Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest

2018 Annual Report

Susan Opotow, PhD, Chair

2018 Committee Members and Meetings

In 2018, the members of BAPPI were: Susan Opotow, PhD (Chair); Michael Mobley, PhD (Chair-elect); Evangelina Alonso, PsyD; June W J Ching, PhD, ABPP; Milton A. Fuentes, PsyD; Jacqueline S. Gray, PhD; April Harris-Britt, PhD; Kathleen Kendall-Tackett, PhD; Shavonne Moore, PhD; and Babe Howell, JD (Public Member).

Harris-Britt, Kendall-Tackett, and Opotow completed their terms on the Board at the conclusion of 2018. Martin Y. Iguchi, PhD; Alette Coble-Temple, PsyD; and Kimberly F. Balsam, PhD were elected by the APA Council of Representatives to join BAPPI in January 2019.

In addition to monthly calls throughout the year, BAPPI met twice in person: 1) Spring Consolidated Meetings (March 23-25, 2018); and 2) the Fall Consolidated Meetings (October 12-14, 2018), in which seven APA boards (BEA, BAPPI, BPA, BSA, Membership, Policy & Planning, and BCA) met in Washington, DC; Public Interest Committees did not meet face-to-face in the Fall. In addition, the members of BAPPI's Executive Committee -- Chair Susan Opotow, Chair-elect Michael Mobley, and BAPPI Members April Harris-Britt and Evangelina Alonso met as needed throughout the year.

BAPPI Mission Statement

The mission of the board [Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI)] shall be to encourage the generation and application of psychological knowledge on issues important to human well-being. It shall have general concern for those aspects of psychology that involve solutions to the fundamental problems of human justice and that promote equitable and just treatment of all segments of society.

BAPPI shall encourage the utilization and dissemination of psychological knowledge to advance equal opportunity and to foster empowerment of those who do not share equitably in society's resources.

The board shall be concerned with increasing scientific understanding and training in regard to those aspects that pertain to, but are not limited to culture, class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age and disability.

The board shall support improving educational and training opportunities for all persons in psychology and continue the promotion of culturally sensitive models for the delivery of psychological services.

The board shall be sensitive to the entire range of APA activities as they pertain to the mission of this board and make recommendations regarding ethically and socially responsible actions by APA when appropriate. (APA Bylaws, Article XI, 12)

Major Activities in 2018

Policies, Guidelines, Resolutions and Principles

During 2018 BAPPI provided recommendations and comments on twelve policies, guidelines, resolutions, and principles as well as commenting on a variety of APA initiatives and activities, including the Diversity Framework, Strategic Plan, Call for Chief of the Public Interest Directorate, and the role of the Ad Hoc Committee on Psychology and HIV/AIDS and its expansion to a more broadly-focused health committee. A brief summary of BAPPI's deliberative work on twelve policies, guidelines, resolutions, and principles follows.

1. **Race and Ethnicity Guidelines**

   During its 2015 review of the 2002 Multicultural Guidelines, BAPPI determined that it would be impossible to do justice to the wealth of scholarship specific to race/ethnicity in a set of guidelines that also addressed broader multicultural issues. Therefore, BAPPI directed that there be two sets of guidelines developed, one specific to multicultural issues and the other addressing race and ethnicity.

   The Task Force on the Development of Race and Ethnicity Psychology Competency Guidelines drafted guidelines to provide aspirational guidance for the development of racial and ethnocultural responsiveness for psychological practice. Beginning in January 2018, BAPPI reviewed and provided feedback on the drafted document, and on December 5, 2018 a 60-day public comment period was initiated for *Race and Ethnicity Guidelines in Psychology: Promoting Responsiveness and Equity.*

2. **Differences in Sex Development**

In March 2018, Division 54 recommended that Council form a Task Force on Differences of Sex Development (DSD). As the identified lead group, BAPPI consulted with the Board for Scientific Affairs (BSA), the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity (CSOGD), and Committee on Children Youth and Families (CYF) and recommended that Council approve the formation of a Task Force whose responsibilities are: 1) to review the extant research psychological literature and APA policies in this area to identify (a) gaps in knowledge, (b) ongoing controversies, and (c) ethical issues for psychologists; 2) to recommend actions for education, training, practice, policy, and further research into these topics; 3) to propose how APA can best meet the needs of psychologists and students with DSD characteristics; 4) to recommend appropriate collaboration with other professional organizations concerning these issues; and 5) to identify what other effective and appropriate products APA could or should develop to address this topic area.

3. **Revised *Principles for the Validation and Use of Personnel Selection Procedures,* Society for Industrial/Organization Psychology, 2018**

The Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA) and the Committee on Psychological Tests and Assessment (CPTA) requested that boards and committees review, provide comments, and recommend that Council adopt the *Revised Principles for the Validation and Use of Personnel Selection Procedures, Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology, 2018* as APA policy. BAPPI and several Public Interest (PI) committees (Committee on SES, Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs) requested that the writers address several concerns so that the *Principles* would more thoroughly and forthrightly address issues of diversity. Ultimately, the item went forward without BAPPI's recommendation for approval. Council approved the Draft *Principles*, and members of the *Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology* (SIOP) subsequently reached out to BAPPI to form a working group to better understand and work collaboratively in addressing concerns expressed during the review of this item.

