

Oklahoma Case Study: Stephen Gillaspay, PhD

July 2014

1. Title, current position, and any major leadership roles you hold/held while working on trainee reimbursement issues:

I am a pediatric psychologist and associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Section of General and Community Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. I am also past president of the Oklahoma Psychological Association.

2. What is your state's status regarding intern and postdoc reimbursement for services at the present time? Is Medicaid a different story than private insurances?

Currently in Oklahoma interns and fellows clinical services are not reimbursed by Medicare or private insurance. However, we have been able to receive reimbursement for intern and fellow services for Medicaid since 2/15/2009. See state Medicaid language regarding [eligible providers](#).

3. How did you get there? Please provide a rough timeline.

- 2008: We held a meeting between our training program and the state Medicaid agency regarding billing issues for psychology. The agency agreed to explore reimbursement for psychology interns and fellows and assigned a representative to work on this issue.
- 2009: Implementation began. We communicated mechanism to other APA accredited training programs in Oklahoma

4. What barriers did you encounter and how did you overcome these?

We had to frame billing for interns and fellows in the context of Medicaid billing practices for master's level providers under supervision. We also had to identify a champion within each group (Medicaid, the Training Programs, and the Licensure Board).

5. Who were your champions, partners, and allies without whom this success would have been harder or impossible?

Three groups collaborated: Our State Medicaid Agency (OHCA), a Training Program (OUHSC), and the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (OSBEP). Engaging the groups meant it was important that end results aligned across the three. In other words, it had to meet OHCA requirements, OSBEP documentation, and OUHSC Training Program requirements.

6. What motivated you to pursue this?

I was motivated by increased sustainability of intern and fellowship positions and a need to increase psychology service billing revenue.

7. What successes or positive results have you seen?

I've seen replication in other states!

8. What top few lessons have you learned while engaging in this process?

In this process, one needs to cultivate collaborative relationships with one's state Medicaid program and then maintain regular contact with the program.

9. Are you willing to be a virtual mentor to other states?

Yes. Email me at Stephen-Gillaspy@ouhsc.edu.