

The following is a summary of the work of the Ethics Code Task Force (ECTF) at its Fall 2019 meeting which was held November 15-17, 2019

During its November 2019 meeting, the ECTF focused on reviewing and discussing issues related to the following: a) draft Principles that the Task Force is considering for inclusion in the revised Code; b) specific criteria that could be used by the Task Force in determining the distinctiveness between Principles and the distinctiveness between Principles and Standards; c) discussion of the philosophical framework that supports the Code; and, d) private versus professional roles of psychologists and how this issue could be addressed in the revised Code.

#### Discussion of possible Draft Principles to be included in a Revised Code:

The members of the ECTF continued their discussion of drafts of the following possible Principles that may be included in a revised Code. In its discussion, Task Force members noted the importance of the following: a) use of language in clearly distinguishing the difference between the Principles and Standards; and b) differences in the language describing a Principle and the definition of the Principle.

- Social Justice
- Interrelatedness of People, Systems, and the Environment
- Scientific Inquiry and Discernment
- Beneficence and Nonmaleficence
- Professionalism and Responsibility
- Respect for the Welfare of Persons and Peoples
- Integrity and Trustworthiness
- Human and Civil Rights

#### Discussion of the Differences in the Concepts of “Values” versus “Principles:”

During its discussion of the draft Principles, members noted the need to address the concepts of “values” versus “principles,” in preparing a revised Code. The following issues were discussed when considering the differences in the concepts “Values” and “Principles,” in determining how these concepts relate to one another: a) the need to decide on a philosophical framework; b) the advantages to reviewing the historical and practical use of the Code by psychologists; and, c) determining if there are “values” as a concept that are common to all psychologists in their work

#### Revision of the Draft Principles:

Following its initial discussion of the draft Principles, the Task Force members discussed the need to revisit and review the draft Principles for a number of issues in describing the Principles, including redundancy of concepts in describing the Principles and which concepts within the Principles might be considered as Standards within the Code. As part of its discussion, Task Force members were asked to further refine the Principles that had been prepared and to determine the following:

- Which concepts belong to the Principle?
- Which concepts belong in other Principles?
- Which concepts relate to the explanatory?
- Which concepts relate to Standards?
- Which concepts are missing?
- Which are “values” or a Principle?
- Which can be eliminated?

Throughout its revision of the Code, the Task Force members will continue to revise and consider these concepts.

#### Discussion of the Sections Named within the Current Code (related to Standards):

Following the discussion of the revision of the Principles, the Task Force members began a discussion of the concepts that are used in the current Sections of the Code (related to the Standards). It was emphasized that the discussion was not an analysis of the Standards, but a review of the following concepts based on the Sections named within the current Code:

- Are the current Sections superordinate?
- Are there current Sections that should be included in the Standards?
- Are there concepts that should be new Sections?

#### Virtual Open Meeting Sessions – 4:00 – 5:00 pm (eastern time) on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>:

Prior to the ECTF meeting, various groups were invited to appoint a liaison to join a pre-scheduled virtual meeting discussion of the Task Force. Appointed liaisons were invited to register to participate in the virtual open meeting discussion that occurred from 4:00 - 5:00 pm (eastern time) on November 15<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Review of the Task Force Meeting Discussions with Liaisons:

Following the introduction of the liaisons and Task Force members, Task Force Chair Linda Campbell, PhD, provided a general review of the work and the issues that the Task Force members had discussed that day. During each of the virtual meetings, several concerns were raised by the liaisons, which included the following: a) the need for consideration of the ethical challenges for psychologists working in various specialty areas of the discipline (e.g. consulting, forensic, research); b) the need for flexibility and consideration of the ethical challenges (e.g. multi-relationships) of psychologists practicing in various communities, including rural and frontier communities; c) the need to address issues that may arise for psychologists working in clinical and research settings related to assessment, plus the sources and the application of data; d) the need for the inclusion of a decision-making model in the revised Code; and, e) questions related to utilization and applicability of the Code to various populations of individuals within the discipline, including undergraduate students, graduate students, teaching and research assistants of psychology, APA Member Associates, etc.