

Area 3
Report to AEC and Assembly – April 01, 2016

Member Services

- Area 3 Committee on Member Services (COMS)
W. Greenberg, MD, Chairperson, and P. DeCotiis, Esq, Co-Chairperson
 - Dr Napoli appointed Dr Rahul Malhotra, Area 3 ECP Representative, to fill the ECP vacancy on COMS.
 - COMS had a telephone conference call.
 - Dr. Malhotra conducted an informal study using a Facebook group, polling 5000 psychiatrists, many of whom are non-APA members. The reasons for not being APA members were: membership fees are too high, APA's failure to effectively mitigate the MOC requirements and to "show spine against Pharma," and the annual meeting was not "high quality."
 - Also see District Branches below.
- Area 3 Ad Hoc Work Group on Finance and Programs
K. Hummel, Chairperson and D. Shoemaker, Co-Chairperson
The work group completed its goal and objectives, produced a final report and made a proposal to the Area 3 Council and has been sunsetted. After the Council did its due diligence in studying and discussing this proposal, it approved this proposal that included establishing a Committee on Project Review which will be responsible for 1) reviewing proposals for funds to support projects that will serve the members of Area 3, including educational activities, 2) recommending selected projects for Area 3 Council consideration and approval for funding and 3) measure outcomes of projects that are funded. Dr. Napoli is in the process of forming the Committee on Project Review.
- ACROSS
 - The American Society of Adolescent Psychiatry (ASAP) annual meeting is its main service for its members.
 - American Association of Psychiatric Administrators (AAPA) will honor Dr Barry Herman with its 2017 Administrative Psychiatry Award. The winning annual resident paper will be announced at the APA 2017 Annual Meeting and published in the Journal of Psychiatric Administration and Management.
 - Southern Psychiatric Association (SPA) holds a social event, an annual reception at the APA Annual Meeting.
- District Branches:
 - PSD reported on its members' discontent with MOC. Dr Batterson, Recorder and Chair, Assembly Committee on MOC, was presented at the Area 3 Council winter meeting and addressed these concerns. In addition, PSD is reviewing its "communications strategy to determine areas for improvement."
 - MPS involves residents by including the training directors of each academic program on the MPS Board of Trustees and by tracking the career of the RFMs, especially those who move to other jurisdictions.
 - NJPA hosted a professionally facilitated "Membership Workout" for the leadership to prioritize the benefits and values of membership, identify effective communication styles for different segments of the membership, and discuss the obstacles to recruitment and retention.
 - PaPS continues to hold "chapter meetings throughout the state to educate members on areas of interest and to target resident involvement."
 - WPS hosted a Career, Leadership, Mentorship (CLM) event, "Healing the Healers"
- ECP Dr Malhotra reported that Assembly ECPs will be submitting an action paper on streamlining the process of rejoining the APA for those who had left.
- RFM Dr Nazanin Silver, Area 3 RFM Dep Rep, is exploring the possibility of reinstatement of an APA Women's Council. RFMs are doing an action paper on physician well-being that addresses burnout and suicide.
- The AEC approved Dr David Scasta for the 2016 Ronald Shellow Award. The Area 3 Council had previously endorsed the recommendation submitted by Drs Napoli and Greenberg for Dr Scasta to receive this award. Area 3 presented Dr Scasta with an award for his dedication and service.

Diversity

- Area 3 had four outstanding diverse candidates for Area 3 RFM Dep Rep / Rep.

- The American Society of Adolescent Psychiatry (ASAP) is a very diverse organization and has a Board Trustee member who is Syrian.
- There is a need for a non-voting M/UR member to liaison with the RFMs

Advocacy

- The DBs are addressing legislation that focuses on the opioid epidemic, including bills instituting opioid prescribing limits. Recognizing the problem of opioid over-prescribing, concerns were nonetheless expressed regarding intrusiveness on the physician-patient relationship, mandates regarding aspects of care, and the legislatures making medical decisions.
- Psychologist prescribing bills are not moving ahead in Area 3 at this time.
- On the COMS conference call, ACROSS raised the fact that information about advocacy matters does not routinely get transmitted to the relevant ARCOSS members on the DB level. The Area 3 Council is looking into this along with Angela Gochenaur, Regional Field Director - State Government Affairs, Northeast| Department of Government Relations

