Greetings to West Virginia District Branch Members! I would like to wish everybody in the West Virginia Psychiatric Community a wonderful new year!

For those who were unable to attend the August District Branch meeting at the Greenbrier, we had a terrific session. The topic this year was “Physician Burnout” and we had several excellent presentations. We heard from Dr. Jorge Cortina and Dr. Raouf Gharbo who collaborated on a session entitled “Physician Heal Thyself? Burnout among Psychiatrists” and from Allison Funicelli, who presented “Physician Burnout – Reducing the Risks”. New this year, resident representatives from all three programs gave poster presentations: Dr. Dan Cho from Charleston, Dr. Tamara Murphy from Morgantown, and Dr. Danielle Guinan from Morgantown. This was well received and will be continued to encourage resident engagement in our meetings. We were pleased to have Marsi Thrash, the APA Regional Field Director for State Government Affairs, in attendance as well as Danny Scalise, the Chief Lobbyist for the West Virginia State Medical Association. They presented an update on the status of several bills, including the proposed legislation regarding psychologist prescribing. We had a great turnout and a fantastic lunch.

A Mental Health Movie Night was organized by resident representatives and was held September 24th in the WVU Building on the Charleston campus. Requiem For a Dream (2000), a film depicting four characters impacted by drug addiction, was shown to about 25 attendees. There was a spirited discussion that followed led by a panel comprised of members of the WV District Branch. Our special thanks to the APA for a grant to help fund this event.

I am looking forward to our next meeting on Saturday, February 8, 2020 where we will hear cases as presented by residents from each of the residency programs. CME will be awarded for those in attendance. As usual, one may attend either in person at the WVU Charleston location or by teleconference from WVU Morgantown. Barbara Samples continues to do an amazing job organizing our events and a delicious lunch will be served.

I hope to see everyone there!

Tiffany Sparks, MD
President
WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE
AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION
WINTER MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2020
Charleston Location: WVU Building Room 2024
Morgantown Location: WVU Health Sciences Center North, Room 1905

AGENDA
11:30 am – 12:15 pm Welcome/Lunch

12:30 – 2:45 pm Case Presentations by a Resident from each WV training program
“A Royal Flush: A Case of Neurosyphilis in a Patient with a History of Bipolar Disorder”
Presented by: Aatif Mansoor, MD, PGY3, WVU Charleston

“Neurocognitive Disorder with Mixed Features: A Case Presentation with Treatment Considerations”
Presented by: Eddie Hamrick, MD, PGY2, WVU Morgantown

“Twenty-Five Year Old Male Diagnosed with Social Anxiety Disorder”
Presented by: Mark Peterson, MD, PGY2, Marshall University

2:45 – 3:00 pm Break

3:00 – 4:30 pm Business Meeting

Please RSVP by February 3, 2020 to Barbara Samples, wvdbpsych@frontier.com or 304-776-5067
Disclosure
It is the policy of the CAMC Health Education and Research Institute that any faculty (speaker) who makes a presentation at a program designated for AMA Physician’s Recognition Award (PRA) Category I or II must disclose any financial interest or other relationship (i.e. spouses/partners, grants, research support, consultant, honoraria) that faculty member has with the manufacturer(s) of any commercial product(s) that may be disclosed in the educational presentation. Program Planning Committee Members must also disclose any financial interest or relationship with commercial industry that may influence their participation in this conference. Faculty relationships with industry, if any, will be made available on-site and disclosure made from the podium to the participants.

Accreditation: In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by The West Virginia Psychiatric Association and CAMC Health Education and Research Institute. CAMC Health Education and Research Institute is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Physicians- CAMC Health Education and Research Institute is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. CAMC Institute designates this live activity for a maximum of 2.25 hours for AMA PRA Category I credit(s)™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

District Branch Meeting Minutes, August 23, 2019

Attendees: Walter Byrd, MD; Jorge Cortina, MD; T. O. Dickey, MD; Hussein El-Khatib MD; Daniel Elswick, MD; Kenneth Fink, MD; Jerome Massenburg, MD; Dhashani Nadarajah, MD; Jeffrey Priddy, MD; Ralph Smith, Jr., MD; Tiffany Sparks, MD; Lauren Swager, MD

Residents: Jason Barrett, MD; Gira Borad, MD; Daniel Cho, MD; Sarah Chowdhury, MD; Elizabeth Collier, MD; Jordan Gaal, DO; Danielle Guinan, MD; John Hendleman, MD; Sushma Kosaraju, MD; Tamara Murphy, MD; Janice Hostetter, MD; Samuel Richardson, MD; Lauren Burton, MD.

Medical Students: Lee Mendenhall, Marji McCoy, Danny McNeil

Guests: Allison Funicellli and Raouf Gharbo, MD, speakers; Danny Scalise, Lobbyist; Marsi Thrash, APA Government Relations Regional Director.

