



MPA

Mississippi Psychological Association Newsletter

President's Report

By Mallory L. Malkin, Ph.D

Welcome to the first edition of the MPA newsletter for 2021!

I am proudly serving as your Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA) President for 2021-2022. MPA serves a vital role to our profession and industry and I look forward to highlighting all that MPA has to offer over the next year.

I have been a member of the Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA) since I was a graduate student and have served in a variety of capacities, including Region 3 Representative and Continuing Education Chair. I also assist the local and state community in other volunteer capacities. I previously served as the Secretary and now as the Vice-Chair for the Kids Hub Board of Directors, the local Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Hattiesburg, MS.

I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and duly certified Civil Commitment Examiner in the State of Mississippi. I currently serve as the Director of Psychological Services for Ellisville State School a division of MS Department of Mental Health (DMH) in Ellisville, Mississippi. However, effective April 1, 2021, I will be in transition to the role of Chief Clinical Officer (CCO), Bureau of Behavioral Health Services, Mississippi Department of Mental Health. I am looking forward to making a state-wide impact in the evidenced-based provision of services.

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Originally from Pennsylvania, but I have lived in Mississippi for 13 years. I earned my bachelor's degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Guilford College (Greensboro, NC) and my doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi (Hattiesburg, MS). My doctoral residency was completed at the University of Mississippi Medical Center/G.V. Sonny Montgomery Consortium. I presently reside in Petal, MS with my husband, Micheal, and our two children (6-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter).

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to advocate for our professional guild, nurture dialogue, and ensure your voices are heard!

Sincerely,
Mallory L. Malkin, PhD
President, Mississippi Psychological Association
2021-2022



Legislation Update

Penni S. Foster, Ph.D.

House Bill 208 - House Bill 208 proposes to remove the 1-year postdoctoral training requirement for licensure to practice psychology in the state of Mississippi and extend the repealer for the statute to the year 2025. MPA supports HB 208 and advocated with legislators to enact this bill. HB 208 successfully passed the House of Representatives and the Senate and was signed by the Governor on March 10, 2021. This change to the licensure statute will go into effect on July 1, 2021.

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2021/pdf/HB/0200-0299/HB0208SG.pdf>

House Bill 1263 - House Bill 1263 is known as the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act. It proposes that occupational licensing boards provide for recognition of out-of-state licenses if applicants satisfy certain conditions. MPA has asked that psychologists be excluded from the application of this legislation. MPA recommends that the license to practice psychology in the state of Mississippi should be based on the standards for education and training as established by the Mississippi Board of Psychology rather than the existing variability in education and training requirements found in other jurisdictions. At the time of this publication, HB 1263 has passed the House of Representatives and Senate, and MPA is currently advocating for an amendment to exclude psychologists.

http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2021/html/sam/HB1263_S_Cmte_Amend_01.htm

Financial Report

by Jeff Parker, Ph.D.

Greetings to all! I appreciate the chance to serve on MPA's Executive Committee as Financial Officer. To date it's been mostly learning and for that I owe much appreciation to Jim Herzog, Ph.D. and to our patient Executive Director, Amy Wilson. My aim is to do a good job for you and to do it with integrity.

It goes without saying that 2020 was the strangest of years. Despite that, MPA entered 2021 in solid financial shape. Our two largest budget categories are Membership and our Annual Convention – the former coming disproportionately very early in the year and the latter in the last quarter of the year.



I'm pleased to report that our renewals and new memberships have us just about where we need to be, both with regard to the Budget and compared to this point in previous years. However, this is a category where more is better. So, if you are not a current member, I encourage you to join. Please encourage others as well; MPA is the only organization in Mississippi whose purpose is to protect and promote the interests of Mississippi Psychologists.

Despite being six months away, Convention planning has already begun. I encourage you to plan on attending by going ahead and blocking Wednesday, September 29 through Friday, October 1 on your calendar.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jparker@umc.edu.

Jeff Parker, Ph.D.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Hello! My name is Dannell Roberts and I am currently serving as the Communication's Officer for MPA.

2020 was a blur and I apologize for being a year behind in getting the newsletter out! I co-own Will's Way, LLC, a private psychology practice in Hattiesburg with Dr. Kimberly Bellipanni. We provide behavioral services

to children and adolescents with behavioral and developmental difficulties. We have ABA therapy clinics in Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and Summit servicing children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. I am honored to serve in this role and look forward to a great 2021!

Covid-19 Impacts

Early Career Update

by Kristy D. McRaney, Ph.D.