Education

- Area 3 endorsed the following action papers authored by Area 3 Council members for the May 2017 Assembly: 1) “Expanding Access to Psychiatry Subspecialty Fellowships” (Drs Certa) and 2) “Providing Education and Guidance for the Use and Limitations of Pharmacogenomics in Clinical Practice,” (Dr Napoli)
- At the Area 3 Council meeting (March 4), Dr Greenberg educated the Area 3 Council on the process of producing an action paper, emphasizing that this should include communicating with the APA Councils that are pertinent to the subject matter of an action paper.
- ASAP’s annual meeting, held on March 17 through 19, was *Our Past Reflects Our Future: Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood*.
- SPA holds an annual CME conference.
- The Area 3 DBs continue to provide CME programs.
- RFMs are continuing to improve the Set for Success learning modules and to conduct a Resident and ECP Leadership Track at the APA Annual Meeting.

Standards, Quality Care and Health Economics

- The APA Position Statement on Medical Euthanasia “regarding a non-terminally ill person” is receiving international attention. This APA position statement was the result of an action paper by Area 3 Council members Drs Hanson and Komrad.
- Area 3 endorsed the following action paper authored by Area 3 Council members for the May 2017 Assembly: “Involuntary psychiatric commitment criteria including the presence of substance use disorders” (Dr Certa) The action paper on pharmacogenomics also pertains to standards and quality care.
- An action paper on “Health Care is a Human Right” (Dr Sorel et al) has been submitted for the May 2017 Assembly. [Note: This action paper was not available for the Area 3 winter meeting.]
- Area 3 was informed about reviewing and commenting on the Practice Guidelines on Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder. The NJPA Council on Professional Standards with the expertise of NJPA addiction psychiatrists reviewed these guidelines and submitted comments from NJPA.
- At the request of the Area 3 Council, NJPA has distributed the NJPA Position Statement on the Opioid Epidemic and its accompanying resource document to the Area 3 District Branches via the Area 3 Website.

Strength of Organization/Group:

- Area 3 had its second consecutive 2-day meeting for its regular winter meeting in two years (March 3-4, 2017). Area 3 thanks Dr Sheila Judge who graciously hosted the reception and Sunday breakfast business meeting at her home for both years.

The organization of this 2-day meeting is modeled on the AEC 3-day meeting. The two days allow for: 1) a 6.5 hour formal business meeting on Saturday which is not as rushed as the one day fall business meeting and 2) a less formal 3 hour Sunday morning business meeting with breakfast in a relaxed home atmosphere that allows more time for ACROSS, DB, ECP, RFM and M/UR reports and promotes discussion and an exchange of ideas, especially about advocacy. The additional time for the entire meeting and the Saturday evening reception enhances working relationships amongst the Area 3 Council members and with guests, including Area 3 ECPs and RFMs

who are nominees for the Area 3 Council ECP and RFM positions and are guests of Area 3 at the 2-day meeting. The 2-day meeting is cost-effective because the Area 3 Council keeps the costs low, e.g., contracted reduced hotel room rate of \$94, less than the expected range of from \$119 to \$159. Nevertheless, Area 3 will not be able to sustain a 1-day fall meeting and 2-day winter meeting each year with the present block grant of \$9,650 to sustain this valuable activity. Area 3 will need a block grant of \$13,500, which is \$4,000 lower than the former block grant of \$17,500 per annum.

- The vacancies for the Area 3 ECP Rep and Area 3 Dep Rep were filled with two excellent candidates, respectively, Rahul Malhotra, MD and Baiju Gandhi MD, in the fall of 2016. At its winter meeting, the Area Council elected each of them to full two-year terms.
- The Area 3 Council elected Cristina Secarea, MD (WPS member) to the position of RFM Dep Rep / Rep
- The Area 3 Council elected for second terms: Dr Napoli as Area 3 Rep and Dr Greenberg as Area Dep Rep
- MPS is switching over to central billing by the APA.

Respectfully submitted,

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Area 3 Representative

William Greenberg, MD
Area 3 Deputy Representative