Dr. Sparks, WV District Branch President called the meeting to order, and attendees were welcomed. Dr. Sparks thanked Cris Cotter from APA, Inc., and Melanie Smith from PRMS for their contributions to the meeting. The District Branch officers for 2019-2021 were introduced and they are: Dr. Tiffany Sparks, President; Dr. Lauren Swager, President-Elect; Dr. Walter Byrd, Secretary; Dr. Jeffrery Priddy, Treasurer; Dr. T. O. Dickey and Jorge Cortina, APA Assembly Representatives.

Attendees were reminded to complete their program evaluations in order to receive CME credit.

Allison Funicelli, MS with AWAC Services presented the first scientific portion of the meeting on “Physician Burnout...Reducing the Risks.”.

During lunch Danny Scalise, lobbyist from West Virginia State Medical Association, presented updates on bills currently in the WV Legislature pertinent to psychiatrists/physicians.
August 23 Meeting Minutes continued…

Posters from a resident from each WV residency training program were on display for review during lunch and the breaks. Dr. Daniel Cho, from WVU Charleston, Dr. Danielle Guinan, from WVU Morgantown, and Dr. Tamara Murphy, from Marshall University did an excellent job in presenting their posters to the attendees with ample time for robust discussion.

The second part of the scientific portion of the meeting, entitled, “Physician Heal Thyself” was presented by Jorge Cortina, MD, DFAPA and Raouf Gharbo, DO, FAAPMR, FAANEM.

Dr. Sparks reviewed the minutes from the WV District Branch Winter Meeting on February 23, 2019 and they were approved as read.

President report:
Dr. Sparks noted there has been a robust discussion surrounding the issue of a potential Mental Health Advance Directive bill within the state of West Virginia. Dr. Fink, Dr. Swagger, and others contributed extensively to the discussion and noted that the West Virginia District Branch’s position is under development and may not necessarily be completely in line with the recent article on the Mental Health Advanced Directive issue as authored by Alvin Moss, MD and contained in the 2019 Newsletter of the West Virginia Network of Ethics Committees. Currently 26 states have mental health advanced directives. Dr. Sparks will let Dr. Moss know that at this time the WVDB will not be supporting the proposed bill.

Treasurer’s Report:
Dr. Jeff Pridy gave the Treasurer’s report in depth with the recent expenditures and revenues in the checking account along with a review of the savings CD. Dr. Massenburg motioned to approve the report, 2nd by Dr. Dickey and the motion was unanimously approved.

Secretary’s Report:
Dr. Walter Byrd revisited the February 23, 2019 WVDB Winter meeting minutes that had been approved as read and noted no additions to the minutes as submitted. Dr. Cortina motioned to approve the minutes, 2nd by Dr. Massenburg, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports
Assembly report:
Dr. Dickey was unable to attend the APA Assembly meeting in May 2019; however, Dr. Freas was able to attend as our DB Assembly Representative. The Assembly report was printed in the summer edition (July 2019) of the District Branch Newsletter. The next Assembly meeting is scheduled for November 17-18, 2019 in Washington DC.

Resident fellow reports:
WVU Charleston: Dr. Collier noted the program has begun to use transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and that a protocol is also underway to initiate the implementation of intranasal ketamine for the address of severe depression. There are also wellness initiatives in and outside of work in the program.

Marshall University: Dr. Murphy noted that there is a new faculty member, Dr. Adam Schindzielorz, with the Consult & Liaison Service. The Geriatric Fellowship is underway, and Mildred Bateman Hospital now has 40 beds that are under the management of the Marshall University School of Medicine Department Psychiatry, with 20 acute beds and 20 chronic beds.

WVU Morgantown:
Dr. Guinan noted that Dr. Joel Vogt has joined the Department of Psychiatry in Morgantown with General Psychiatric services and co-director of ECT. Dr. Daniel Farmer has joined the Department as new faculty in Addiction Medicine and Dr. Navine Estephan is new faculty in Child and Adolescent Section. Dr. Emily Chilko has joined the faculty in the area of Consult Liaison Psychiatry within the Cancer Center at West Virginia University. Additionally, of significant excitement is the upcoming expansion of the Morgantown residency to 8 residents per year in 2021. This comes with the addition of a grant for a Rural Psychiatry track, which will be based out of the United Summit Center/Facility in Clarksburg West Virginia.
August 23 Meeting Minutes continued...

Legislative Report:
Dr. Dickey had no new information to submit regarding actions ongoing in the WV Legislature at this time.

Marsi Thrash, American Psychiatric Association Regional Director for Government Relations, gave the WVDB a detailed and very helpful report regarding her role, commitment, and activities on behalf of our District Branch. During the pass Legislative Session, she worked closely with WV State Medical Association’s lobbyist, Danny Scalise, helping to address emerging issues that have relevance in the legislative arena. Issues such as insurance coverage parity for psychiatry, telemedicine/telepsychiatry emerging guidelines, and the prospect of legalization of medical marijuana in the state of West Virginia and its implication on the practice of psychiatry were matters addressed within the context of her report.

