



# Michigan Psychological Association

SCIENCE • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

MICHIGAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

June, 2020



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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Michigan Psychological Association is to improve the mental health of the people of Michigan and the discipline of psychology by advancing the science, education and practice of psychology at all levels of training.

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESS**

LaVone Swanson, Executive Director

## 2019 MPA Year In Review

Early in 2019 the Leadership Team, President, President-elect, MPA's Federal Advocacy Coordinator, Chair of the Communications Committee, Chair of the Early Career Psychologists Committee and myself participated in the Annual APAPO Practice Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. We enjoyed three full days of networking with others from around the country, finishing with visits to our Legislators in Washington.

MPA's CE Program in February, on Ethics, was a sell-out. MPA's Annual Spring Conference was once again a huge success. Another Ethics program was held in September and the year ended with a great day-long program arranged by the Integrated Care Committee, the 2nd Annual Michigan Health Psychologist Symposium.

The MPA Board of Directors approved another balanced budget at the November Board meeting, making it seven years in a row now that MPA has balanced the budget allowing for a modest growth and profit.

Also, at the November Board Meeting, MPA said goodbye to three long-serving Board Members and noted a generational transition in MPA leadership. Three Board members, collectively representing over 50 years of institutional memory, retired from Board service:

- Dr. Dane Ver Merris, who chaired both the Regional Membership Groups committee and the task force that completed the recent revision of MPA's by-laws
- Dr. Kristin Sheridan, who served in every imaginable leadership position (some of them multiple times).
- Dr. Debra Smith, who, as MPA Treasurer, consistently helped ensure the achievement of our strategic goals of financial sustainability

At the same time, we welcome a new generation of leadership, including but not limited to incoming President-Elect Dr. Antú Segal and Treasurer Dr. Valencia Montgomery, who bring innovative ideas and vital energy to our Board's work on your behalf



## 2

## PRESIDENTS' CORNER



Joy Wolfe Ensor, PhD, 2020  
President



Antú Segal, PsyD, ABPP, 2020 President-  
Elect



Elissa Patterson, PhD, 2020  
Past President

MPA is a member-driven organization. In partnership with MPA's Executive Director and staff, the 20 voting members of our board, along with the members of our 14 committees and additional task forces, work tirelessly on a volunteer basis to fulfill the MPA mission and to achieve its end goals.

The year 2019 was one of remarkable growth and transition for MPA. We started the year with a board retreat at which we analyzed the Association's strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats (also known as SWOT analysis) and used this assessment to refine our operational goals and to focus our policy development and review process. We closed 2019 with another review and planning retreat. Here we honored three departing board members –Treasurer Dr. Deb Smith, Regional Groups Committee and By-Laws Revision Task Force chair Dr. Dane Ver Merris, and Past President (actually, past everything!) Dr. Kristin Sheridan, who represented a collective 50 years of MPA service – and we took note of a significant generational transition in MPA leadership.

What did we achieve in between? The list is long.

## STRATEGIC GOALS REVIEW

Our progress toward our strategic goals for financial viability can be found in the financial report elsewhere in this document. Great thanks are due to Past Treasurer Dr. Deb Smith for writing and implementing MPA's Financial Policy and Procedures and for ensuring that MPA maintains a sound financial footing. Our new Treasurer, Dr. Valencia Montgomery, brings to her role a wealth of experience in the business sector. Already Dr. Montgomery is identifying opportunities to strengthen our financial standing even further.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our goal for professional development is to deliver professional development opportunities that reflect member interests, address the need of members at various states in their careers (graduate student, early-mid and late-career psychologists) and are more accessible. In 2019, MPA presented four continuing education programs, with a total of 334 registered attendees and 21 CE credits offered (including nine in Ethics and two in Pain Management).

## MEMBERSHIP

Our goal for **MEMBERSHIP** is to experience consistent and sustainable growth in membership with implementation of specific strategies to increase and track membership. Membership initiatives are reported below, in the Membership Committee update.

## **MPA's Ends Statement:**

The Michigan Psychological Association membership represents the interests of psychologists and the mental health needs of the public by maintaining the highest standards of psychology through the promotion of professional excellence, leadership, scholarship, and advocacy/training.



