Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Portfolio

2022 Report

Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Portfolio
https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq
http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/index.aspx

Mission: The mission of the APA Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Portfolio (SOGD) is to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge on gender identity and sexual orientation to benefit society and improve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people's lives.

Structure and Staffing: The SOGD Portfolio is part of the American Psychological Association's Public Interest Directorate (PI) and part of the PI's Human Rights Team, which includes the Race, Ethnicity, and Culture Portfolio and the Women's Portfolio. Staff for 2022 are Clinton W. Anderson, PhD, PI Deputy Chief, and Director of the SOGD; Andrea McDonald, MEd Director, Safe and Supportive Schools Project; and Ron Schlittler, Assistant Director.

APA Policy Analysis, Development and Advocacy: The CSOGD provides staff support to APA Advocacy Office and works with members on advocacy strategy and training. This includes (1) working with the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity to develop internal and external policy and to support the review and adoption processes for policy resolutions and guidelines, (2) working with the Advocacy Office staff to support lobbying efforts and outreach to experts to assist in developing positions on issues and to disseminate calls to action to SOGD networks, (3) providing technical assistance to state psychological associations on the state level, (4) working with the Office of General Counsel to develop amicus briefs, and (5) supporting global advocacy on policies within psychology organizations and public and NGO policy setting bodies.

Primary Areas of Activity:

- Work with content expert consultation groups and the Office of General Counsel to monitor court cases related to transgender and gender nonbinary people in anticipation of potential APA amicus briefs.
- Staff a task force to produce a report on Differences of Sex Development, or people with intersex characteristics.
- Staff task force charged to revise and update the Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People.
- Work with the Division 44 Public Policy Committee and the Advocacy Office on a collaborative strategy for web-based support for state psychology organizations and APA members through the year on state level legislation related to sexual orientation and gender diverse people. As anticipated, issues include SOCE and GICE bans, "Religious Freedom" or "Conscience Clause"

bills, and an unprecedented number of anti-trans bills, including efforts to criminalize gender appropriate affirmative care for minors and banning trans girls from girls' sports (as of October 13, 2022, the ACLU reported 155 anti-trans bills in 2022, up from 131 in 2021).
    - Organized and moderated a panel discussion for the George Washington University's LGBT Policy & Practice Graduate Certificate Program on the impacts on clinicians and clients of the anti-trans legislative efforts.
    - Contributed to the organization of a Convention Main Stage event titled The Psychological Impact of Anti-Trans Legislation.
- Monitor international LGBTI policy issues and apprised the APA International Affairs Office and the APA United Nations Team as needed.

Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity: The SOGD staff provides support to the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity, the mission of which is to:

- Study and evaluate on an ongoing basis how the issues and concerns of sexual orientation and gender diverse (e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer [LGBTQ]) psychologists can best be dealt with.
- Encourage objective and unbiased research in areas relevant to sexual orientation and gender diverse (e.g., LBGTQ) adults and youths and the social impact of such research.
- Examine the consequences of inaccurate information and stereotypes about sexual orientation and gender diverse (e.g., LBGTQ) adults and youth in clinical practice.
- Develop educational materials for distribution to psychologists and others.
- Make recommendations regarding the integration of these issues into the APA's activities to further the cause of human rights of sexual orientation and gender diverse (e.g., LBGTQ) individuals and communities.
- Members included Daniel Ryu, PsyD (2020-2022); Kathryn Wagner, PhD (2020-2022); Anjali Alimchandani, PhD, MPP (2021-2023); Brandon Hoeflein, PhD (2021-2023), Taymy Josefa Caso, PhD (2022-2024) and Elizabeth Aranda, PhD (2022-2024 [resigned for personal reasons in June])**.**

Primary Areas of Activity:

- Staffed a virtual spring meeting held April 19 and fall meeting held October 1, and bimonthly virtual meetings.

International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet): APA is a member of IPsyNet, the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Issues. IPsyNet is a network of international psychology organizations that work to increase psychological knowledge about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people, to apply psychological knowledge in clinical practice with and research about LGBTI people, and to increase the capacity of psychology organizations and LGBTI advocates to use psychological knowledge in public education and policy initiatives. Primary areas of IPsyNet activity include (1) fostering and supporting LGBTI programming at major international psychology congresses, and (2) working to support favorable policies and to oppose unfavorable policies for LGBTI people globally. APA has two representatives to IPsyNet, Nadine Nakamura (2021-2023) and Khashayar Farhadi Langroudi, PsyD (2022-2024). An Oversight Group for APA's participation in IPsyNet includes representatives from BAPPI (Daniel Dodgen, PhD, 1/21 – 12/22), CSOGD (Anjali Alimchandani, PhD, MPP, 2021-2023), APAGS (Allison Gregg), CIRP (Julie Koch, PhD), Division 44 (Brian Davis, PhD), and Division 52 (Darla Diakonova-Curtis). There is one regional member, the InterAmerican Society of Psychology and 26 national member organizations of IPsyNet with 22 organizations active to varying degrees.

