

Report to the APA Council of Representatives

The Public Interest Directorate August 2005-February 2006

The Public Interest Directorate (PI) continues to support and promote efforts to apply the science and profession of psychology to the advancement of health and human welfare. Public Interest issues are of central importance to psychology and of critical importance to consumers of psychological services and the general public. Whether addressing issues of diversity, violence prevention, poverty and socioeconomic status or HIV/AIDS, or responding to the association's ongoing concerns with accessibility or ethnic minority recruitment, retention and training, public interest concerns continue to offer psychology an opportunity to promote human welfare and shape a discipline that holds an important and effective place in the society it seeks to serve. Additional information about the Public Interest Directorate and its initiatives can be found on the Public Interest Directorate web site: <http://www.apa.org/pi>.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights of Recent Public Interest Directorate Office Activities:

- BAPPI, Public Interest Directorate Executive Office staff and members of a workshop planning group are developing a Multicultural Organizational Leadership workshop for APA boards and committees. The workshop is scheduled to take place on the first day of the Spring 2006 Consolidated Meetings, April 7, 2006. Presenters at the workshop will be John Dovidio, PhD and Derald Sue, PhD.
- Interdisciplinary Conference on Family School Relations
The Planning Committee for the Interdisciplinary Conference on Family-School Relations met in November 2005 and clarified the conference goals and objectives; finalized themes and topics; defined the daily meeting structure; identified potential speakers; and addressed logistical issues. The conference will focus on the middle and high school years and will be held during July 2006 at Duke University, which will cosponsor the conference.
- In early September, Public Interest Policy staff shared psychological research and clinical knowledge with congressional offices related to the mental and behavioral health consequences of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Staff developed a cross-directorate legislative proposal, which addressed the need for mental health services, training and research with particular attention to high risk groups (e.g., children, older adults, ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities). Public Interest Policy staff also cosponsored a congressional briefing in November with the congressional ethnic minority caucuses on the mental health and resilience of ethnic minority children when faced with trauma and disaster, including the hurricanes.
- In collaboration with the Research Office, the Disability Issues office is seeking to identify the major barriers to training by students with disabilities and how those barriers can be addressed.

- The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Office submitted an application to the CDC in January. APA proposed to provide HIV prevention capacity building assistance to organizations that serve young men who have sex with men. The proposal requested \$1,750,000 over the life of a 5-year cooperative agreement.
- The APA Office on Aging coordinated APA's efforts to promote the inclusion on mental health issues on the agenda of the 2005 White House on Aging. These efforts, combined with those of the mental health and aging community, resulted in mental health ranking 8th of the WHCoA Policy Resolutions, with seventy-five percent (929 out of 1,200) of delegates voting to "improve recognition, assessment, and treatment of mental illness and depression among older Americans." "Attain adequate numbers of health care personnel in all professionals who are skilled, culturally competent and specialized in geriatrics" was ranked ninth.
- During 2005, the MFP reviewed over 400 applications for Fellowships and reviewed over 100 current Fellows for reappointment. In addition, it completed annual program reviews for the MFP in Psychology and Diversity Program in Neuroscience (DPN). These activities were completed across five separate advisory committee meetings. The research Fellowship programs (HIV/AIDS Research, Mental Health Research, Substance Abuse Research, and Diversity Program in Neuroscience) submitted noncompetitive renewals of the grants to their funding agency, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), which subsequently renewed each program. The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services fellowship programs submitted a competitive renewal of the grant to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which subsequently renewed both programs. During June/July 2005, the DPN played a pivotal role in running the Summer Program in Neuroscience Ethics and Survival (SPINES) in Woods Hole, MA. In July 2005, the MFP held its third annual Psychology Summer Institute in Washington, DC. In August 2005, the MFP held events at the annual APA convention in Washington, DC, and in November 2005, the DPN held events at the annual Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting in Washington, DC. In December 2005, the MFP submitted a report to NIMH presenting a wide array of data on the program its Fellows.
- During the past six months, the Office on AIDS HOPE Program has updated its comprehensive training package which will be distributed to over 100 HOPE Program Trainers who will be attending a five-day, train-the-trainer conference planned for January 26 – 31, 2006 in Memphis, Tennessee. Since its inception in 1991, HOPE Program Trainers have trained over 23,000 mental health providers.
- The OEMA administered and National Institute on General Medical Sciences funded project on *Expanding Minority Biomedical Research Talent in Psychology (The APA/NIGMS Project)*, completed its 7th funded year. This project involves 14 departments/programs of psychology (4 major research institutions, 5 minority 4-year institutions and 5 minority 2-year institutions) in the demonstration of a "systemic and pipeline" model of collaborative strategic planning and activities that serve to enhance minority student's participation and retention in biomedical research through training processes that emphasize outreach/orientation, engagement, mentorship, and

academic support/preparation for educational transitions. To date, the project has engaged more than 500 students in intensive research mentorships. OEMA maintains a database that longitudinally tracks each student's educational and career accomplishments. These students have presented more than 340 research poster/papers and authored/co-authored 28 publications. Many are still undergraduates but 141 have enrolled in graduate programs and 49 have received graduate or professional degrees including 12 PhDs. Currently, 57 students are enrolled in doctoral programs. During the past 2 years, 87 psychology faculty voluntarily served as project research mentors for project students. In addition, over 18,000 students have participated in the project's outreach activities, which inform minority students about biomedical careers in psychology.

The following are major initiatives launched in the various offices and programs of the Public Interest Directorate:

Children, Youth and Families Office

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; APA Working Group on Psychoactive Medications for Children and Adolescents; and the Planning Committee for the Family – School Relationships Conference.