Ethics Report:  Dr. Hussein El-Khatib had no ethics complaints, violations or actions to report.

Fellowship report:  Dr. Ralph Smith was unable to attend the meeting, but he had conveyed no problematic issues or factors to consider in the APA fellowship process. There were no DF applications submitted to the DB/APA this year.

Membership report:
Dr. Tiffany Sparks gave the membership report, in the absence of Dr. Veena Bhanot, and reported that the WVDB has 188 members, with new members, new resident members, and transfers being added to the membership.

Old Business:
Dr. Cho and Dr. Collier discussed Mental Health Movie Night that will be held September 24, 2019 at the WVU Auditorium in Charleston. The purpose of this event is a community outreach with the focus on a substance abuse related theme followed by a panel discussion. Drs. Cho and Collier will be distributing flyers and promoting the event on social media. This event is made possible by a grant from the APA. Dr. Dickey reported that the LaBelle Theatre in South Charleston is now active and may be available for a movie night event.

New business:
Barbara Samples, Executive Director, reported that the District Branch received a monetary grant in the amount of $2777.78 from the American Psychiatric Association to provide funding for Mental Health Movie night and to help cover meeting expenses.

In addition, The American Psychiatric Association has reviewed and approved the West Virginia District Branch Bylaws. The APA reviews all District Branch Bylaws every 5 years. Barbara also reported that Janet Bryan, executive director of Southern Psychiatric Association has indicated the SPA’s interest in possibility partnering with the WVDB for an upcoming annual meeting with the Southern Psychiatric Association. Several members voiced some concern that the Southern Psychiatric Association annual meeting was historically a rather expensive meeting, with a $400-$500 registration fee. There was also concern regarding the location of the meeting, making travel costs for members difficult. The members agreed to pursue further discussions to get a fuller grasp of the potential arrangement that the Southern Psychiatric Association is proposing. This will be further discussed at the District Branch meeting on February 8, 2020.

Dr. Sparks discussed continuing the contractual relationship with Danny Scalise, the lobbyist from WV State Medical Association, who represented the WV District Branch last year in the legislature monitoring the psychologist prescribing bill and other bills pertinent to psychiatrists. After much discussion, Dr. Lauren Swager suggested that Dr. Sparks contact Mr. Scalise to obtain his fee and willingness to lobby on behalf of the District Branch. Members were in agreement that Dr. Sparks contact Mr. Scalise to obtain this information.

The meeting concluded with the Raffle drawing.
The next meeting will be held February 8, 2020 in Charleston and telecast to Morgantown.
Meeting adjourned by Dr. Sparks at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Walter Byrd, MD, District Branch Secretary.
Assembly Report, November 2019

The following report is copied from Assembly Notes composed by Dr. Adam Nelson.

Speaker’s Welcome and Introduction of New Members — Paul O’Leary, MD
Dr. O’Leary welcomed all to the November Assembly. He discussed a change to the procedures for one of the Reference Committees that would involve creating what would amount to a second-chance consent calendar of all items addressed during the deliberations of Reference Committee 4. This would amount to a pilot project of a change in procedures on which the Assembly would then vote later in the session. If approved, the procedures would go into effect for all Reference Committees for the upcoming spring session in Philadelphia. Subsequently, Dr. O’Leary, along with Speaker-Elect Dr. Joseph Napoli and Recorder Dr. Mary Jo Fitz-Gerald, welcomed all new members to the Assembly.

Report of the Assembly Nominating Committee — James R. Batterson, MD
The Nominating Committee presented its slate of candidates for Assembly Officers. In addition, nominations were accepted from the floor. Congratulations and good luck to all the candidates! Speaker-Elect: Mary Jo Fitz-Gerald, MD (Area 5) Recorder: Vasilis Pozios, MD (Area 4) Adam Nelson, MD (Area 6) Steven Brown (Area 7)

APA President—Bruce Schwartz, MD
Dr. Schwartz has been in Washington lobbying on issues including lack of psychiatric beds, homelessness, litigation use, and poor access to mental health services. He has had meetings with members of the “group of 6”, at the White House with the Deputy Director of Domestic Policy and is currently planning a meeting with Secretary of HHS Alex Azar. Everyone is in agreement that there are universal problems of multiple crises with MH issues. Recent APA accomplishments include the start of appointments to the APA Committee on Women’s Mental Health (which grew out of an Assembly Action Paper); the BOT approved a long term plan of change in investments in fossil fuels (another Assembly Action Paper). IPS meeting was a huge success with over 150 attendees. A workgroup is developing continuing recommendations for the IPS to make it cash-flow neutral. The IPS track on Treatment of Early Psychosis drew a lot of non-psychiatrist attendees. In an effort to improve access to care, Dr. Schwartz has created a task force to explore collaboration, chaired by APA Secretary Sandra DeJong. The task force has engaged a number of non-psychiatric clinical groups and organizations to participate in the discussion. One of the missions is to break through the resistance to the recently passed parity legislation. Another APA task force will examine finances once purchase has concluded of the APA HQ. Finally, there is a workgroup to develop clinically-based criteria for acute and continuing levels care of SMI patients, rather than leaving it to insurers and other 3rd parties.