### 3 ADVOCACY



Our goal for **ADVOCACY** is to support and enhance the profession of psychology and the health and welfare of all whom we serve. In 2019, MPA's advocacy engagement included the following:

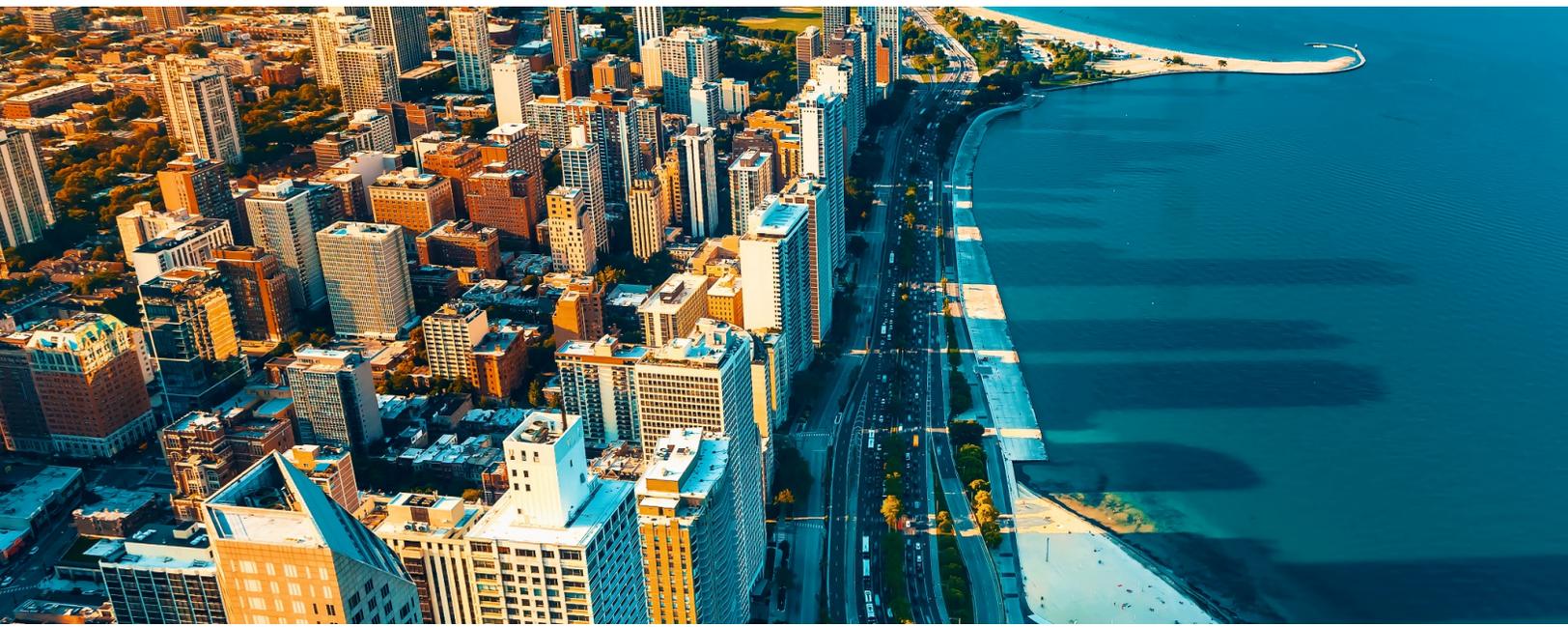
- Our Federal Advocacy Coordinator, Dr. Josephine Johnson, led MPA's efforts with our U.S. Senators and Members of Congress. In our annual visit to Capitol Hill, MPA's delegations met with Senator Gary Peters and with legislative aides to Senator Debbie Stabenow and Representatives Fred Upton, Dan Kildee and Debbie Dingell.
  - We asked our elected representatives for:
    - (1) co-sponsorship of the Medicare Mental Health Access Act (Medicare "physician" definition) and the Mental Health Telemedicine Expansion Act, and
    - (2) continued preservation of mental health and substance use disorder coverage through the Affordable Care Act. We also dropped off information about the closing of Argosy psychology programs.



