

MPA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



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APPOINTED POSITIONS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Natalie Gaughf, Ph.D., ABPP

Continuing Education Chair:

Kathryn Waggoner, PsyD, ABPP

Business of Practice Chair:

Liz Woodruff, Ph.D.

Public Education Chair:

David Gavel, Ph.D.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



David Gavel, Ph.D.

Not counting the first 18 years of your life, how many years of education did you complete to get where you are? Seven? Eight? Nine? How many hours of hands-on well-supervised training did you receive in graduate school, pre-doc internship, and post-doc training before you were deemed competent to provide a psychological service that directly or indirectly impacts the lives of consumers? Felt like a million, right? How many expensive, time-consuming, and intensive hours have you spent continuing your education to remain an expert in your field or maybe even develop new competencies and expertise in other fields?

So, let me ask you this: Was it all worth it? Is it all worth it?

The answer I hope you conclude is, “Yes, it was all worth it.” I hope the investment that went into your profession has paid off in terms of job satisfaction, financial security, social mobility, trips to the golf course (insert your favorite anger inducing hobby), and any other measure of professional success that our career psychologist colleagues have developed. But I want to focus your attention on how your investment to become an expert in psychology is all

worth it because it situates you to fill roles in communities that others cannot fill with the same level of expertise. Research, training, consulting, marketing, educating, testing, leading, and even providing direct mental health services.

I know I’m not supposed to say that last one because there are number of other pathways to becoming a quality mental health provider. And I know there are a number of quality mental health providers that are not psychologists. Both of those things are true. And yet, it is also true that the nature, quality, and intensity of your training provides something that other disciplines do not have. So, what is my point?

The American Psychological Association is currently in the process of developing guidelines for the inevitable roll-out of APA accredited master’s level psychology training programs. This initiative was a primary topic of the SPLC conference in D.C. a few weeks ago and I have to say that I left the conference with more questions and concerns about this initiative than I had when I arrived. This is not to say I am against the initiative. In fact, I think I am in favor of it. But my opinion is only one of the many among Mississippi psychologists. As individual psychologists, I would urge you to read through this, ask questions, and form opinions about this process. To get you started, I have included a link [HERE](#) to a published slide deck presented to us in D.C. As the leadership team for Mississippi Psychological Association, your Executive Council needs to know your thoughts on this issue and how to best represent our state. We seek to represent our membership and advocate for the issues you find important. Please feel to reach out to me or any other member of the EC with your thoughts, questions, and perspectives. Members can also post questions or comments to the MPA listserv and stimulate healthy dialogue. In whatever way makes you most comfortable, become informed and help inform others.

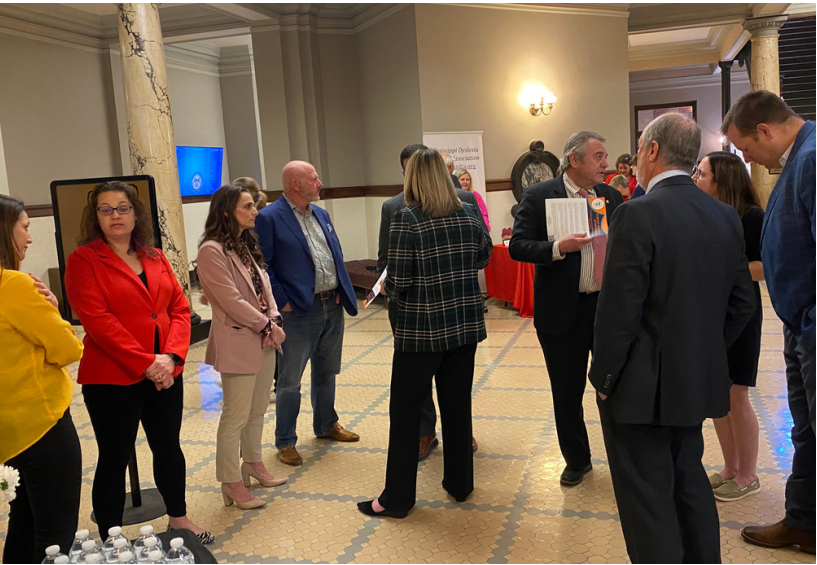
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MPA AT THE CAPITOL



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MPA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA) Executive Committee commissioned the Legislative Committee to continue the work that began during the previous session in the 2024 Legislative Session. The Legislative Committee worked towards the enactment of an interstate compact for psychologists (PSYPACT), which is designed to facilitate the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries. The efforts were successful; the bill was signed into law on April 8, 2024, and it became effective immediately. To review the PSYPACT bill's movements during the 2024 Legislative Session, follow the link. [SB 2157 - History of Actions/Background \(state.ms.us\)](https://state.ms.us/actions/background/sb-2157)



Natalie W. Gaughf,
PhD, ABPP

The PSYPACT Commission is the governing body of PSYPACT responsible for oversight of the compact and for writing the Bylaws and Rules that govern PSYPACT. Each PSYPACT state has appointed a representative to serve as their state's Commissioner. Currently, 41 states are participating in PSYPACT.