APA President-elect—Jeffrey Geller, MD, MPH
Dr. Geller began with a history lesson: The first meeting of APA Assembly of District Branches was held in 1953. The agenda topics included psychologists encroaching on psychiatric practice, state and national legislative matters, and the role of APA in inspecting mental hospitals. The budget for the Assembly was $500. (A new color TV cost 3x as much at that time.) From 1953 to 1983, all DBs sent one representative and one deputy representative. There were an estimated 559,000 psychiatric beds, or 340 beds per 100,000 persons in the US. Today, we have an estimated 11 beds per 100,000—a huge drop in the past 66 years. Persons with SMI are more likely to encounter police and go to jail than get psychiatric help, or to wind up homeless. 10% of suicides are caused by persons with untreated SMI. Looking forward to 2021, no one knows how many psych hospital beds we need. Dr. Geller includes in his goals as APA president an initiative to figure this out.

Treasurer Report — Gregory W. Dalack, MD
Dr. Dalack presented highlights of the 2019 fiscal year thus far. A full report is in packet. Net income for 2019 has gone up compared to 2018. The annual budget is expected to be net $8.8 positive compared to 2018, including cash reserves as allocated by BOT for the building purchase of the APA headquarters. Expectation by end of year is to break even. Regarding revenues, our investments in market have done significantly better than expected. Dues income is lower due to the “rule of 95”. Publishing and DSM revenue is higher; annual meeting income is lower. Regarding expenses, program and services expenses are lower than expected; advocacy expenses are also lower. Investments in fossil fuels are being divested. Cash is accruing for the eventual purchase of the APA building. Dr. Dalack then presented a report as chair of the Workgroup on Safe Prescribing. They are working to harmonize the Position Statement from the Assembly Action Paper with previous APA Position Statement. They met once, with one more meeting scheduled to produce a statement to present to BOT in February.

APA Political Action Committee — R. Scott Benson, MD, Chair
In 2019 so far, 1233 contributors gave $234,600 or an average of $190 per contribution. Contributions have come from 66% of Assembly members, 96% of AEC members. APAPAC donates to key legislators who support issues of importance to APA. Since it was discovered that insurers are not following the Parity law and not reporting on equitable expenditures, PAC contributions have gone to legislators who are now trying to pass a law to follow the parity law. PAC is also contributing to support proposed legislation for effective suicide screening. The APA-CAN(Congressional Advocacy Network) encourages APA members to meet with their federal legislators.
Assembly report continued...

CEO/Medical Director of the APA — Saul Levin, MD, MPA, Dr. Levin began with the sad announcement of the passing last week of Paul Burke, former director of APAF. He was adored by all and “a man for all seasons”. APA has completed the TCPI-SAN 4 year grant, having trained 3566 psychiatrists, 357 primary care physicians, and 920 support staff. Going forward, APA continues to provide CME on all training modules. In a joint project with SAMHSA, APA has produced the SMI Adviser mobile app (www.smiadviser.org/app) and, in 2017, APA produced an online App Evaluation Model. Illinois has become the 1st state to pass APA’s Model Collaborative Care legislation. In addition, APA is sponsoring Mental Health Parity legislation in Congress: S1737 (folded into S1895 -Lowering Healthcare Costs Act) and HR3165 introduced this year. USUHS residency slots are in danger of ending due to proposed cutting of "4th Estate" programs. The 2020 CMS reimbursement schedule currently calls for planned increases in E/M reimbursements. In a note to Assembly members, Dr. Levin observes that Action Papers are much improved and staff have taken notice. In comments from the Assembly floor, Dr. Levin is congratulated for receiving an honorary fellowship by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Presentation of Assembly Awards Committee — Theresa Miskimen, MD, Chair. Presentation of the Assembly Profile of Courage Award: Pamela McPherson, M.D. Patricia Westmoreland, MD, President of Colorado Psychiatric Association presented this award to Pamela McPherson, MD for her work with immigrant families in border issues. Dr. McPherson is a mental health expert for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the Department of Homeland Security. She wrote to the Senate Whistleblower Caucus and to Congress about the long-term psychiatric consequences of separation of children from immigrant families. She has published articles in the news media. She also received The Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling and the Physicians For Human Rights Award and was interviewed on "60 Minutes". Dr. McPherson describes herself as a whistleblower and recognizes the value of APA in protecting her rights to speak out in protecting the rights of children where they may be infringed.

