



July 11, 2020

LPA Virtual Executive Council (EC) Meeting

Virtual Sign-in:

W Alan Coulter, PhD

Erin Reuther, PhD, ABPP

Lucinda DeGrange, PhD

Matthew Holcomb, PhD

Richard Niolon, PhD

Melissa Kunimatsu, PhD

Christopher Parkinson, PhD

Kim VanGeffen, PhD

Amanda Raines, PhD

William Costelloe, PhD

ValaRay J Irvin, PhD

Guest:

Courtland Chaney

Introductions and Governance of Meeting: Dr. Reuther called the meeting to order at 10:00am with introductions of all EC members, including our new board member Dr. Kunimatsu. Introductions as well as a “fun fact” about members were as follows:

Erin Reuther, president, pediatric health psychologist employed with Children’s Hospital in New Orleans, LA. The mom of three young children ages 7, 5, and 2yrs., solved a puzzle box!

Chris Parkinson, clinical health psychologist employed with New Orleans VA five years. Specialty in behavioral medicine and palliative care. Fun fact: has two middle names.

Kim VanGeffen, clinical and neuropsychologist, chair of professional affairs committee. Owner of a private practice in New Orleans, LA. Fun fact: enjoys vacationing!

Lucinda DeGrange, a school psychologist in private practice in New Orleans, LA, specializing in forensic evaluations with public schools, as well as court ordered; also serves as APA Council Representative, and mom of three adult children, youngest of which is in his final year of college and preparing for the LSAT.

Matt Holcomb, clinical neuropsychologist in New Orleans, LA. LPA treasurer, chair of finance committee and, member of the legislative and membership committees. Fun fact: former track athletic, participated in Olympic!

Courtland Chaney, IO psychologist, past EC member, chair of public affairs committee. Fun fact: loves Spanish! His first day of employment since March 12<sup>th</sup>!!

Melissa Kunimatsu, developmental psychologist, private practice in New Orleans, LA Replaced Chris as Director on EC. Fun fact: recently bought a duplex with best friends!

Richard Niolon, clinical psychologist, and teaches for TCSPP@Xavier of Louisiana, co-chair of professional affairs committee. Fun fact: licensed in Illinois, and has two dogs!

Amanda Raines, clinical psychologist serving as a full-time research psychologist for the New Orleans VA. Amanda is serving her second term as a Director on the EC, and also serves as co-chair of the convention and education committee. Fun fact: Amanda turns 36years this week!

Alan Coulter, a licensed school psychologist, past director of APA Internship program, for LSU Consortium, full-time private practice. Fun fact: has eight great-grand girls named for their great-grand mother!

ValaRay Irvin, licensed counseling psychologist employed full-time as director of counseling services for Southern University Baton Rouge (SUBR) where she has served for 22years. Has also been in private practice in Gonzales, LA for 19 years. Fun fact: developed the counseling center at SUBR (her alma mater) in 1998! Affectionately known as “grand-nanny” for great-niece Kiersten Jade!

Deviated from agenda because Dr. DeGrange had to leave: APA Council Representative report: Dr. DeGrange reported that, since March, APA has been completely virtual! The plan is that the upcoming August conference will also be virtual. Due to the pandemic there have been massive lay-offs and unfilled positions. This was done to bring their finances into alignment. The EC also discussed whether to apply for the organizational development grant, or APA legislative grant.

**Old Business:** Approval of minutes; a motion was made by Dr. Coulter to defer approval of minutes until the next meeting. *Motion passed without dissent.*

The EC discussed whether we should record all Zoom meeting and it was agreed that we would except when in ‘executive session.’ Dr. Reuther suggested having a co-host during meeting in case there were issues with internet connections.

### **Committee Reports:**

Legislative & Governmental Affairs: Dr. Reuther stated that due to the pandemic not much had been happening. The Ad Hoc Legislative collaboration between LPA, and LSBEP is continuing; Drs. Reuther, VanGeffen, and Holcomb are attending meetings. LAMP opted out. She also mentioned that LPA is continuing last year’s budget for the lobbyist.

Professional Affairs: Drs. VanGeffen, and Niolon, Dr. VanGeffen shared that the president from an on-line company for licensing renewals was present during the June 5, 2020 meeting of the LSBEP. Discussed was the issue of licensing renewals. A sub-committee was appointed to review renewals. There will not be any new legislation reviewed until spring. Up for discussion is how SSPs should be licensed. Dr. Amy Henke is the new chair of the LSBEP. Dr. VanGeffen has spoken with Dr. Kelley Pears regarding his thoughts about separating, or not, the concerns of colleague assistance, i.e., should we have an area for personal assistance like recovery, and another for concerns specific to ethical/legal dilemmas. Dr. Zenah asked whether members

were able to pose questions to the Board now? It was clarified that while members can, the intent is to have a more formalized way of submitting questions in the near future.