4. **Resolution on Campus Sexual Assault**

In August of 2017, the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP) convened a group of experts in campus sexual assault to participate in a discussion on this topic, which ultimately resulted in the creation of an advisory group that would review and provide guidance to members of CWP which the lead the development of a draft resolution. The draft reviews the literature on the incidence and prevalence of sexual

assault on campus; after effects of assault for both victims and offenders; the process of disclosing and reporting assault on campus; and prevention efforts. BAPPI reviewed this item early in 2018. During its October 12-14, 2018 meeting BAPPI reviewed the *Resolution on Campus Sexual Assault* again and recommended that Council adopt it as APA policy. The draft Resolution is scheduled to be considered by Council in February 2019.

5. Draft Resolution on Physical Discipline of Children by Parents

In Spring 2018, Divisions 7 (Developmental Psychology) and 37 (Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice), requested that APA develop a resolution on parents' use of physical discipline with children considering the research evidence and the lack of APA policy addressing this topic. The Committee on Children Youth and Families (CYF) conducted a review of the literature on parental use of physical discipline with children. BAPPI reviewed this document and suggested revisions in March 2018. In October 2018 BAPPI recommended that Council adopt the draft *Resolution on Physical Discipline* as APA policy at its February 2019 meeting.

6. Voting Privileges for Graduate Student Affiliates: Call for Comments

In November of 2018, boards and committees were asked to recommend that Council approve Bylaw and Association Rule amendments that would make masters and doctoral students who have been members of APA for one year eligible to vote in the President-Elect and Board Member-at-Large (MAL) Elections and the Bylaw Amendment and Apportionment Ballots. In December 2018, BAPPI provided recommendations for revisions and supported its adoption contingent on the inclusion of specific suggestions.

7. Resolution to Amend Council's 2009, 2013, and 2015 Resolutions to Clarify that Psychologists May Provide Treatment to Detainees or Military Personnel in National Security Setting

In Spring 2018 the APA Ethics Committee requested BAPPI review and provide comments and recommendations on this proposed resolution. BAPPI opposed the main motion that Council approve the resolution to amend Council's 2009, 2013, and 2015 Resolutions addressing the roles of psychologists in national security settings as specified in the *Resolution to Amend Council's 2009, 2013, and 2015 To Clarify*

That Psychologists May Provide Treatment to Detainees or Military Personnel in National Security Settings.

8. Archiving the 2015 Resolution on Violent Video Games Due to Inconsistent Evidence Base on Effects

In Spring 2018, the Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA) and BAPPI were assigned as referral groups to review the item, *Archiving the 2015 Resolution on Violent Video Games Due to Inconsistent Evidence Base on Effects*. In March 2018, BAPPI and BSA discussed and subsequently drafted a substitute motion that Council not archive the 2015 *Resolution on Violent Video Games* but instead approve the creation of an APA task force to conduct a comprehensive, up-to-date systematic review of the relevant literature and to recommend whether the 2015 Resolution should be amended. In December 2018, BSA and BAPPI agreed to convene a working group of six members of these two boards to review recent literature on this topic.

9. Proposed Guidelines for Psychological Services for Boys and Men

In Spring 2018, the Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) requested feedback and recommendation for adoption by Council of the *Proposed Guidelines for Psychological Services for Boys and Men.* BAPPI approved the guidelines and agreed that with minor editorial corrections recommended that Council adopt the proposed guidelines as APA policy. The policy was then submitted for Council review and adopted in August 2018.

10. Resolution Supporting the Expansion of Mature Minors' Ability to Participate in Research

In Spring 2018, the Committee on Human Research (CHR) proposed a *Resolution Supporting the Expansion of Mature Minors' Ability to Participate in Rese*arch. Because there was concern on the part of Board members about the risk of exploiting young children, BAPPI proposed a compromise to include a presumptive age below which parental/guardian consent might be required. With that addition, BAPPI recommended adoption by the Council of Representatives.

11. Resolution in Support of Universal Design and Accessibility in Education, Training, and Practice

The Resolution in Support of Universal Design and Accessibility in Education, Training, and Practice is intended to affirm APA's support for the full participation and inclusion of persons with diverse needs and abilities. In 2017, BAPPI worked with the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP) to develop the draft Resolution. BAPPI discussed this draft Resolution at the Spring Consolidated Meetings in March 2018, noting that the document effectively communicated the benefits of full inclusion and examples provided in the resolution were excellent. The document described how APA could take the lead in ensuring complete accessibility and be a model organization for employing universal design principles in all the Association's work. BAPPI recommended that the Council of Representatives adopt the draft Resolution as APA policy in February 2019.