Assembly Committee on Procedures — Edward Herman, MD(Area 2), Chair. The following items were approved by the Assembly: A new proposed Action Paper (AP) Pathway & Reference Committee's Role and Functions(vote Y: 141-N: 46)This change in the Procedures of the Assembly develops new responsibilities for the Rules Committee, which will now present a Consent Calendar and a Reaffirmation Consent Calendar for the Assembly to approve. The latter will consist of Action Papers and proposals that, in the opinion of the Rules Committee, reflect or reiterate currently existing positions or policies within APA. As with the existing Consent Calendar, any item can be pulled by any member of the Assembly at the time of the meeting of the Assembly. In addition, changes in the Procedures of the Assembly specify the mechanism of an author's withdrawal of an Action Paper from consideration at each stage of the deliberation process of the Action Paper and address the possibility of Conflict of Interest when an Action Paper’s author serves on the Reference Committee in which the Paper is assigned for consideration. Eliminate author responsibility of preparing a cost analysis in writing an Action Paper(vote Y:168-N:9)

American Psychiatric Association Foundation — Saul Levin, MD, MPA, Chairperson/Chief Executive Officer and Medical Director & Daniel Gillison, Jr., Executive Director, Dr. Levin reports APAF is looking for new public sector member to join the Board who either has significant fund raising experience or access to funds to support the APAF. There is also opportunity to “give an hour” through the APAF partnership. Mr. Gillison reports the APAF Benefit during the upcoming APA Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, April 25 at the Union League in Philadelphia. For the upcoming holidays, the Foundation presents an opportunity to Adopt-A-Book in the APA Library. Other ways to support APAF include making an annual donation, pledging a planned gift, connect APAF with your network of supporters, or launch a peer-to-peer fundraising campaign. This year, APAF Fellows have come from many states, with the largest number (24) from California. There has been a 30% increase in APAF Fellowships. This year, there are two Jeanne Spurlock Congressional Fellowships($100K+) available. A new fellowship is the Edwin Vladiserri Correctional Public Psychiatry Fellowship. The Center for Workplace MH (www.workplacementalhealth.org) has had growing media engagement, with significantly expanding number of website and resources hits in the past year. The Typical or Troubled? Program 2019 pilot is being directed at several different school settings. And APAF continues to sponsor the Awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health, which recognize psychiatrists who have undertaken innovative approaches to improve access for minority populations to mental health services.

APA Position Statements The following Position Statements were approved by the Assembly:

**Proposed Position Statement: Disaster Preparedness and Response for Older Americans
**Proposed Position Statement: Mental Health of Foreign Nationals on Temporary Protected Status
**Proposed Position Statement: Addressing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in Substance Use Disorder Treatment in the Justice System
**Proposed Position Statement: Diversity and Inclusion in the Physician Workforce Proposed Position Statement: Transitional Aged Youth
*Retired Position Statement: Consensus Statement on Improving the Quality of Mental Health Care in U.S. Nursing Homes
*Retired Position Statement: Core Principles for End-of-Life Care
*Retired Position Statement: Peer Review of Expert Testimony
*Revised Position Statement: Relationship Between Treatment and Mutual Support
*Proposed Position Statement: Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs
*Retained Position Statement: Discrimination Against Persons with Previous Psychiatric Treatment
Assembly report continued...

*Retained Position Statement: Insanity Defense
*Retained Position Statement: The Need to Monitor and Assess the Public Health and Safety Consequences of Legalizing Marijuana
*Revised Position Statement: Discriminatory Disability Insurance Coverage
*Revised Position Statement: Assuring the Appropriate Care of Pregnant and Newly-Delivered Women with Substance Use Disorders
*Revised Position Statement: Leadership of State Behavioral Health Services
*Retired Position Statement: Ethical Use of Telemedicine
*Retained Position Statement: Joint Resolution Against Torture
*Retained Position Statement: Psychiatric Participation in Interrogation of Detainees
*Proposed Position Statement on the Care of Medically Vulnerable Migrants in the United States
*Proposed Position Statement on Controlling Drug Prices

**Action Papers/Items** Among the Actions taken during this session, the Assembly voted:
To Develop an APA Position Statement Addressing Harmful Consequences of the Rise of White Supremacy
**To Propose an APA Position Statement Regarding Mental Health Screening and Access to Mental Healthcare for Civil Immigrant Detainees of U.S. Homeland Security
To Address Workplace Intimidation and Bullying at the VA
To Have the APA Develop a Toolkit Supporting the Recruitment and Hiring of Psychiatrists
To Oppose Social Security Disability Mental Evaluations by Chiropractors and other Non-Qualified Examiners
To Support Public Education Efforts by APA to Increase Responsible Disposal of Prescription Medication
To Address Variability in State Law Concerning Emergency Holds for Psychiatric Evaluation
To Improve Access to and Ease of Searching of the APA Position Statement Database
To Oppose APA’s Development of an Affiliate Membership Category for Non-Psychiatrists
To Change the Procedural Code of the Assembly to Oppose Action Paper Author and Sponsor Bias in Reference Committee Discussions
To Urge Greater APA Accountability for Climate Change Using Carbon Offsets and Becoming Carbon Neutral
For APA to Join as a Signatory to the US Call to Action on Climate, Health and Equity
(Items with a * were approved by consent. Items with a ** were approved by consent of there commendations from Ref Committee4.)
A draft summary of actions taken by the Assembly can be found here. Final version of all Action Papers can be found here. You can view all current and previous Action Papers and track their current status on AITS here.

