



## APA Administration Update to Area Councils

Prepared by the Office of the CEO and Medical Director (as of September 6, 2019)

**September Component Meetings:** The September Component meetings will take place Wednesday, September 11, 2019 through Saturday, September 14, 2019 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

On Thursday, September 12, the fifth annual APA/APF All Fellows' Orientation will take place at the same location. Fellows will have the opportunity to learn more about APA with an update from APA President Bruce Schwartz, M.D., and APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A., and participate in breakout sessions on a variety of topics to include APA Foundation initiatives, media training, diversity, advocacy, and policy.

**IPS: The Mental Health Services Conference:** This conference will take place October 3-6, 2019 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel in New York city. IPS is the APA's gathering for mental health clinicians in community settings and features 80+ sessions. The theme for the 2019 meeting is Improving Access Through Innovation and Collaboration. Session topics include community psychiatry, addiction psychiatry, diversity and health equity, and collaborative and interdisciplinary care.

Members can visit <https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/meetings/ips-the-mental-health-services-conference> for more information or to register. Advance registration rates are available through September 24, 2019. If you have additional questions, contact Dr. Tristan Gorrindo at [tgorrindo@psych.org](mailto:tgorrindo@psych.org).

**Annual Meeting Review:** During the 2019 Annual Meeting, the Divisions of Education, Communications, and Meetings enhanced and streamlined the processes governing session overflow that were implemented for the first time in 2018. Onsite data analytics comparing number of session bookmarks in the APA Meetings App to the total seating capacity in the session rooms was processed using PowerBI data flow tools to predict in advance which sessions were likely to reach capacity and require overflow. In addition, data gathered from past meetings was utilized during the planning process to predict popular sessions and schedule those sessions in rooms that would best accommodate expected attendance. With these data tools in place, a total of 23 sessions overflowed during the meeting with zero sessions reaching capacity without the ability to overflow. In comparison, 35 sessions overflowed in 2018 with an additional 18 reaching capacity. There were over 11,000 mental health professionals in attendance at the Annual Meeting, making it the largest APA meeting held outside of New York since 2013. For additional details, email Dr. Tristan Gorrindo ([tgorrindo@psych.org](mailto:tgorrindo@psych.org)).

**Clinical Support System for Severe Mental Illness (CSS-SMI):** In July 2018, APA was awarded a five-year, \$14.2 million grant from SAMHSA to establish a Clinical Support System for Serious Mental Illness. The SMI Adviser website ([www.SMIadviser.org](http://www.SMIadviser.org)) was launched in November 2018. Weekly live webinars started in January 2019, as well as virtual email-based consultations to clinicians. Between January and July, nearly 2,400 clinicians participated in an

SMI Adviser educational activity. Later in 2019, a chatbot-based “answer engine” and project app will be added to the website to guide users to items in the website’s knowledge base of evidence-based resources, guidelines, and toolkits.

**APA PsychPRO Registry:** APA continues to promote the registry through a variety of mechanisms, including membership communications, at conferences and meetings, as well as advertisements and articles in various publications. Promotional materials highlight broader use of the registry beyond MIPS reporting only, including Quality Improvement and Performance Measurement across all behavioral healthcare practice and settings.

Participation in the registry continues to grow with 570 participants from 79 practices. The registry is well ahead of the schedule in the business plan, which projected 425 participants at the end of 2018. Current participation in the registry represents over 180,000 patients and over 2,000,000 patient encounters.

APA has leveraged the registry to apply for and receive a three-year grant from CMS to develop and test quality measures. To date, the Technical Expert and Consumer Family Panels have met twice to provide input and recommendation on the proposed measure concepts, which include measurement-based care processes, evidence-based treatment for opioid misuse; psychosis and suicide risk, and function, recovery and other symptom outcomes. APA continues to recruit participants for the grant and about half of the 400 providers required has been achieved to date. If you have any questions, contact David Keen ([dkeen@psych.org](mailto:dkeen@psych.org)) or Debbie Gibson ([dgibson@psych.org](mailto:dgibson@psych.org)).

**Firearm Violence:** In early August, APA issued a [press release](#) concerned about the senseless loss of life from gun violence and the misplaced blame on individuals with mental illness and the repercussions of this language. This message was picked up by media outlets in Philadelphia, Denver and across the country. Our message generated significant engagement on all our social media channels. The initial Facebook and Twitter posts of the statement were seen by 80,000 people, with many thousands more reached by weeks end.

APA joined six other medical organizations (American College of Physicians, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Surgeons, American Medical Association, and the American Public Health Association), in the release of a [Call to Action on Firearm-Related Injury and Death in the United States](#). You may recall in 2015, several of our organizations joined the American Bar Association in a call to action to address firearm injury as a public health threat. Four years later, firearm-related injury remains a problem of epidemic proportions in the United States, demanding immediate and sustained intervention. Since the 2015 call to action, there have been too many firearm-related mass murders. In 2017, the United States has reached a 20-year high according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The leadership of six of the nation's largest physician professional societies, whose memberships include 731,000 U.S. physicians, have reiterated our commitment to finding solutions and call for policies to reduce firearm injuries and deaths.

APA will continue to advocate for de-stigmatization of mental illness and ensure that our patients are not used as scapegoats in this larger debate over gun violence.

**Membership Update:** Due to the combined efforts of leadership, the Administration and DB/SAs, APA has over 38,500 members and is at a 17-year high in membership. We are deeply appreciative of your efforts and support. APA works tirelessly to recruit and retain every member and we know that you are also out there in your practices and institutions promoting the great work of this remarkable organization. Thank you for using the available

resources (i.e. PPT and talking points) on our [website](#) when presenting and speaking to colleagues about the benefits of membership. Please email Jon Fanning ([jfanning@psych.org](mailto:jfanning@psych.org)) for more information.