

Review of Area 3 Funded Program

The Maryland Psychiatric Society was pleased to receive a \$1500 Area 3 expedited grant. These funds were used for an exclusive early career psychiatrist member (ECP) activity. After discussing several options with our ECP Committee, the MPS decided to host a family friendly event on a weekend. The committee chose an Orioles baseball game, including an all you can eat picnic dinner, on July 27th, a Friday evening. The MPS purchased 52 tickets for the game/dinner and charged \$10 per ticket to 1) decrease no-shows after ticket purchase and 2) allow more tickets to be purchased.

Lessons Learned/Post Activity Reflection:

- 42 tickets were sold, and 36 ECPs attended. The total cost of the event was \$1982.00
- The team record was dismal, which made the event somewhat less attractive than if they had been playing better. (Unfortunately we did not know ahead of time that it would turn out to be a high-scoring win for the Orioles!)
- Some attendees did not receive the tickets that were mailed to them in advance of the game although all of them were notified multiple times by email to look for the tickets. Some confused the Eventbrite receipt with their game ticket. In the future, attendees will receive the cell phone number of an on-site MPS staff person in case of any issues with tickets, etc.
- The weather did not cooperate as well as it could have. The game had a rain delay due to the severe weather, and some ECPs did not attend, or left early. In the future, attendees will be informed that the food area and seats are in a covered area and that they can arrive at either the scheduled time or the delayed start time.
- The MPS will investigate possibly renting a more private dining area in the ballpark in the future to help with networking. Most attendees spent a lot of their time with family and friends, which was the intent, but perhaps a little more socializing among members would be good.
- The feedback from attendees was very positive! Everyone who attended had a wonderful time, and they requested that the MPS hold the event again in the future. The MPS received multiple emails from ECP members thanking the organization for holding such an event. We comments from attendees such as, “This was a great event – thank you so much for planning, I can’t wait to come back next year!” and “Thanks for having an event I could come to with my entire family; what a fun evening!”

Thank you –
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