**Reports and Next Steps from the Assembly Committees/Work Groups:**

**Committee on MOC - Russell Pet, MD.** There were 3 pending lawsuits against ABMS, ABIM, and ABPN on anti-trust concerns. ABIM case was dismissed by the judge. There was discussion on the recent new pilot MOC program and individuals’ experiences. Also there was discussion on the Action Paper for APA to explore its own pathway to MOC. APA is actively exploring this as a “benefit of membership”.

**Committee on Psychiatric Diagnosis and the DSM – Heather Hauck, MD.** Members came to speak on the 4 DSM revision action items on which Assembly voted previously. There was discussion between the Assembly Workgroup and the DSM Steering Committee.

**Committee on Public and Community Psychiatry – Isabel Norian, MD.** Focus of discussion was on further work on a position statement on involuntary hospitalization of SMI adults. Plans include coordinating with the Council on Psychiatry and the Law on crafting the statement. There was discussion on mental healthcare delivery issues in Canada with Dr. Judy Glass. The workgroup will address the crisis in the workforce and peer support services in Public Psychiatry.

**Committee on Access to Care - Eliot Sorel, MD.** Access to care is one of top 3 issues in this election year. There was discussion on implications of recent successful litigation against United Health care in California and the recent fine of $1M against UHC, as well as further discussion of egregious practices by insurance companies in preventing access to adequate MH Care.
Assembly report continued…

Assembly RFM Merit Award Work Group No chair: first meeting. There was initial effort to establish who is in the work group. Awardees may include ECPs as incentive to retain ECP membership in APA. Inclusion and exclusion criteria are still being established.

Assembly Psychiatry Workforce Work Group—William Greenberg, MD. The workgroup is looking to extend forecasting information beyond available data, which currently extends only about 15 years. This is not helpful for current RFMs and ECPs who would be seeking workforce participation for considerably longer.

New Business
Basker Dave commends Speaker O’Leary for his pilot project on Reference Committee procedures. Bob Batterson recognizes Charles Price, former Dep AEC rep from Area 7 and Assembly member for many years, who has had to resign for personal reasons.

Future Meetings
April 2020 Assembly April 24-26, 2020
****ACTION PAPER DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2020 ASSEMBLY: March 5, 2020

November 2020 Assembly
November 6-9, 2020
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC (please note new venue)
****ACTION PAPER DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 ASSEMBLY: September 17, 2020

Respectfully submitted by T. O. Dickey, MD, and Jorge Cortina, MD, Assembly Representatives

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In Memory…

It is with profound sadness that the family of SIDNEY CLARK LERFALD, MD announces his passing on December 18, 2019 at home. Sidney was born on July 4, 1947 in Grand Forks, North Dakota to the late Rueben and Edith (Tannahill) Lerfald of Mayville, North Dakota. Sidney is survived by his wife, Libby, who loved and cherished him; his beloved sons, Matthew John Lerfald of Charleston, WV and Nathan Meyer (Charmin) Lerfald, MD of Morgantown, WV; and his step-daughter, Anna Earles (Michael) Kennedy of Washington, DC, whom he adored. Additionally, he is survived by his siblings Daniel (Sharon) Lerfald of Fargo, ND; Lois (Greg) Welman of Blaine, MN; Arne (Cindy) Lerfald of White Bear Lake, MN; Evy (Jim) Schilling of Pelican Rapids, MN; Cyndy (Michael) Holter of Plano, TX; Neil (Kathy) Lerfald of Portland, ND; Sue (Greg) Grimstad of Blaine, MN; and Becky (Mark) Tastad of Montevideo, MN. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Ruth Moore of Charleston, WV and Carolyn (David) Carper of Richmond, VA; and his brother-in-law, Tom Moore of Santa Rosa, CA. He leaves behind with great love, the pride and joy of his life, his three grandchildren: Erika Julianna, Kathryn Rebecca, and Andrew Meyer Lerfald, all of Morgantown, WV

Dr. Lerfald received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of North Dakota and his medical degree and residency training from West Virginia University School of Medicine. He was a psychiatrist and psychopharmacologist in the Charleston area for over 40 years. Due to his expertise in psychiatry and psychopharmacology, he was a passionate keynote speaker in West Virginia and surrounding states for over 25 years an opportunity that was a great joy to him. Dr. Lerfald participated in NIMH sponsored research and served as principal investigator for many industry-sponsored clinical trials in psychiatry for over 25 years. He was also the former Director of the WVU Consultation Liaison Psychiatry Division. Dr. Lerfald was a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at WVU; he also taught the Clinical Psychiatry Seminar lecture for medical students and residents for many years. Dr. Lerfald was a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a Diplomat of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Dr. Lerfald retired on December 19, 2019.