Committee on Children, Youth, and Families' Initiative

Enhancing Family – School Relationships Conference - During their March 2005 meeting, the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) discussed the current educational climate that calls for increased accountability for schools and expands parents' educational choices for their children's education. With this has come an added emphasis on collaborations between families and schools and family school partnerships. The committee noted that many parents who want to be involved in their children's education lack the appropriate skills and knowledge to effectively advocate for their children and assist in their educational advancement. Moreover, teachers are often not prepared and lack sufficient time to effectively engage parents (especially "hard to reach" parents). CYF brought this issue to the attention of the American Psychological Association (APA) by proposing that a multidisciplinary conference be convened to present empirical research findings on the relationship between family involvement in schools and children's educational outcomes, and on factors that promote or inhibit the development of family and school relationships for families, schools and teachers

With conference planning in mind, CYF in collaboration with the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest requested that the Association's Board of Directors allocate funds to support a meeting to plan such a conference. The Board considered this request during their June 2005 meeting and allocated funds from their 2005 discretionary fund to support the planning committee's meeting. The planning meeting was held in Washington, DC, on November 16-17 under the leadership of Nancy E. Hill, PhD, CYF 2006 chair. The planning committee refined the goals and objectives of the conference; reviewed and finalized themes and topics; defined the daily meeting structure; identified speakers; and addressed logistical issues. Public policy briefing materials and an edited

scholarly volume (with APA given right of first refusal for publication) will result from the conference. The conference will focus on the middle and high school years and will be held during July 2006 at Duke University, which will cosponsor the conference. In addition to Dr. Hill, members of the planning committee are Ruth K. Chao, PhD; Holly Kreider, EdD; Raymond P. Lorion, PhD; Jelani Mandara, PhD; and Ena Vazquez-Nuttall, EdD.

Board of Directors and Council of Representatives' Initiative

Working Group on Psychoactive Medications for Children and Adolescents - At its March 27, 2004 meeting, the Board of Directors allocated \$9,800 from its 2004 discretionary fund to support one meeting in 2004 of the Working Group on Psychoactive Medication for Children and Adolescents. The working group was charged with reviewing the literature and preparing a comprehensive report on the current state of knowledge concerning the effective use, sequencing, and integration of psychoactive medications and psychosocial interventions for children and adolescents. This review should include a comparative examination of the risk-benefit ratio of psychosocial and pharmacological treatments and the range of child and adolescent psychopharmacology including the appropriateness of medication practices. Members of the working group were appointed by then APA President Diane Halpern, PhD, and include: Ronald T. Brown, PhD, ABPP, chair; David Antonuccio, PhD, ABPP; George J. DuPaul, PhD; Mary Fristad, PhD, ABPP; Cheryl Ann King, PhD, ABPP; Laurel Leslie, MD; William E. Pelham, Jr., PhD; John Piacentini, PhD, ABPP; and Benedetto Vitiello, MD. The working group held their first meeting on November 19-21, 2004 and developed a report outline, assigned writing tasks, developed a timeline and drafted the introduction for the report. Since that meeting members have undertaken writing assignments and have create drafts of some sections. Support for the working group continued when the Board of Directors allocated \$21,000 from its 2005 discretionary fund to support two meetings in 2005. Laurel Leslie, MD, representing the American Academy of Pediatrics joined the working group for the 2005 meetings. The spring meeting was held June 3-5, in Washington, DC, and the fall meeting was held December 9-11. Members continue to refine the draft document that will be circulated for outside review and to APA governance groups for review.

Children, Youth, and Families Office Initiative

Take a Stand. Lend a Hand. Stop Bullying Now! - The Association accepted the Health Services Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) invitation to partner with the agency in the *Take a Stand. Lend a Hand. Stop Bullying Now!* campaign as a means of implementing the APA Resolution on Bulling Among Children and Adolescents (http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/bully_resolution_704.pdf).

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the *Take a Stand. Lend a Hand. Stop Bullying Now!* Campaign is the largest effort ever put in place to raise public awareness about bullying among 9- through 13-year-olds and foster effective prevention efforts in schools and communities across the country. Guided by research-based information and strategies, the *Take a Stand. Lend a Hand. Stop Bullying Now!* Campaign was developed with input and assistance from a number of individuals and organizations, including representatives from the government, nonprofit, corporate sectors, and youth.

A centerpiece of the Campaign's mission to educate and inform adult audiences about bullying, its consequences and successful approaches to prevention and intervention is the *Stop Bullying Now!* Resource Kit. Hard copies of Resource Kit can be obtained by calling **1-888-**

ASK-HRSA. A more extensive version of the Resource Kit is available on line at <http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/indexAdult.asp?Area=resourcekit>. To learn more about bullying and this important campaign, visit the website at www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov.

Disability Issues In Psychology Office

The central mission of the Office on Disability Issues in Psychology is to work 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. Please visit the office's web site at www.apa.org/pi/disability for more information on disability issues in psychology.

Governance Support

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

- Requesting funding for a task force to develop guidelines on assessment and treatment of persons with disabilities (proposal is pending Council approval in February).
- The development of several convention activities, including a symposium, CE workshop, and conversation hour.
- The development of an APA Resolution on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Increasing the visibility of disability issues within the APA.
- Requesting funding for a task force on training issues for graduate students with disabilities in testing and assessment (proposal is pending Council approval in February).

Barriers to Students Project

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 Disability Issues Officer is currently working with the APA Research Office to develop the survey instruments.

Legislative 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. The APA Public Interest Public Policy Office has the primary responsibility for federal advocacy on disability issues and concerns; advocacy goals and activities are coordinated with the Office on Disability Issues and the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology. Current legislative activities include the following:

- **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 Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief task forces.
- **Amicus briefs.** Another form of public policy advocacy is APA intervention in legal cases, which is primarily the responsibility of the General Counsel Office, and when disability-related, in coordination with the Disability Issues Office. Most recently, the APA signed on to an amicus brief concerning a paraplegic state prisoner who was denied equal treatment as a result of his disability. The brief filed by the American Association on Mental Retardation, the ARC of the United States, the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the National Mental Health Association, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities and the American Psychological Association describes the plight of prisoners with mental disabilities. In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that Congress has the authority to apply the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to state prisons.