PSYPACT addresses an increased demand to provide and receive psychological services via electronic means (telepsychology), and it increases the number of qualified licensed psychologists available to provide psychological services in areas where services are not available. One of the primary benefits of PSYPACT is continuity of care. With the population becoming increasingly mobile, there is an increased need for continuity of services across state lines. Most importantly, PSYPACT requires that psychologists from outside of the state be appropriately credentialed. PSYPACT provides protection to the public by certifying that psychologists have met acceptable standards of practice, and it provides compact states with a mechanism to address disciplinary issues that occur across state lines.

For more information about PSYPACT and the Commission, visit the PSYPACT website. <https://psypact.org/> A brief description of PSYPACT is available on the MPA website. <https://mpassoc.org/>

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WHAT IS PSYPACT

The **Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT®)** is an interstate compact designed to facilitate the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries.

The **PSYPACT Commission** is the governing body of PSYPACT responsible for creating and finalizing the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations. The Commission is also responsible for granting psychologists the authority to practice telepsychology and temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries.

Telepsychology In order to practice telepsychology in PSYPACT states, psychologists licensed in PSYPACT states only can apply to the PSYPACT Commission for an Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology (APIT™). One required component of this authority granted from the PSYPACT Commission is that psychologists must obtain an E.Passport Certificate from ASPPB. To learn more or to start an application, click [HERE](#).

Temporary Practice In order to conduct temporary practice in PSYPACT states, psychologists licensed in PSYPACT states only can apply to the PSYPACT Commission for a Temporary Authorization to Practice (TAP™). One required component of this authorization granted from the PSYPACT Commission is that psychologists must apply for and obtain an Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) from ASPPB. To learn more or to start an application, click [HERE](#).

Providers are responsible for maintaining knowledge of and complying with each PSYPACT State's laws, rules, and regulations - for each PSYPACT state the provider is practicing into or out of.



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PRACTICE UNDER PSYPACT®

HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE APIT® AND TAP®:



To Practice TELEPSYCHOLOGY

PSYPACT Commission Requirements

- In order to practice telepsychology under the authority of PSYPACT, the PSYPACT Commission requires that a psychologist obtain an Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology (APIT).

Authority to Practice Telepsychology Requirements

- Hold an E. Passport issued by ASPPB. More information including eligibility requirements, and how to apply can be found at <https://www.asppb.net/page/telepsychology>
- You must hold a full, unrestricted license to practice psychology based off a doctoral level degree in at least ONE PSYPACT participating state/jurisdiction.
- Have no history of disciplinary action listed on any psychology license.
- Provide attestations

Fees

ASPPB Fees:

- E. Passport Application Fee: \$400
- E. Passport Annual Renewal Fee: \$100

PSYPACT Fees:

- APIT Application Fee: \$40
- APIT Annual Renewal Fee \$20

Time Limit

- Unlimited

Scope of Practice

- Subject to the Receiving State's scope of practice

Initiation and Provision of Psychological Services

When using the APIT to provide telepsychology services into a Receiving State, the psychologist must physically be located in the psychologist's PSYPACT declared "home state".



To Conduct TEMPORARY PRACTICE

TAP only pertains to in person, face-to-face practice.

PSYPACT Commission Requirements

- In order to conduct temporary practice under the authority of PSYPACT, the PSYPACT Commission requires that a psychologist obtain a Temporary Authorization to Practice (TAP).

Temporary Authorization to Practice Requirements

- Hold an Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) issued by ASPPB. For information regarding obtaining an IPC please visit <https://www.asppb.net/page/temporarypractice>
- You must hold a full, unrestricted license to practice psychology based off a doctoral level degree in at least ONE PSYPACT participating state/jurisdiction.
- Have no history of disciplinary action listed on any psychology license.
- Provide attestations

Fees

ASPPB Fees:

- IPC Application Fee: \$200
- IPC Annual Renewal Fee: \$50

PSYPACT Fees:

- TAP Application Fee: \$40
- TAP Annual Renewal Fee \$20

Time Limit

- 30 days per calendar year per PSYPACT state

Scope of Practice

- Subject to the Distant State's scope of practice

Authority and Law

When using the TAP to provide services into a Distant State the psychologist will be subject to the Distant State's authority and law.