Primary Areas of Activity:

- Support bi-monthly calls of IPsyNet Representatives.
- Support the work of three IPsyNet Committees:
    - Policy Committee: Dissemination and implementation of the IPsyNet Statement & Commitment about psychology, affirmative care, and human rights issues as they pertain to LGBTI people that was introduced at the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) 2018. There are currently two regional and 43 national endorsing psychology organizations globally. It is currently available in 13 languages: Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Chinese (traditional), English, French, German, Hungarian, isiZulu, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Kept all language version PDFs updated with logos and names of all new endorsees.
        - This year a key priority related to this document was a 5-year policy review. Each of the Oversight Group member groups reviewed and unanimously recommended APA re-endorse the document for another 5 years. The Executive Leadership Team unanimously approved re-endorsing in September.
- Maintain and update the IPsyNet branded "microsite" housed on the APA web platform.

Capacity Building Assistance for School-Based HIV/STD Prevention: The Safe and Supportive Schools Project (SSSP) promotes safe and supportive environments to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among adolescents. The SSSP was funded in 2018 under a 5-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Adolescent and School Health (CDC/DASH), which in September 2021 was extended by an additional year. The cooperative agreement is designed to build capacity of 28 local education agencies (LEAs) nationally, also funded by CDC/DASH. To build capacity, SSSP delivers customized training, technical assistance, and consultation to LEAs and collaborate with four other DASH funded non-governmental organizations.

Project and supplemental funding available only to existing project partners has allowed APA to create and update resources that support capacity building professional development and technical assistance including recently completed work on student resilience, a checklist to assess racial disparities in education, and a 5-part Classroom Management resource, all located on the project's new resource page. Efforts are currently underway to significantly update the APA Respect Online Workshop, including new sections for classroom teachers and school administrators. Also, in the final stages of development, are resources on Motivation, Thinking and Learning, Social-Emotional Learning, Mental Health Primers, and The Science of Persuasion.

Technical Assistance, Consultations, and Resources Dissemination: The SOGD provides technical assistance, consultations, and resources to APA affiliated state psychology associations and responds to inquiries from members and the public for information and resources. Activities during this reporting period included:

- Maintaining a collaborative partnership with the Division 44 Public Policy Committee and the Advocacy Office to systematically provide technical assistance to state psychology associations to advocate effectively for or against state legislation.
- Maintain liaison relationships with APA divisions and affiliated state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations with an interest in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues, and relations with the ethnic minority psychology associations.
- Provide links to APA's LGBT resources on request.

Media Relations, Publications, and Communications: The SOGD responds to media requests for information and interviews; facilitates the development and dissemination of APA reports, recommendations, resolutions, and guidelines; contributes to Public Interest Directorate reports, newsletters, and social media initiatives; and maintains the office website.

- Respond to reporters on LGBT topics – most inquiries focus on sexual orientation change efforts and transgender issues.
- Continue to promote new SOGD webpage content periodically.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Portfolio
Activities and Priorities for 202

- Transformation and Strategic Alignment
    - Public Interest Directorate priorities:
        - Bias, Stigma, and Discrimination work specifically focused on systemic racism
        - Health equity
        - Leadership development

- Human Rights
    - As part of the Public Interest Human Rights Team (which includes the Race, Ethnicity, and Culture Portfolio and the Woman's Portfolio) participate in work to implement the recommendations of the Final Report of the APA Task Force on Human Rights: Moving Human Rights to the Forefront of Psychology

- Amicus Briefs
    - Change Efforts
    - Transgender Discrimination

- CDC funded Safe and Supportive Schools Project (SOGD component relates to GSAs and training school personnel)

- Guideline, Resolutions & Reports
    - Presidential Trans Women of Color (TWOC) Anti-Violence Task Force
    - TGNC Guidelines Revisions Task Force
    - Differences of Sex Development Task Force

- Support the work of the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity

- Maintain and promote Resources for Grassroots and State-Level Advocacy on LGBTQ+ Issues, an online state legislative issues tool for APA members and STPAs in collaboration with the Advocacy Office and the Division 44 Public Policy Committee

- Provide the Secretariat for the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet), including potential for new funding