International Issues

The Disability Issues officer continues to garner feedback to the draft text of the UN "Draft Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities" from several current and former members of CDIP, and will work through APA's UN representative to share those comments at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee scheduled for March. A draft of that text is available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahcwgreportax1.htm

In October, APA's Office of International Affairs hosted a delegation from the Psychological Center for Research in Bulgaria. The Center is involved in public education and lobbying for psychology in Bulgaria. Their focus includes disability issues and mental health. The delegation met with APA staff members on two days, to share information and to explore avenues for future collaborations, especially in the areas of disability legislation and public education about disability and mental health.

Convention Activities - The office coordinated the services of and provided staff support to the Resource Room for persons with disabilities at APA's Annual Convention in Washington, DC. The room was fully equipped with TTY machine, Vocal-Eyes speech software, computer, wheelchairs, canes, and cots. Staff coordinated the services and schedules of two on-call sign language interpreters and a host of volunteers. In total, the Resource Room was able to assist approximately sixty-five attendees.

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

External Collaborations

SafeUSA Coalition

The APA has had an active involvement with the SafeUSA Partnership since the partnership was formed by the CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control in 1998. Disability issues office staff typically attends 3 meetings per year along with representatives from 8 federal agencies and about 10 other nonprofit organizations and associations whose work is germane to injury and violence prevention. The Disability Issues officer also sits on the executive board and advocates for the inclusion of mental health issues on SafeUSA's agenda and activities. APA will host the next meeting of the SafeUSA in February.

The Disability Issues officer was recently asked to represent APA on the Editorial Advisory Board for the *Mental and Physical Disability Law Reporter* of the American Bar Association, and attends regular advisory board meetings in that capacity.

Executive Office

Governance Support and Activities

Executive Office staff continues to provide staff support to the public interest oversight board, the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI), including staffing its Fall 2005 meeting on November 4-6, 2005.

BAPPI continues to focus its attention on issues related to poverty and its impact on public interest constituencies and interest groups; enhancing diversity within APA governance and staffing; and infusion/integration of the Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice, and Organizational Change for Psychologists (Multicultural Guidelines) as areas of focus during 2005.

Enhancing Diversity within APA Governance: Multicultural Leadership Workshop for APA Governance Groups

A Multicultural Organizational Leadership Workshop for APA boards and committees was originally scheduled for the Fall 2005 Consolidated Meetings (Round I and II). The workshop was patterned after the very successful Multicultural Organizational Leadership workshop at the February 18-20, 2005 meeting of the APA Council of Representatives(C/R). However, because most of the boards and committees will meet together at the same time during the Spring consolidated meetings, it was agreed that the workshop should be moved to Spring 2006. The Multicultural Organizational Leadership Workshop for APA boards and committees will take place on the first day of the Spring 2006 Consolidated Meetings, April 7, 2006. The facilitator of the workshop will be Sandra Shullman (B/D). Co-presenters at the workshop will be John Dovidio, PhD and Derald Sue, PhD.

Infusing the APA Multicultural Guidelines Throughout APA: The APA Task Force on the Implementation of the Multicultural Guidelines

Staff in the Public Interest Directorate are supporting a newly formed Task Force on the Implementation of the Multicultural Guidelines. The task force is charged with formulating recommendations for the infusion of the Multicultural Guidelines throughout psychology. The Task Force will meet twice per year for two years beginning in 2006 and will report to the B/D on a regular basis on the progress of its work. Members of the task force were nominated from each APA Standing Board (BCA, P&C, BAPPI, BSA, BEA and BPA), COLI, CAPP and The APA Board of Directors) and appointed by APA President Ronald

Levant, EdD, ABPP.

Task Force on Socioeconomic Status

The Task Force on Socioeconomic Status (SES) was established by the APA Council of Representatives (C/R) at its February 2005 meeting and was approved to meet twice per year for two years (2005 and 2006). The Task Force is charged with (a) operationally defining the scope, nature, range, parameters and effects of socioeconomic inequalities in the United States; b) psychological issues associated with socioeconomic status; and (c) recommending mechanisms and structures that would more effectively address, on an Association-wide basis, the causes and the impact of socioeconomic inequality. The task force held conference calls and two meetings in 2005. The Task Force plans to submit a draft report with recommendations to the Spring 2006 Cross-Cutting Agenda for review by APA Boards and Committees.

Task Force on Diversity in Course Content, Publications and Training Programs

The Task Force on Diversity in Course Content, Publications and Training Programs was formed by Council in July 2004. The five-person Task Force is charged with providing oversight and making recommendations regarding the ongoing development of a report on the status of diversity in course content publications and training programs. This report shall serve to inform Council and serve as a basis upon which to recommend the resources needed to enhance diversity in the discipline of psychology.

The Task Force held its first meeting on July 29-30, 2005. The Task Force completed the following tasks during its meeting: Definition of Diversity for the purposes of the Task Force's work; Review and discussion of the three areas of Focus: Course Content, Publications and Training Programs; review of a Listing of Journals, Books and Psychotherapy Videos Currently Produced by APA Books; review of a Draft Diversity Online Questionnaire; development of draft survey questions for the online questionnaire, development of draft survey questions for Publications and Communications and the Publications and Communications Board (P&C); and agreement upon a sample size for the survey. The Task Force will determine meeting dates for 2006 in the near future.

Work, Stress and Health Conference

The APA, in collaboration with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and several other agencies, will convene the sixth international conference on occupational stress and health. The conference, Work, Stress, and Health 2006: Making a Difference in the Workplace, will be held in Miami, Florida on March 2-4, 2006.

Adults and Children Together Against Violence (ACT)

The ACT- **Adults and Children Together – Against Violence program** is the APA's national initiative on early violence prevention focused on educating adults and communities to create safe and healthy early environments for children. The program accomplishes its goals through two components: (a) ACT National Media campaign that includes TV and radio PSAs, billboards, a web site, toll-free number, and publications and (b) ACT National Training program delivered through national workshops and replicated at local communities by ACT-trained professionals and their organizations.