JOIN MPA TODAY

Join MPA now and start tapping into exclusive member resources!

- ✓ Gain access to the MPA Listserv
- ✓ Receive members-only pricing at all MPA Events
- ✓ Get referrals from our online member database
- ✓ Grow your professional network



Contact us with any questions!

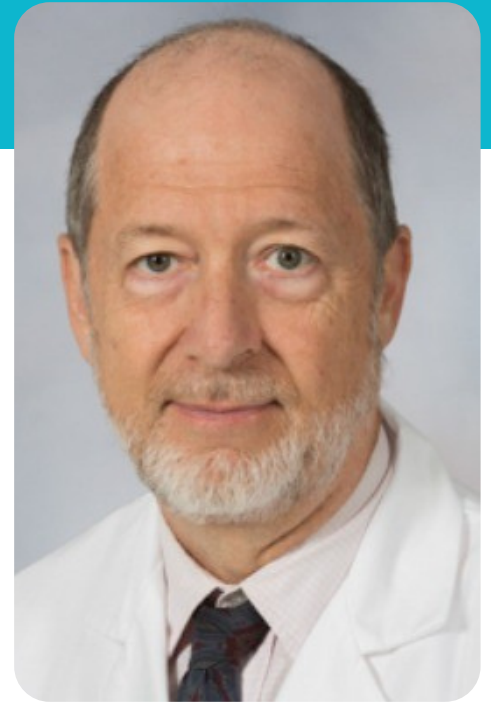
☎ (601) 608-7677

✉ info@mpassoc.org



LETTER FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

We're usually not attracted to “boring,” but there are situations where boring is really quite nice. Financial reports for a non-profit like the Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA) are a case in point. Month after month our finances have closely tracked our budget. We continue to generate adequate funds to execute our mission and at the same time we are not generating funds in excess of what we need to accomplish our mission. In short, as an organization, MPA is financially stable. If you have any questions about MPA finances, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Jeff Parker, Ph.D.

As your Financial Officer for the past three years, I have taken a particular interest in the Membership Dues component of our budget. We have done OK, but there is significant opportunity for membership growth. This is not an end in itself, but rather a means to an end. We rely on annual membership dues to support our lobbying, among other things, and our advocacy is strengthened as the percentage of licensed Psychologists and Psychology Trainees we represent increases. It will be an important milestone when MPA is able to preface our efforts with, “We represent a majority of licensed Mississippi Psychologists.”

Thank you for the financial support you provide year after year to MPA through your membership! Any encouragement you can provide to colleagues or trainees who are not current members would be exceptionally appreciated!

Jeff Parker
MPA Financial Officer

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ARTICLES FROM APA

APA calls for prohibiting punitive isolation of youths in juvenile justice settings

March 6, 2024

WASHINGTON — The American Psychological Association has called for prohibiting the placement of youths in isolation in juvenile justice settings, except for emergencies, citing the research showing its detrimental effects on mental health and development.

“APA stands firm in its opposition to the isolation of youth in juvenile justice settings,” said APA President Cynthia de las Fuentes, PhD. “Solitary confinement can have profound and lasting effects on the psychological well-being of young individuals, and it is imperative that we advocate for alternative approaches that prioritize rehabilitation and support.”

APA’s governing Council of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for the prohibition at its meeting Feb. 23. The measure passed by a vote of 154-2, with one abstention.

The resolution, titled “[APA Resolution Opposing Isolation of Youth in Juvenile Justice Settings](#),” marks a milestone in APA’s ongoing commitment to advocating for the well-being and rights of youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

[Click here for the full article](#)

APA adopts groundbreaking policy supporting transgender, gender diverse, nonbinary individuals

February 28, 2024

WASHINGTON — The American Psychological Association has adopted a landmark policy affirming evidence-based care for transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary children, adolescents and adults, noting that recent legislative attempts to obstruct access to psychological and medical interventions for such individuals puts them at risk of depression, anxiety and other negative mental health outcomes.

“The adoption of this resolution reaffirms APA’s dedication to promoting inclusivity, dignity and access to quality health care for all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or expression,” said APA President Cynthia de las Fuentes, PhD. “It sends a clear message that state bans on gender-affirming care disregard the comprehensive body of medical and psychological research supporting the positive impact of such treatments in alleviating psychological distress and improving overall well-being for transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary individuals throughout their lives.”