A family memorial service will be held at a later date in North Dakota. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.barlowbonsall.com. Barlow Bonsall Funeral Home, Charleston has been entrusted with the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, the family humbly recommends donations in Sid's name to his beloved country church, Bethany Lutheran Church, at 15099 15th Street NE, Hatton, ND 58240.
RESIDENT NEWS

WVU Charleston Division

Psychiatry is a unique field of medicine. We constantly hear some of our patient's worst and most difficult experiences. We are, most often than not, facing people at the worst moments of their lives. Daily, we lend others our strength, skills, and compassion while simultaneously accepting some of the weight of their emotional burden. Because of this, it is paramount that we allow ourselves to offset some of this by making time to care for ourselves and to enjoy life.

Our department has been trying to do just that for our residents. We have had two GME sponsored wellness events – a boating trip in September, and a historical tour of Weston State Hospital (previously the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum) in October. We have also implemented wellness days into our didactic schedule and have had two of these to date. First a PRITE review day and potluck, and most recently a psychiatric movie day where we watched a psychiatric themed movie and afterward discussed the representation of the field of psychiatry and the portrayal of our patients in films. These events not only give us time to relax and unwind but also gives us the chance to grow closer as a department.

We have also added a new outpatient rotation with a psychiatrist in the community and have had some residents successfully complete our new Transgender Health rotation. Our TMS and Esketamine clinics should soon be accepting their first patients. Our new interns have settled in nicely and have been a wonderful addition to our department. Even though it seems as if they have just started, we have again completed another successful interview season and met many wonderful candidates. We are looking forward to welcoming our next class of residents – which will include out very first rural scholar resident!

Welcoming new residents also comes with saying goodbye to our five graduating seniors, myself included. It seems as if our first day was just yesterday. We have finally become comfortable and confident in our roles only for everything to change again. For some of us that means starting our careers on our own and for two of us that means continuing our training in addiction psychiatry fellowships (at University of Cincinnati and UPMC!).

With all of the upcoming changes and new experiences looming, I hope that we are all able to approach them the way that I hope we all enter the new year – thankful for the lessons of our past and hopeful and excited for the future (and with a resolution to continue working on our own personal wellness!!!).

Elizabeth Collier, MD, PGY-4
Chief Resident – Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry
CAMC/WVU – Charleston Division

Marshall University

Here at Marshall Psychiatry, we are settling into some new roles and anticipating more exciting changes in 2020. We are now covering psychiatric cases at St. Mary’s Medical Center which has been a busy and enjoyable learning experience. In addition to covering 10 beds on the inpatient Behavioral Health Unit there, we have the opportunity of also covering the Emergency Room overnight for psychiatric cases and consults on the medical side as well. This has provided a fun weekend inpatient experience for those of us on entire year outpatient rotations as well as a fabulous learning environment for our exceptional interns. We have expanded our presence at Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital, the state psychiatric hospital in Huntington. This is a unique experience for us in that several residents are rotating at the hospital together which has been beneficial for team-building and morale. We now have an acute adult service, a long-term adult service, and a geriatric service at MMBH. We continue to provide coverage at Cabell Huntington Hospital, Riverpark Hospital, and the VA Medical Center.

We are excited to welcome new fellows in our child and adolescent and geriatric psychiatry fellowship programs. We recently received GME and ACGME approval to expand the geriatric fellowship to two fellows. This has led to some changes in the outpatient world to allow ample space and attending coverage for these fellowships. We look forward to having Doctors Meredith Bentley, Jordan Gaal, and Janice Hostetter join faculty after completing the residency program in June. We are very proud to have them sign on as faculty and can’t wait to see what other opportunities are in store for our program as we continue to expand. Doctor Clare Bajamundi-Plyler will be one of our geriatric psychiatry fellows and has also signed on to stay as faculty after completing fellowship. Several of our PGY-3 residents have chosen to pursue child and adolescent psychiatry fellowships leaving Dr. Justin Godby as the sole rising PGY-4 resident next year. We feel confident he will do a wonderful job!
Resident News continued...

We continue to focus on resident wellness and had an incredible resident retreat in October. We did a scavenger hunt and had a group lunch followed by DIY woodworking at a local business. The group had a great time and we all left with a unique piece to display at home. Our "Rest and Digest" initiative has been successful thus far. Residents enjoy having time to socialize with peers over a healthy meal. As always, we are excited by the growth of our program and look forward to more opportunities to serve our community in the future. We hope to see some friendly faces at the APA meeting in Philadelphia in April!

Erika Maynard, MD, PGY-3 Resident
Marshall Psychiatry

WVU Morgantown

The West Virginia University Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry is continuing to expand. The department has added two new psychiatrists to its faculty. Dr. Joel Vogt completed his residency training at Duke University Medical Center and previously practiced psychiatry at the Clarksburg VA. He will be helping conduct ECT procedures in addition to staffing the outpatient psychiatry clinic. Dr. Vogt is joined by Dr. Muruga Loganathan ("Dr. Logan"). Dr. Logan is joining the program from Allegheny General Hospital, where he completed his residency and fellowship training in child adolescent psychiatry. We are excited to welcome these two accomplished faculty to the WVU team!