Membership & Member Services: Dr. Randy Lemoine will continue as chair. The goal was stated as understanding our numbers and creating a better and more efficient way of tracking membership. There was discussion regarding the level of control the EC has over membership data, and its ownership versus that which Dr. Susan Brown appears to have. It was agreed that LPA needs better procedures on how to apply/join/rejoin the organization and, that all of this information should be accessible on the webpage.

Convention & Education: Dr. Raines announced that the committee will continue to provide CPDs since the convention was cancelled. She also stated that the committee will be meeting soon to discuss the Fall conference, although she felt there probably would not be a convention this Fall! Dr. Raines reminded the EC and members that there would be a July 24<sup>th</sup> webinar on Understanding and Treating COVID-19 Related Trauma in Healthcare Workers beginning at 10:30-noon.

Communication: Dr. Parkinson highlighted some of the major changes to the webpage as:  
\*he met with the education and convention committee members to clarify the procedures for issuing certificates of participation. Questioned whether LPA would need permission of presenters to maintain presentations on our website for an extended time. Would it be more efficient for presenters to pre-record for later posting, and having a time-line for how long members would be able to access.

\*he spoke with Dr. Stephanie Grant and while she shared her excitement about her role as Diversity Chair, she was unclear about LPA's expectations of her in the role. And finally, they discussed whether the full EC needed to approve the Diversity Statement?

Public Affairs: Dr. Chaney discussed his understanding of the combined chairs' position versus him as chair and Dr. Sonnier-Hillis as co-chair. He then gave the history of the sub-committees within this platform and discussed goals for each. One such goal being to "educate the public." He brought up the question of whether Dr. Stephanie Grant was assuming both roles as diversity chair and representative as APA Delegate?

Dr. Chaney reminded everyone of the upcoming events this committee is collaborating on. They were; a Men's Health Day on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Pennington campus, and a Girls Day Out on August 29, 2020. He also suggested producing a brochure for legislators on what is psychology, and what psychologists do. He mentioned his intent to gradually move out of the role and turn it over to another member. At this time, it's unclear whether Dr. Sonnier-Hillis will take over.

With on-going discussion about the Disaster Response Network, Dr. Chaney explained that the initial plan was to have regional contacts that would be placed after a disaster occurrence, however it was difficult to get volunteers in advance so, it was decided that the committee would serve more like an Ad Hoc committee responding to, or put into action whenever a disaster occurred.

## **EC AFTERNOON BREAK 12:28PM RETURNED AT 12:50**

### **New Business**

The EC discussed defining a quorum based on by-laws, confirming appointments for the new year, and reviewing/examining the organizational chart. Discussion by committees;

Legislative & Governmental Affairs: need to contact sub-committee members who are “liaison appointments.”

Professional Affairs: Drs. VanGeffen, and Niolon are continuing. The sub-committee on Ethics remains open. The colleague assistance program will be headed by Dr. Kelley Pears. All other sub-committees remain the same as written on Organizational Chart.

Public Affairs & Services: Dr. Chaney, maybe Dr. Sonnier-Hillis as co-chair. The sub-committees are; speaker’s bureau, diversity and disaster response network-open. Dr. Reuther stated that she will make the membership aware of all openings in order to solicit boarder involvement.

Membership & Member Services: Drs. Lemoine and Holcomb continuing. Dr. Holcomb again voiced concerns with the back and forth of making decisions and feels that one person should be sufficient. The Interest Groups all remain as outlined on the Organizational Chart.

Convention & Education: Drs. Nelson, and Raines continuing. The Ad Hoc Groups on event management will be led by Drs. VanGeffen, and Raines. The on-line academy remains open.

Communications: Dr. Parkinson chair, and Dr. Kunimatsa, co-chair. The Organizational Chart was completed with changes and a motion to be approved made by Dr. Coulter. *Motion accepted without dissent.*

### **New Directors:**

Dr. Parkinson moving to president-elect

Drs. Lemoine, Grant, Niolon, discussion to be continued. Hope to have vote by next EC meeting.

Organizational Development Report 2014-2019: presented by Drs. Nelson, and Costelloe; the executive summary discussed. Dr. Nelson concluded with several recommendations for stabilization:

- 1) Communication from leadership needs to be ore frequent and regular, and also upward communication from members needs to be enhanced.
- 2) Work harder on identity, and having a public presence within the larger society,
- 3) Leadership team should become more familiar with the various systems within an organization.

Treasurer: Dr. Holcomb took over for Dr. Costelloe. He requested securing a POB for LPA business. Dr. VanGeffen motioned to authorize \$250 for an annual fee for the purchase.

*Motion passed without dissent.* Dr. Holcomb shared some of the difficulties he encountered making the transition to treasurer and made the following suggestions:

- 1) we develop an internal process for using a single signature versus the three currently utilize,
- 2) we move to a digital platform,
- 3) create a system for transferring monies from checking to saving,
- 4) and, purchase a CD

He concluded his report by stating that membership dues, as well as the total budget had decreased as compared to last year.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32pm.

Submitted by  
Dr. ValaRay J Irvin