The past year has certainly required psychologists to flex new professional muscles, adapt in ways we didn't think possible, and overcome numerous barriers all in an effort to continue to provide psychological care to our communities. While this has been a time of change and growth for us all, early-career psychologists

(ECPs) have experienced unique challenges as they work to start and establish their careers during a pandemic. For some newly graduated psychologists, this has been magnified by having to navigate new procedures for licensure examinations, finalize training or establish new positions in a remote-work era, and move to new cities in a time in which most businesses were not operating. APA recently surveyed psychologists to understand how their work has been impacted as a result of the pandemic. Results revealed that workloads and stress have varied among psychologists; however, early- to mid-career psychologists reported more pandemic-related increases in workloads and stress compared to senior-late career psychologists.¹ In addition to ECPs, women and racial and ethnic minority psychologists were also more likely to endorse experiencing increased workloads and stress.

Despite the increased workloads and stress felt by those in our field, early-, mid-, and late- I career psychologists alike, have come together to support each other in incredible ways. The byproducts of these collaborative efforts have included vast shared-document sites (e.g., [APA COVID google drive](#)²) and other creative charges (e.g., [APA's Town Hall for ECPs](#)³) to support one another. This collaborative spirit has been seen and felt in our state as well, with ECPs in MS commenting on the intentional and gracious efforts that mid- to late-career colleagues have made to support them.



(ECP Con't)

For example, Dr. Zachary Labrot, a new ECP in MS explained that although the pandemic hindered applied research activities and participant recruitment, his colleagues have offered great support to him. He stated, “...colleagues within my program and throughout my department have gone out of their way to ensure I am reaching my benchmark. In addition, colleagues from around the country have been exceedingly helpful. Overall, the pandemic has been challenging. Nevertheless, the support I have been given and feel has resulted in me persisting forward in spite of the setbacks of the global pandemic.”

On behalf of ECPs in Mississippi, I'd like to express a deepfelt thank you to our MS colleagues for all the encourage and support you have shown ECPs during the pandemic. As we all look toward a healthier and safer time, the intentional collegial support, collaborative efforts, and creative solutions that emerged during the pandemic will continue to benefit MS psychologists in all career stages for years to come.

1 American Psychological Association. (2020). COVID-19 and the Health Service Psychologist Workforce. [Interactive Data Tool]. <https://www.apa.org/workforce/data-tools/overview-psychologists-pandemic-response>

2 American Psychological Association. (2020). APA's COVID 19 Google Drive. [Interactive Tool]. <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1TbVDEo-SmJzxoO8BhPkZV1ZeXyQrgC04>

3 Evans, A., Shullman, S., & Carr, E. (2020, October 28). APA Town Hall for Early Career Psychologists. <https://www.apa.org/members/content/town-hall-early-career>

Membership Update

by Jeff Parker, Ph.D.

I often read this quote from the author/professor/activist Wendell Berry as a reminder that I'm connected – to my family, my local community, and my state. This quote informs and forms my understanding of membership and wellness, now common phrases in psychology literature, and necessary for human flourishing and the harmonious pedagogy of daily life. This past year has seen unprecedented isolation and diffusion of community and we see the ongoing effects in our clinics, hospitals, and classrooms. The role of the psychologist in our state has never been more important and we need not fret!

“
I believe that the community - in the fullest sense: a place and all its creatures - is the smallest unit of health and that to speak of the health of an isolated individual is a contradiction in terms.
Wendell Berry, Health in Membership
”

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(Membership Con't)

Over the past 6 years I've witnessed the many conscientious members of the Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA) working in private practice, university settings, medical centers, and with local and state government to ensure the important ongoing role of clinical and academic-research psychology in the health and wellbeing of our communities, and, I find great hope in that work.

As we enter a new year, I appeal to you to continue to support the MPA through membership and the collective work of ensuring psychologist are able to continue to bring a holistic health to the state of Mississippi. I would also ask that you consider nudging colleagues, practice-partners, and friends to join MPA in its ongoing work as the voice of psychologist across the state. Along with providing support for the ongoing advocacy at the state level, benefits of membership include access to the listserv and psychologist across the state, networking and mentorship opportunities in your local region, and reduced rates at the MPA Annual Convention. As Wendell Berry reminds us, health and isolation are contradictory, so I thank you for your continued commitment in helping create a healthy community of psychologists!

Rodney T. Wilson, PhD
Membership Chair, MPA

Rod Wilson is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Mississippi State University - Meridian and a clinical neuropsychologist at Rush Hospital in Meridian, MS.

MPA Convention 2021

**GOLDEN NUGGET CASINO
BILOXI, MS
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCT 1, 2021**

