO focuses on the needs of veterans from the public interest subgroups, including older adults; individuals with disabilities; ethnic minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons; women and families; and those who have experienced trauma and abuse. These efforts have included drafting and reviewing legislative proposals and meeting with congressional offices, federal agencies, and other stakeholder organizations.
- **SAMHSA Reauthorization.** PI-GRO staff continues to work closely with Education, Science, and Practice Government Relations staff in advancing APA's recommendations for the upcoming reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The following four areas have been identified for special consideration in the pending reauthorization: (1) integration of mental and behavioral health in primary care; (2) prevention and early intervention; (3) suicide prevention; and (4) workforce development: training and data collection and analysis.
- **APA Congressional Fellowship Program.** The APA Congressional Fellowship Program, now in its 33rd year, places psychologists in congressional offices for one year beginning in September as part of the larger American Association for the Advancement

of Science policy fellowship program. The 2007-2008 Fellows have been working since October in their placement offices: **Alfred Amado, PhD** (Democratic staff, House Committee on Education and Labor), **Kerry Bolger, PhD** (Office of Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO)), **Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD** (Office of Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)), **Christina Moore, PsyD** (Office of Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)), and **Catherine Zebrowski, PhD** (Office of Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)).

Council Priorities:

1. Increase membership in APA (and its divisions, associations and/or affiliates), with a special focus on recruitment and/or retention of students, early career psychologists, diverse groups (race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age and aging, religious affiliations, and/or those with disabilities), basic and applied scientists, practitioners, retirees, university faculty, and/or psychologists in non-traditional roles

We hold an array of activities throughout the year that help foster participation by APA members in legislative activities as well as help increase membership in APA, including advocacy training opportunities; outreach to schools and universities regarding the important role of psychologists in shaping policy and to increase the number of psychology students involved in policy activities; building an advocacy network; and by recruiting members to participate in the APA Congressional Fellowship Program which is administered by APA Public Interest Government Relations staff.

2. Encourage the integration of scientific and practice psychology at all levels of psychology and for all psychologists

Public Interest Government Relations advocacy activities aim to accomplish this goal through the many legislative initiatives undertaken by the Public Interest Government Relations office (see above for a list of activities).

3. Enhance public awareness of psychological science and application of psychological science for the prevention of human problems, including the mental health needs of children and youth.

A large component of the initiatives undertaken by the Public Interest Government Relations office is to educate members of congress, federal agencies, and the public as a whole about the psychological science and application of psychological science for the prevention of human problems, including the mental health needs of children and youth. Public Interest Government Relations staff is also an active member in many national coalitions and organizations which provide for a great opportunity to meet this priority as well.

4. Increase advocacy efforts for all components of APA and integrate that advocacy across all directorates (Education, Practice, Public Interest, and Science), Divisions, States, and/or affiliates.

The Public Interest Government Relations office leads advocacy efforts for the entire Public Interest Directorate and in its efforts, it works closely with the other APA directorates.

5. Promote psychology as a health care discipline by expanding activities in health psychology and rehabilitation.

Many of the legislative activities supported by the Public Interest Government Relations office are to help accomplish this priority (see above for the list of legislative initiatives).

6. Promote the discipline's capacity to address societal behavioral problems (e.g., violence, warfare, gangs)

Same as above.

7. Make APA membership essential by being responsive to the needs of all members (e.g., use of surveys, joint memberships, etc.)

Public Interest Government Relations staff works closely with APA members and responds to inquiries by members regarding their legislative and other related interests.

8. Encourage professional service among scientists, academics, and/or practitioners to facilitate dissemination of psychological knowledge to the public.

Public Interest Government Relations staff works closely with APA members and encourages the participation of members in day-to-day advocacy initiatives such as congressional visits, offering congressional testimony at hearings and briefings, and drafting legislative proposals.

9. Promote diversity in all aspects of the profession of psychology.

Public Interest Government Relations staff engages in legislative activities that promote diversity in all aspects of the profession of psychology and seeks legislative opportunities to help advance this priority.

10. Promote human welfare through social justice research, practice, policy, and/or education.

Promoting human welfare particularly through policy and educational activities, including dissemination of social justice research are overarching goals of the Public Interest Government Relations office.