Interview season for residency recruitment was completed in December, and the department was thrilled to interview a record number of applicants. We will be accepting 8 new residents into the 2020 intern class. In addition, Drs. Daniel Elswick and Kari Law were honored with a HRSA grant to develop infrastructure for a rural psychiatry residency track to help treat patients in counties identified as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). This prestigious grant will also provide medical students with unique training experiences to help them better understand the challenges associated with providing care to patients in rural settings.

With this growth, the WVU has made continued efforts to prioritize resident wellness. The department instituted a new moonlighting policy to allow extra coverage during weekend call and help reduce burnout risk among residents. The department is also offering "Mindful Steps", a six week seminar series targeting stress and burnout in healthcare providers and support staff. The series is free and will provide participants tools for reducing stress and remaining mindful of mental wellness during the busy work season.

We continue to welcome additional development of our department and look forward to another exciting year! We are humbled to be able to contribute psychiatric care to the state of West Virginia.

Danielle Guinan, MD
Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry
PGY-III

WVU Charleston Resident Selected to Run for Resident-Fellow Member Trustee-Elect

My name is Dr. Aatif Mansoor, I am a PGY3 at CAMC, training in both psychiatry & internal medicine. I have been selected to run for a nationally-elected spot on the APA Board of Trustees. If I were elected to serve as the Resident Fellow Member Trustee-Elect, I would be honored to represent the WV District Branch and the state of West Virginia on the national scale. The overarching goal of my campaign is to increase resident engagement, with the ultimate goal to increase the number of psychiatrist RFMs and involvement from residents from other primary care specialties. My platform can be found on my campaign website, twitter.com/Aatif_for_RFMTE. The election is online on the APA website from January 2nd - January 31st. Only resident and fellow members can vote for my position, but please convey my name and platform to any residents or fellows who are APA members, thank you!

Eligible APA members can use the following link to cast their ballot for the 2020 Election for all positions. Please log in to APA with your psychiatry.org credentials. www.psychiatry.org
**Time to Renew Your APA Membership for 2020**

Renew today to maintain access to valuable benefits, including the APA Learning Center, discounts on meetings and events, journals and publications and more. You can renew online, over the phone or by mail.

https://www.psychiatry.org/join-apa/renew-your-membership

**Make a Difference Through Advocacy**

APA works every day to shape policies and legislation that advance our profession and promote the highest quality of care for our patients and their families. But advocacy only works if APA members are involved. Join us by signing up for alerts when your voice is needed to effect change, as well as a monthly newsletter about the policy changes affecting your profession and patients.

http://cqrcengage.com/psychorg/app/register?1&m=39947

**What Is APA Doing in the Nation’s Capital?**

APA's Department of Government Relations has released its latest update on its advocacy activities regarding the policies and regulations that affect your patients and profession.


**APA/APAF Fellowships - Now Accepting Applications!**

APA/APAF Fellowships provide psychiatry residents the experiential learning, training and professional development they need to be leaders in the field of psychiatry. **Applications for all fellowships are due January 31, 2020.**

View Fellowship Opportunities »

**Vote – APA Election**

Eligible APA members can use the following link to cast their ballot for the 2020 Election. Please log in with your psychiatry.org credentials.

Vote Slate of Candidates

The APA Nominating Committee, chaired by Altha Stewart, M.D., reports the slate of candidates for the 2020 Election. All candidates and supporters should review the updated Election Guidelines for 2020. For more information, email election@psych.org.
WELCOME NEW/REINSTATED MEMBERS

New Resident Members (July 2019)

Marshall University: Justin Gandee, MD; Mathew Lemberger, MD; Brittani Lowe, MD; Julia Preusch, MD; Brady Kullen, DO; Amber Wireman, DO

WVU Morgantown: Nahala AlJuaid, MD; Lauren Burton, MD; Camille Leon, MD; Rachel Moreland, DO; John Perez, MD; Samuel Richardson, MD; Molly Robinson, DO; Christian Skinner, DO

WVU Charleston: Rupinder Grewal, MD; Tyler O’Brien, MD; Mustafa Rahman, MD; Sara Reed, MD; Simratdeep Sandhu, MD; Ian Thistlethwaite, MD

Transfer to WV: Luke David Miller, MD (from South Carolina); Margaret Meldrum, MD (from Maryland) – General Members

Transfer out of WV: Kristina Rached, MD (Resident) completed training

Upcoming Events…

APA Annual Meeting, April 25-29, 2020, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Registration opens at early bird rate on Tuesday, January 7. Also, reserve your hotel room now to ensure you get the best location. Registration, housing, and program information may be accessed at psychiatry.org/annualmeeting.

WV District Branch Summer Meeting, August 21, 2020 at The Greenbrier