ACT National Media Campaign

A kit to promote the campaign and encourage support was sent to more than 200 people including the ACT training program local coordinators in 31 states; it was also distributed at the convention. A new proposal was prepared to raise funds for new radio and print ads.

ACT Training Program

- The development of training materials and educational materials in English and Spanish for parents for the ACT parent 8-week program was completed.
- With assistance from CDC staff, evaluation instruments were adapted and created for the parent program;
- In the fall, APA ACT staff coordinated the pilot test of the English version of the parent program in 4 sites: Rochester, Kansas City, Newport News, VA, and Lima, OH. The purpose was to test the training materials, the handouts for parents and the evaluation instruments.
- APA ACT staff conducted a 1-day meeting in October to pilot test the Spanish version of materials for the Parenting 8-week program. Participants included 14 Latino and bilingual professionals who work with Latino families in Washington, DC.
- ACT staff is revising the parent program training manual and materials to be distributed at a seminar on February 24-25. At the seminar, ACT Coordinators from 15 sites will be trained to implement the new parent program.
- The first 1-hour Web-based seminar was conducted in November for 44 ACT-trained coordinators from all over the country; the topic of the seminar was Media violence and children.
- Julia Silva, the ACT Training Program Director, continued to provide technical assistance to the ACT-trained professionals on a regular base by e-mail and conference calls.

ACT Against Violence Highlight

- Development of training materials, handouts for parents and evaluation instruments for the ACT parent 8-week program in English and Spanish was completed and pilot programs to test them were conducted in the fall.
- Revision of the Parent 8-week program materials was conducted and final version was distributed at the ACT seminar in February
- The seminar on February 24 & 25 is being organized to train ACT Coordinators from 15 sites to implement the new ACT Parent 8-week program in their communities.
- The first Web seminar was conducted in November for 44 ACT Coordinators on media violence and children.

Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Office

Policy Advocacy and Implementation Activities

The office contributed to the development of several APA amicus briefs by working with the Office of General Counsel. The office supported the implementation of APA's Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Military Service by working with the Division 19/Division 44 Joint Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Service. The office provided staff support to

the Task Force on Gender Identity, Gender Variance, and Intersex Conditions for its meeting on November 12-14. The office is also providing primary staff support for the International Network on Sexual Orientation Concerns and Gender Identity Issues in Psychology, in which representatives of the Association of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Psychologies Europe, the Australian Psychological Society, the British Psychological Society Lesbian & Gay Psychology Section, the Conselho Federal de Psicologia (Brazil), the Colombian Society of Psychology, and the Nederlands Instituut van Psychologen are also involved. The Network has developed its mission statement, operating procedures, and outreach plan.

Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project: CDC- Funded HIV Prevention Project

The Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project (HLGBSP) continued its work to strengthen the capacity of the nation's schools to prevent health risks and promote healthy outcomes among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth. The project, which has been funded since its inception by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will conclude its seventh year of operation in May 2006. In the period of August 2005- February 2006, the HLGBSP has provided its full-day training workshop, *Preventing Health Risks and Promoting Healthy Outcomes Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth: A Training Workshop for School Counselors, Nurses, Psychologists, and Social Workers*, four times in partnership with the Delaware Department of Education, the Maryland Department of Education and the Baltimore City Schools, with the Los Angeles United School District, and with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Milwaukee City Schools.. To date, HLGBSP has provided 30 trainings at the national, regional, and state levels, reaching a combined audience of more than 700 school counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers who are responsible for providing services to approximately 500,000 middle- and high-school students.

In addition to sponsorship and coordination of training workshops, HLGBSP staff has continued to provide technical assistance to members of its training cadre and to liaisons from its professional association and state and local educational agency partners. The staff has participated in the CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health Funded Partners Conference and the LGBTQ Youth Joint Working Group.

APA submitted in early January an application for a new 5-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control in the amount of \$1,750,000 to continue the Healthy, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project.

Office on Aging

The Office on Aging is the focal point for APA activities pertaining to aging. Its overarching mission is to bring psychological knowledge to bear on discussions regarding matters that affect older adults and their families.

Governance Support

The Office on Aging provides continuous staff support to the APA Committee on Aging (CONA). Recent CONA activities include:

- Near completion of the first phase of CONA's Roadmap to Aging initiative. A brochure, *Life Plan for the Life Span*, will be available in February. The brochure

offers guidance to young, middle-aged and older psychologists in planning for the variety of challenges that often arise as people age. The areas to be addressed include: Health and Health Care, Legal and Financial Matters, Work Life and Retirement, Psychological Issues and Social Roles and Resources.

- CONA presented its 2005 Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging to Margaret Gatz, Ph.D. The award was given in recognition of her longstanding dedication to research, training, professional service, and advocacy in geropsychology.
- Two CONA members serve on the APA Division 20 (Adult Development and Aging) and Division 12-Section II (Clinical Geropsychology) Planning Committee for the National Conference on Training in Professional Geropsychology to be held June 2006. Its goal is to develop aspirational educational models at the doctoral, internship, postdoctoral, and post-licensure levels for training psychologists with specialized preparation for providing psychological services to older adults.

The 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA)

Over the past 18 months, The Office on Aging coordinated APA's WHCoA efforts. The Office worked independently and in cooperation with the National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging, CONA and the Public Interest Policy Office, to promote the inclusion of mental health issues on the agenda of the WHCoA. The *Resolution on the 2005 White House Conference on Aging* was adopted by the APA Council of Representatives in August. Also in August, a Division 20/CONA sponsored 2005 APA Convention/WHCoA Independent Aging Event, *Psychology and Public Policy: Contributions to the 2005 WHCoA* was held. Its recommendations were received by the WHCoA Policy Committee and are posted on its website, www.whcoa.gov. On December 14th the 2005 WHCoA Policy Resolutions were announced. Mental Health was the 8th ranked resolution, with seventy-five percent (929 out of 1,200) of Conference delegates voting to "improve recognition, assessment, and treatment of mental illness and depression among older Americans." "Attain adequate numbers of health care personnel in all professionals who are skilled, culturally competent and specialized in geriatrics" was ranked ninth.

