

COPPS Meeting summary, November 17th, 2025

In attendance: Natalie Pilipenko (Chair), Jeffrey Younggren (Vice chair), Michelle Perfect, Stephen Lupe, Megan Loew, Stella Nelms, Leisl Bryant, Paul Kettlewell, Lynn Bufka (APA staff), Mary Ann McCabe

Ethics Review and Framework Endorsement

The Natalie, Jeff and Liesl met with Ethics Committee (EC) on 11.11.25 to discuss COPPS Framework document. On 11.10.25, Chair of EC sent an email to Natalie and Jeff outlining 10 questions which EC members raised (specific items were shared with COPPS members by Natalie prior to 11.17.25 meeting).

BPA will vote on the Framework document via email to move the document forward to public comment, with BPA reviewing and providing detailed feedback during that period.

Mary Ann suggested adding language to clarify that PPGs are sometimes used as de facto standards and should cite ethics standards when appropriate.

COPPS aims for the Framework document to be presented to/approved by the APA Council during August 2026 meeting (APA Annual).

EC Questions – Review/Responses

COPPS discussed revisions to a document in response to questions from the Ethics Committee.

Following agreed on:

- Remove references to "ethical misconduct" and "violation" to avoid confusion and keep the document brief.
- Clarify that not every PPG document needs to contain interpretations of standards, and some may only contain aspirational statements.

Transgender and Gender Diverse PPG

Concerns:

- PPG that was inadvertently developed without COPPS review
- PPG was submitted and received feedback from the OGC

Next steps

- COPPS Committee Members: Review the ethics response document, make track changes revisions, and send back to Natalie by end of the week
- COPPS Committee Members: Look at PPGs read over the last year to identify examples where statements should be interpretations of ethics code standards rather than guidelines
- Maddie: Send framework document to BPA via email to vote on advancing the document to public comment as soon as final version is received
- Natalie:
 - Meet with Transgender and Gender Diverse PPG to discuss framework and requirements
 - Send final clean version of policy/framework document to committee via email immediately
 - Send finalized ethics response to Ethics Committee by end of the week
- Lynn:

- Work on APA-style formatting of framework document after receiving clean version
- Facilitate general counsel review of Framework document