12. Revised Child and Adolescent Mental Health Resolution

BAPPI recommended that Council adopt the revised *Resolution on Child and Adolescent Mental Health* as APA policy in February 2019.

Self-Study Initiative: Periodic Review of Public Interest Committees

BAPPI's *Operating Policies and Procedures* instruct the Board to engage in a consultative process with Public Interest committees to evaluate each committee with respect to its: 1) continuing goals; 2) activities necessary in addressing APA's strategic goals; and 3) productivity. Such a review should take place at least every five years (consistent with Association Rule 70-1.3).

Public Interest committees include: the Committee on Aging, the *ad hoc* Committee on Psychology and AIDS, the Committee on Children Youth and Families, the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology, the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity, the Committee on Socioeconomic Status, the Committee on Women in Psychology, and the Committee on Psychology in the Public Interest Awards.

In May 2018 BAPPI asked the current chairperson of each committee to conduct a self-study to assess its work over the prior five years, comment on the efficacy of its efforts, and identify issues of concern. BAPPI inquired about committees' missions and strategic plans, how committees assess the public interest, how committees disseminate their work, the kinds of partnering relationships committees developed, how committees have used science in their initiatives, and challenges faced in fulfilling their goals.

The self-studies offered valuable insight into how the Public Interest committees fulfill the Public Interest Directorate's mission of fostering the public well-being and ensuring APA is attentive to various constituencies. Their self-studies provided a comprehensive overview of the committees' activities, which included engaging in productive collaborations with other PI committees and various APA committees, divisions, offices, centers, and directorates as well as partnering with community-based agencies and not-for-profit organizations to plan joint endeavors and seek grants to improve people's lives and bring psychological knowledge to communities. Committees distributed psychological knowledge via newsletters, literature reviews, fact sheets, blogs, white papers, scholarly papers, symposia, videos, websites, webinars, as well as amicus briefs and statements and data that were adopted for Congressional briefings.

Products of committee work were distributed to constituencies within and outside the Association including researchers, practitioners, elected officials, NGOs, courts, and the public, thus promoting science, advancing practice, informing legislators and policy makers, and contributing to educational initiatives that improve the well-being of disadvantaged, marginalized, and vulnerable groups. Issues addressed included: race/ethnicity, age, SES, disability status, immigration status, sexual orientation and gender, and many were intersectional such as: the over-representation of poor people and people of color in the U.S. court and prison systems; inadequate, unaffordable housing and homelessness; violence and trauma; the student debt crisis; increasing social isolation of aging populations; harmful policies directed at refugees and immigrant communities; durable between-group disparities for physical and mental health.

As the self-studies observed, barriers resulting from racism, sexism, ageism, socio-economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, and ethnicity-based exclusionary practices are root causes of social injustice and hardship in the United States as well as throughout the globe. These barriers are social issues that would benefit from the full attention of the Association as addressing them requires expertise in education, science, practice, and the public interest. The collective attention that the Public Interest Committees bring to these urgent societal issues advances the APA's goal of fostering the optimal development of children and youth and the well-being of underserved, diverse, and understudied communities.

In sum, these self-studies document a remarkable range of activities spearheaded by Public Interest Committees over the past five years. BAPPI applauds their productivity and contributions to psychological knowledge within and beyond the APA. Collectively,

they have developed a wide range of science-based initiatives and partnerships to initiate effective solutions to contemporary societal issues, consistent with the APA's 501.c3 mission – "to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge in order to benefit society and improve people's lives."

Current and past Public Interest Committees' Annual Reports are available at: https://www.apa.org/pi/governance/bappi

Strategic Planning

During November and December, BAPPI members reviewed and commented on various drafts of the APA strategic plan as it continued to evolve. BAPPI and Public Interest Committee chairs met after receiving the first draft in November to discuss the plan's contents in light of the mission of the Public Interest Directorate. BAPPI continued to review and comment on the evolving plan through the end of 2018.

2019 Public Interest Award Recipients

The Committee on Psychology in the Public Interest Awards reviewed the nominations of many worthy candidates for four public interest awards. The award recipients, listed below, will receive their award at the 2019 APA Annual Convention, August 8-11, 2019, in Chicago. Congratulations to these outstanding recipients for their outstanding contributions to the public interest:

- lore m. dickey, PhD, LP
  APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest (Early Career): https://www.apa.org/about/awards/public-interest?tab=3

- Brian L. Wilcox, PhD
  APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest (Senior Career): https://www.apa.org/about/awards/public-interest?tab=3

- Sandra J. Bishop-Josef, PhD
  APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy: https://www.apa.org/about/awards/public-interest?tab=3

- Janet E. Helms, PhD
  Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Psychology in the Public Interest

Award citations are available at: https://www.apa.org/about/awards/public-interest.aspx?tab=3 .

The Call for Nominations for the 2020 Public Interest Awards is available at: https://www.apa.org/pi/governance/bappi/nominations.aspx .

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