The ABA/APA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project

The project is developing its second product, *Determining Capacity of Older Adults in Guardianship Proceedings: A Benchbook for Judges*. Its first product, *Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Lawyers* is available online at www.apa.org/pi/aging. The project is a collaborative effort with the ABA Commission on Law and Aging under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Committee on Legal Issues (COLI) Task Force on Facilitating APA/ABA Relations.

Promoting Awareness of Aging Issues Within APA and Among APA Members

Office on Aging publications, including *Psychology and Aging: Psychologists Make a Significant Contribution*, and the *APA Aging Issues Newsletter* were distributed in a variety of venues including the APA and Gerontological Society of America conventions, and National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging meetings. In November, a Monitor on Psychology article, "Instilling skills for treating minority elders" was published.

Securing the Representation of Geropsychology In Efforts External to APA

Psychology delegates at the 2005 WHCoA included APA Past-President Ron Levant, PhD, Norman Abeles, PhD, John Cavanaugh, PhD, Mohammed Farrag, PhD, Michael Smyer, PhD, Suzann Ogland-Hand, PhD, and Margaret Hastings, PhD. APA Office on Aging secured a place for Antonette Zeiss, Ph.D., and Deborah DiGilio, Aging Issues Officer to represent geropsychology at the WHCoA Mini-Conferences on Geriatric Healthcare Workforce Issues and the Future of Caregiving, respectively. Jennifer Moye, Ph.D., ABA/APA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Workgroup member, was appointed as the first psychologist Commissioner to the ABA Commission on Law and Aging. Forrest Scogin, Ph.D. represented APA on SAMHSA's Older Adult Implementation Resource Kit Consensus Panel.

Office on AIDS

The HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program

In September 2004, the APA Office on AIDS was awarded \$750,000.00 by the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) to continue the HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program for another five years. During the past six months, HOPE Program staff has focused on recruited new HOPE Trainers who will attend a national, five-day, train-the-trainer conference planned for January 26 – 31 in Memphis, TN. Additionally, staff have been updating HOPE Program training materials and providing technical assistance to HOPE Trainers as they develop and implement local continuing education workshops. Since its inception in 1991, the HOPE Program has trained over 23,000 mental health providers.

Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer Program

In September 2005, the APA Office on AIDS received a new subcontract from Macro International Inc. (ORC Macro) for \$359,700.00 to continue operating the Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) Program for another year. The BSSV Program is a national HIV prevention technical assistance program for health departments, community planning groups (CPGs), and community-based organizations (CBOs). Over 500 organizations have been served by BSSV Program volunteers since the program's inception in 1996. Recently, BSSV Program staff have been working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a Resource Guide for community-based organizations who attempting to adapt evidence-based, HIV prevention interventions for local populations that they serve.

Tabono Program

In April of 2005, the APA Office on AIDS received continuation funding for the Tabono Program from CDC through a subcontract from ETR Associates, Inc in California. The Tabono Program provides capacity-building services to community-based organizations (CBOs) and health departments (HDs) in the western region of the United States (i.e., Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Guam). The primary purpose of the Tabono Program is to train and mobilize capacity-building assistance providers for the purpose of designing, developing, implementing, and evaluating HIV prevention interventions for African Americans. Recently, staff of the Tabono Program have been working on evidence-based fact sheets for front-line providers.

AIDS and Ethics Training in China

The APA Office on HIV/AIDS, Temple University's School of Law, and China's Centers for Disease Control (CCDC) are currently working together to obtain funding to develop an internet-based, ethical decision making training program for public health officials involved with HIV/AIDS in China and the United States. The project would promote collaboration between departments of public health as well as experts in public health law and ethics. It would also create an international forum to exchange ideas about partner organizations' capacity to plan, implement and manage ethical HIV prevention, research and care activities.

The project would build on a successful ethical decision making training conducted by the APA and Temple staff in Beijing, June 05, for a small group of CCDC officials. CCDC invited the APA and Temple to conduct this training because despite past training on legal and ethical concepts, there was no guidance regarding practical applications. The June 2005 training in Beijing was based on curricula previously developed by the APA Office on AIDS. The previously developed APA curricula entitled, *Ethical Issues & HIV/AIDS: A Multi-Disciplinary Mental Health Services Curricula*, was in turn based on a model of ethical and legal decision-making articulated in a book published by APA Books [Anderson, J.R. & Barret, R.L (EDs.) (2001) *Ethical Issues in HIV-Related Psychotherapy*].

Children and Adolescents Task Force of the Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues

In February 2003, the Council of Representatives provided support for the formation of the Children and Adolescents Task Force of the Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues. The task force was charged with producing a report on practice, research, training, and policy issues for psychologists involved with children and families dealing with the end of life. The task force produced a *Draft Report of the Children & Adolescents Task Force of the Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues (Draft Report)* which was reviewed by APA boards and committees and subsequently modified in response to feedback from those reviews. The *Final Report* was reviewed and accepted by the Council of Representatives at its meeting of August 2005.

Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues

In August of 2000, the Council of Representatives (COR) voted to establish the Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues and charged it with providing oversight and leadership in implementing the recommendations of the *Report to the Board of Directors from the APA Working Group on Assisted Suicide and End-of-Life Decisions (Report to the Board)* (see - <http://www.apa.org/pi/aseolf.html>).

Activities & Accomplishments in 2005

- Development and submission of a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Proposal to develop an internet-based program for training psychologists to work with people near the end of life;
- Completion of the summary report based on data from eight, web-based surveys that assessed end-of-life-related activities and needs of psychologists in the areas of practice, research, and training;
- Acceptance of the *Final Report of the Children and Adolescents Task Force of the Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues* by the Council of Representatives at its meeting of August 2005.