The policy, titled “[Policy Statement on Affirming Evidence-Based Inclusive Care for Transgender, Gender Diverse, and Nonbinary Individuals, Addressing Misinformation, and the Role of Psychological Practice and Science](#),” was approved by APA’s governing Council of Representatives at its meeting on Feb. 24. The vote was 153-9 with one abstention.

The resolution also calls for insurance plans to extend coverage for health care services tailored to the developmental needs of children, adolescents, and adults identifying as transgender, gender diverse or nonbinary, encompassing both psychological and medical gender-affirming care.

“We believe that access to evidence-based health care is a fundamental right for everyone, and this policy reflects our commitment to promoting social justice and equity in health care,” said de las Fuentes. “APA also affirms the essential role and legal rights of parents and caregivers to ensure the well-being of children and adolescents while honoring their expressed gender identity, including being involved in health care decision-making, and supporting developmentally appropriate youth self-advocacy.”

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LETTER FROM THE REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE



Ty Stafford, Ph.D.

Hello again colleagues and neighbors,

It is hard to beat this time of year in Mississippi as the winter turns to spring. As I move across our region I am really awe struck by the reawakening of life seen in our nature with wisteria vines turning into purple cascades, azaleas becoming round balls of color, and trumpet-like daffodils appearing from the ground. It really is a reminder of the life and wonder that constantly surrounds us. As nature arounds us rejuvenates I am also reminded of our own needs to take time to refresh our own lives and ensure that stress is managed. The needs of our clients, students, and businesses have not likely reduced and it can be easy for us to forget taking care of ourselves.

It is with that in mind that I think about MPA. The support and fellowship I have felt from my colleagues within MPA has been a huge factor in helping me manage my own needs as I navigate focusing on the needs of others. To that end, I would like to build more connection here within Region 1 and across MPA as a whole. Be on the lookout sometime this summer, for a Region 1 MPA mixer! The hope is with some food and conversation, greater connection for collaboration and support can be built. As soon as the details are finalized, they will be sent to you, but if you have ideas of where would be a good place to meet for a few hours, please feel free to reach out to me via email at tws37@msstate.edu. As always, I would love to talk more in-person about how I can best represent you and how you feel MPA can serve you. That can be related to services you wish MPA offered, need for additional opportunities for CEUs, legislative desires, or really anything else with which you feel I can assist. If there is anything I can do or anything you want me to take to MPA leadership, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warmly,

Ty Stafford, PhD
Region 1 Representative

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BILOXI, MS

SEPTEMBER 25-27

2024



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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Join us for an exciting meeting by submitting your proposed program or presentation for consideration!

It's that time of year when we begin to solicit proposals for presentations at the 2024 MPA convention! There are opportunities to submit for workshops, symposiums, CE and non-CE presentations. Additionally, there are dedicated submission categories for both undergraduate and graduate students (Data Blitz and Student Poster Session). **Deadline to submit is May 17, 2024, and all details for submitting presentations are provided below!**

Mark your calendar September 25-27, 2024, for our 75th Annual MPA convention at the IP Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi! We hope you will **“Adjust Your Sails to Leadership”** with and enjoy some amazing presentations, networking, silent auction, and a wonderful awards dinner.

Please feel free to pass along to other colleagues, faculty and students. You do not have to be an MPA member to present at or attend our annual conference! All are welcome and encouraged to submit proposals!

Keep your eyes on [our website](#) as we add more information about the convention!

We now offer online submissions (see the link below!), but if you prefer to submit via fillable PDF, email our Convention Chair, Kristy Mcraney at kristy.mcraney@usm.edu or the Executive Director, LaDarion Ammons at mpa@mpassoc.org.

Please read the below Call for Proposals & Submission Guidelines carefully before submitting your proposals.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS &
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

ONLINE PROPOSAL
SUBMISSION

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MPA RECEIVES 2024 SMALL GRANT OPERATIONAL GRANT FROM APA!

We are delighted to announce that the Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA) has been awarded a Small State Operational Grant from APA Services. This grant, totaling \$12,000, will be instrumental in supporting our ongoing efforts to enhance the professional landscape for psychologists in our state.

APA Services, through its commitment to supporting State, Provincial, and Territorial Associations (SPTAs), has allocated significant funding this year, totaling over \$280,000 in Small State Operational Grants. The MPA is honored to be among the recipients of this generous support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MPA Region Mixers coming soon!

We are excited to introduce a new networking opportunity for psychologists in Mississippi! Keep an eye out for more information about the upcoming, mixers organized by your Region Representatives!

MPA Convention
Adjust Your Sails to Leadership
Biloxi, MS
September 25-27, 2024

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