Plans for 2006

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues will produce a draft final report of its activities and accomplishments. The draft final report will be placed on the cross-cutting agenda of the spring consolidated board and committee meeting. Feedback from boards and committees will inform the development of the committee's final report which will be forwarded to the Board of Directors at its meeting of June 2006 and the Council of Representatives at its meeting of August 2006.

Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs

The APA Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) was established in 1979 "to expand the roles of culturally diverse peoples in the profession of psychology." OEMA engaged in the following efforts during the period of August 2005 – February 2006.

Governance Support. OEMA provided continuing staff support to:

- APA Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), including (a) staffing its September 30 – October 2, 2005 meeting; (b) administering solicitation and selection of its 2005 Jeffrey Tanaka Memorial Dissertation Award to Patrick Wilson, PhD; (c) shepherding its "Resolution recommending the immediate retirement of American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams and organizations" through governance review and adoption by Council at its August 2005 meeting; and (d) supporting CEMA's annual convention breakfast and social hour, which included a celebration of BEMA/CEMA's 25th anniversary.
- Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training in Psychology Task Force (CEMRRAT2) including (a) announcing both the RFP for 2006 CEMRRAT Implementation Fund Grant awards, which will be funded for a total of approximately \$75,000, and the Request for Nominations for the 2006 Suinn Minority Achievement Awards program; and (b) continuing to develop drafts of a forthcoming 5-year CEMRRAT progress report.
- Council of National Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests (CNPAAEMI), which consists of the presidents (or their designees) of APA, Division 45, and the four national ethnic minority psychological associations. OEMA assistance included (a) staffing CNPAAEMI's August 14, 2005 meeting at the Association of Black Psychologists Convention in Miami; (b) providing logistical assistance to President Levant related to his presentation of the ethnic minority psychological association presidents to Council during its August 2005 meeting; (c) engaging in meeting planning efforts related to CNPAAEMI's February 1, 2006 meeting in San Antonio, TX ; and (d) facilitating governance consideration of affiliate and Council status for the ethnic minority psychological associations.

Communications. OEMA engaged in the following related efforts:

- Edited and disseminated semiannual issues of its news journal, *The Communiqué*, to over 5800 individuals, departments/programs/schools of psychology, and public officials and policymakers. The July 2005 issue featured a tribute in memory of Drs. Kenneth and Mamie Clark, and a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of APA's Board/Committee of Ethnic Minority Affairs.
- Served as APA's primary resource for requests for information and data related to ethnic minority issues
- Continued to maintain the OEMA database of information on over 3100 psychologists of color, which serves as the repository of data for OEMA's *Directory of Ethnic Minority Professionals in Psychology*, and continued development of a new edition of the *Directory*.
- Continued to fine tune and update the OEMA web site (www.apa.org/pi/oema).
- Coordinated with the official magazine of the APA, *The Monitor on Psychology*, in developing articles on a variety of topics related to ethnic minority concerns.

Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention, and Training Initiatives. Related OEMA efforts include:

- Continued to administer the CEMRRAT Implementation Grants program, which was funded by APA for \$100,000 (including staff costs), and submitted a related annual report to B/D and C/R in August 2005.
- Continued to administer the NIGMS funded project on *Expanding Minority Biomedical Research Talent in Psychology* (the "APA/NIGMS Project"), which involves 14 departments/programs of psychology throughout the nation organized in to 5 'regional centers'. The project is currently funded for 3-years for \$1.6 million, and to date has provided intensive research mentorships to more than 510 students, of whom 141 have enrolled in graduate programs and 49 have received graduate or professional degrees including 12 PhDs.
- Prepared and submitted a 5-year competing continuation grant application for its APA/NIGMS Project, requesting over \$4 million.
- Continued to administer and partially fund Diversity Project 2000 and Beyond (DP2KB) – a mentoring and professional development institute for students of color at community colleges, which is conducted annually at the APA convention.
- Engaged in early career retention efforts (in collaboration with the APA Membership Office) including periodically sending emails to more than 2500 ethnic minority advanced graduate students, which informed them of new resources available from OEMA and other opportunities that might be germane to their professional development.
- Prepared and submitted a grant proposal to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for \$100,000 for *The Academic Transitions Project*, which if funded would enable the development of supplemental activities for the APA/NIGMS Project and the DP2KB Project.

Psychology in Ethnic Minority Serving Institutions (PEMSI). This OEMA initiative seeks to strengthen both relationships between APA and this sector of postsecondary institutions, as well as teaching and research in psychology at these institutions. Related OEMA efforts included:

- Continued to administer the Promoting psychological research and training on health disparities issues at minority serving institution grants (ProDIGs), a small grants program funded for \$50,000 per year in APA Academic Enhancement Initiative funds that seeks to encourage early career faculty to engage in health disparities research and training.
- Continued the Survey of the status of psychology at ethnic minority serving institutions that will serve as the basis for a database on the characteristics and needs of psychology programs/departments at these institutions.
- Sought to maintain contact with those minority-serving institutions affected by Hurricane Katrina, to ensure they were aware of Katrina assistance provided by APA.

Psychology and Racism Project

- Continued to disseminate resource materials on racism and prejudice.
- Continued to administer its APA National Conversation on Psychology and Racism, which to date has involved more than 90 events across the nation.
- Consistent with C/R mandate, provided staff assistance to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) followup activities of a joint CEMA/CIRP subcommittee on the WCAR.

Special Projects

- Continued to staff the President's Task Force on Enhancing Diversity in APA (TFED), including (a) ensuring two rounds of governance review and comment on the TFED draft report, (b) compiling review comments for use by TFED in revising its report; (c) facilitating Council review and its August 2005 approval of the TFED Final Report; and (d) facilitating print and web publication and dissemination of the Final Report.
- Continued to direct a grantsmanship contract funded by \$20,000 in FY 2004 B/D Discretionary funds and related to the proposed "Conference on Psychology, Public Policy and Communities of Color".
- Prepared a proposal to establish an OEMA Film Series for APA staff, focusing on the culture, concerns, and experiences of ethnic minority groups; this proposal has been favorably reviewed by several internal staff groups, including CCAM, which recommends APA funding for this effort.
- OEMA Director made presentations related to diversity issues at the 2005 APA Convention (MFP, Divisions 12 and 48), the African American Mental Health Summit in Memphis, TN, and the Division Leadership Conference. She also attended the Annual Convention of the Association of Black Psychologists in Miami, the Cultural Considerations in Disasters Conference in Danvers, MA, and the APA Expert Summit on Immigration in San Antonio, TX.
- Continued to administer the OEMA Intern Program.

Minority Fellowship Program

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. It does this by providing financial support and professional guidance to individuals pursuing doctoral degrees in psychology and neuroscience. The office operates, and provides fellowship stipends directly from federal training grants from NIMH and SAMHSA, with additional support provided by the NIMH Office on Aids and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). There are three distinct training fellowships administered by the MFP: the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (predoctoral and postdoctoral support); Mental Health Research (with subspecialties in HIV/AIDS Research and Substance Abuse Research); and Diversity Program in Neuroscience (predoctoral and postdoctoral support).

August 2005

August 17th – August 21st, the MFP participated in events at the annual APA Convention in Washington, DC. On August 17th, the MFP held its annual New Fellows Orientation. The MFP also hosted its annual “New Directions Symposium,” “MFP Special Topic Symposium,” and Social Hour/Awards Ceremony at the APA Convention. In addition, the Student Poster Session was held in conjunction with the Social Hour/Awards Ceremony.

September 2005

The MFP reviewed all of its promotional material and applications and made changes consistent with program changes.

The MFP reviewed its website and online applications and made changes consistent with program changes.

The MFP prepared to send announcements via mass mailings and e-mail regarding the availability of Fellowships and the January 15, 2006 deadline.

The MFP engaged in planning activities for the annual Society for Neuroscience meeting to be held in Washington, DC in November 2005.

September 23rd – 25th, the MFP held its annual fall retreat (advisory committee meeting) at the University of Texas in El Paso. This meeting was used to review all aspects of the MFP operation and to suggest program changes.

October 2005

The MFP began the process of sending out promotional material on all of its programs to members of the psychology and neuroscience community. This entails sending out “hard copies” of brochures, posters and applications, as well as sending out 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.

November 2005

The Diversity Program in Neuroscience participated in activities at the annual Society for Neuroscience (SfN) conference in Washington, DC, November 12th – 16th. On Saturday, November 12th, the DPN held its annual professional development workshop for all DPN Fellows attending the annual SfN meeting. The workshop was well attended. Twenty-three

DPN Fellows participated. 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. On the evening of Sunday, November 13th, the DPN hosted its annual SPINES/DPN reunion. On the morning of Monday, November 14th, the DPN hosted its 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.

December 2005

The MFP submitted a report of its program evaluation activities to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The report was entitled, "Preliminary Career Progress Report: Trainees Supported by NIMH National Research Service Award Training Grant." Training, employment, and productivity data were presented on Fellows in the MFP Mental Health Research and DPN predoctoral training portfolios.

Women's Programs Office

The following report highlights activities of the Women's Programs Office. Activities of the PI Executive Office will appear in a separate report.

Governance Support:

WPO provided staff support for the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP), including the meeting on September 30 to October 2. WPO also staffed the Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls (TFSG).

The Committee on Women in Psychology presented awards for Distinguished Leadership for Women in Psychology to Christine Courtois, PhD and to Ethel Tobach, PhD; and an award for Emerging Leadership for Women in Psychology to Lydia P. Buki, PhD. With Division 35, CWP also sponsored an extremely successful symposium on negotiation skills for women at the APA convention, drawing over 75 attendees. CWP met September 30 to October 2. The committee added an explicit goal on advocacy to its strategic goals. Other priorities included development of a paper examining the status of women in psychology today in the major areas identified in those original 52 demands; increasing the number of journal editors who are women; improving the teaching of multiculturalism and gender in graduate psychology curricula; and increasing the visibility of psychological research on women and gender.

The Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls met in June, developed a table of contents, drafted sections, and are pulling together a complete first draft. At their February 10-12 meeting, they will finalize this first draft and distribute an integrated version to outside reviewers by mid-April. The task force is requesting Council funding for a second meeting, to review outside reviewer comments and resolve major issues and questions; revise recommendations, based on input from outside reviewers; and discuss additional products and strategies, focusing heavily on reaching audiences outside APA. The report will be submitted to boards and committees for comment in the Fall, then to Board of Directors in December, and finally to Council in February 2007 for adoption.

WPO staff administered the development, coordination, and dissemination of the Division 35, Section on the Psychology of Black Women's, "*HIV/AIDS Prevention Small Grant*" -- for prevention/intervention research or curriculum materials designed to prevent or reduce HIV infection among black women and female teenagers.

Surveys and Publications:

WPO staff revised Graduate Faculty Interested in the Psychology of Women, an on-line database that enables users to search for graduate departments in psychology by state/region, alphabetically, and by departments that offer courses in the psychology of women and/or gender.

WPO staff revised the *Directory of Selected Scholarship, Fellowship, and Other Financial Aid Opportunities for Women and Ethnic Minorities in Psychology and Related Fields*, which lists financial aid opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and postdoctoral students, and professionals in a variety of social science disciplines.

WPO staff began revision of the 2003 edition of Women in the American Psychological Association, which provides data on the participation of women in APA divisions and state and regional psychological associations, APA boards and committees, in the journal publication process, in accreditation, and in the administration of APA's Central Office. This revision will be released in 2006.

WPO staff initiated the revision process for Internship Opportunities for Women in Psychology, which reports the results of a survey of U.S. internship sites about primary training and emphasis, research opportunities, publications, ethnicity, and more. The revision of this 2004 survey report will be released in 2006.

WPO staff wrote and issued *Women's Psych-E*, a free monthly electronic newsletter, focuses on 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. (Send an email to tburrwell@apa.org to subscribe.)

WPO staff disseminated "*52 Resolutions and Motions Regarding the Status of Women in Psychology: Chronicling 30 Years of Passion and Progress*," which outlines actions of APA's Council of Representatives since 1970 in response to the issues raised in the historic 52 demands relating to resolutions that dealt with employment, education, child and healthcare facilities, psychological theories and practice, conventions, equity in decision making, and the general status of women. We are working with CWP on a follow-up paper that examines the status of women in these areas today.

Effective Grant Seeking for Women

At the APA convention, WPO sponsored a session on Research and Training Funding: Discussions with Representatives from Federal Agencies. Roughly 25 attended. Representatives from federal agencies presented information and responded to questions from the audience regarding effective grant-seeking and training opportunities. The program began with a brief introduction by Dr. Lula Beatty from the National Institute on Drug Abuse on the federal grant seeking process in general, after which representatives from federal

agencies provided information about their individual programs. Participants were then able to meet individually or in small groups with the presenter(s) of their choice.

Advocating for Women's Issues

WPO staff worked with Public Policy Staff, on advocacy related to women's issues. Major issues we follow include women's health and mental health services; reproductive health; violence against women; poverty; paid family leave; employment and child care; and gender equity in education. With PPO, WPO staff focused in 2005 primarily on two major pieces of legislation: the reauthorization of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), working to address mental health care and violence, and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). At this writing the reauthorization of VAWA has been signed; TANF remains in process.

Public Interest Public Policy Office

APA's Public Interest Policy staff is actively engaged in promoting psychology in the public interest in Congress and with the Bush administration. Public Policy Office (PPO) activities include the preparation of legislative background materials, statutory provisions, and formal comments on proposed legislation and regulations, as well as training and mobilizing the APA membership for grassroots advocacy efforts. The office also identifies and invites psychologists to testify at congressional hearings and APA briefings, and to represent the association on federal agency advisory councils and at executive branch meetings. Additionally, Public Interest Policy staff administers the APA Congressional Fellowship Program and a yearlong 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 July of 2005:

- **Aging.** PPO staff worked with APA's Office on Aging to support the efforts of then APA President Ronald Levant, EdD, and the handful of other APA members who were selected to serve as delegates for the 2005 White House Conference on Aging in December, which contributed to the adoption of highly favorable recommendations to benefit the mental and behavioral health of older adults. PPO staff also worked with the National Respite Coalition to educate members of Congress about the mental and behavioral health consequences of caregiving and the value of respite care for family caregivers. On a related front, PPO staff is advocating for congressional support and co-sponsors for the Lifespan Respite Care Act.
- **Children, Youth, and Families.** PPO staff was instrumental in drafting and promoting legislation on a wide range of child, youth, and family issues, including Head Start, child mental health training, parental relinquishment of custody to obtain child mental health services, suicide, bullying, obesity, the adjudication of juvenile delinquents, and the placement of youth in so-called "therapeutic boarding schools." PPO staff briefed then APA President Levant in preparation for his attendance on behalf of APA at the October 27th White House Conference on Helping America's Youth. PPO staff also testified on January 19th at the request of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on the subject of the TV ratings system and the effects of media violence on children.

- **Individuals with Disabilities.** On September 6th, PPO staff submitted formal APA comments in response to proposed regulations to implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2005. The APA response reflected a collaborative effort of APA's various directorates, governance groups, and member experts. Issued by the Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, these regulations proposed many changes to the current special education law, including the way in which children are assessed for learning disabilities. PPO is now monitoring the regulatory process to promote the inclusion of our recommendations.
- **Ethnic Minorities.** On November 16th, APA co-sponsored a congressional briefing on the mental health and resilience of ethnic minority children facing trauma and disaster with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, at the request of chair Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA), along with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. The diverse panel of presenters included: Barbara Bonner, PhD (University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center), Larke Huang, PhD (American Institutes for Research), Portia Hunt, PhD (Temple University), Alicia Lieberman, PhD (National Child Traumatic Stress Network), and Luis Vazquez, PhD (New Mexico State University), with APA CEO Norman Anderson, PhD, serving as moderator.
- **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Persons.** PPO continued advocacy efforts in support of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act to respond more effectively to hate crime. This included preparing an APA press release in support of the act that was made available at a December 15th hearing chaired by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Gordon Smith (R-OR). PPO is also promoting passage of the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act and the Uniting American Families Act, which would provide family and medical leave for same-sex partners and allow GLBT Americans to sponsor their permanent partners from other countries for U.S. citizenship, respectively, as well as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. PPO is closely monitoring and prepared to counter any further action on the Federal Marriage Amendment, which would amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage.
- **Persons with HIV/AIDS.** On September 29th, members of APA's Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA) participated in a PPO advocacy training on the reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. They met with Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), as well as with staff members of their respective senators and representatives. On January 19th, Patricia Hawkins, PhD (former COPA chair), and John Anderson, PhD (Director of APA's Office on AIDS) presented APA's recommendations for the CARE Act (which were developed with PPO staff) to senior staff of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. This presentation, similar to the advocacy training, focused on the critical role of mental health and substance abuse services for people with HIV/AIDS.
- **Violence Against Women.** On September 27th, PPO sent an APA letter to the House of Representatives opposing the removal of a provision from the Violence Against Women

Act (VAWA) that directs attention to meeting the needs of ethnic minority victims of domestic and sexual abuse. As part of the VAWA Task Force, PPO staff lobbied successfully to reauthorize VAWA, which was signed into law on January 5th. Specifically, PPO worked effectively to ensure that the provision noted above was retained and that the mental and behavioral health needs of victims of violence and their families were addressed in the final legislative language. PPO's December 13th letter to the full Senate requesting that the welfare reform reauthorization be postponed to allow for further consideration of the need for mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence services and adequate child care was not met with such success.

For more detailed information on these and other initiatives, please visit the PPO Web site at: <http://www.apa.org/ppo/>.