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At the state level, MPA's board members and committees, aided by our Public Policy Consultant Dr. Judith Kovach and our MHPA lobbyist Sandi Jones, advocated for:

- Legislation that will bring Michigan into **PSYPACT**, the interstate compact that will permit Michigan psychologists to provide telehealth across state lines.
- Approval of psychologists as professionals who can **diagnose ADHD** for the purpose of IEP.s
- Amending language in Michigan's new **no-fault auto insurance law** that restricts duly licensed psychologists from providing needed neuropsychological services for motor vehicle related injuries.
- Banning **conversion therapy** in the treatment of LGBTQ+ youth.
- Supporting **access to mental health services** and quality of care by appropriately trained and credentialed mental health providers across the professions.
- Giving an MPA representative a seat at the table in the MDHHS **Suicide Prevention Commission**, per SB 2338 (now PA 177) of 2019. MPA nominated several highly qualified candidates to the Commission, and MDHHS tapped our own Adelle McLain Cadieux, PsyD to serve. Dr. Cadieux's term on the Commission expires on 04/02/2024.
- Supporting HB 4424-4425, which allows counties to establish county suicide fatality review task forces to gather data in an effort to address **risk factors for suicide**. Dr. Kovach and Ms. Jones provided clarifying information to State Reps. John Hoadley and Beth Griffin around this bill.
- Gathering information to inform a strategic plan for the MPA **RxP/Medical Psychology** work group.





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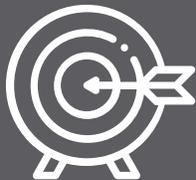
## COMMITTEE REPORTS



Brittany Barber Garcia, PhD,  
Chair

## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMITTEE (CYF)

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) ensures that the mental health needs of children, adolescents, and families receive attention from MPA. It interacts with and makes recommendations to the MPA Board, MPA committees, state organizations, health care organizations, and state legislature surrounding the mental health needs of youth and families.



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

2019 brought two new initiatives to the CYF Committee. First, we received approval from the MPA Board to pursue legislative or policy change to allow psychologists diagnosis of ADHD to be used by Michigan schools for provision of services in the school. Second, we made a commitment to provide updates to the membership via the quarterly Michigan Psychologist publication about hot topics regarding the mental health issues facing youth in this state.



### 2020 GOALS

Among other goals, our top priority is to work with MPA's legislative advocate and the appropriate legislators to request a bill be drafted to allow psychologists' diagnosis of ADHD to be accepted by schools for educational planning (by December, 2020).



Antú Segal, PsyD, ABPP,  
2019 Chair

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee works to increase communication with MPA members, and to increase MPA's brand visibility, by using various modes (i.e., social media, listserv) to provide information about what the MPA Board is doing to further psychology in Michigan.



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Increase Communication Committee members and add a graduate student (accomplished!)
- Create a MPA tagline (accomplished!)
- Revamp MPA Website (ongoing and accomplished in 2020!)
- Continue Member Spotlight (ongoing)



### 2020 GOALS

- New MPA Website proposal was approved by the Board
- New MPA tagline was approved by the Board
- Continued daily social media posts with more interaction from the MPA Board and Committees
- Ongoing Member Spotlight



Our goal for BRAND VISIBILITY is to improve MPA's optics in our various communities. As part of our efforts to refocus and encourage membership across professional levels we have chosen to freshen up our image and accentuate some of our primary missions.



## Michigan Psychological Association

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MPA has launched a new logo and website to bring in a new look for a new era in MPA! We encourage MPA members to follow MPA on social media:



@pureMPA



@michiganpsychologicalas  
socation



@michiganpsychologicalas  
socation



@michiganpsychologicalas  
sn

MPA strives to disseminate relevant psychological information to the membership in innovative ways! We look forward to interacting with you on the web.



## DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Committee is to engage MPA in advocacy and support for multi-cultural diversity and inclusion within mental health and the larger community, promote psychologists' involvement in social responsibility, and improve psychologists' professional competence.

Sarah Domoff, PhD, Chair

*"The MPA affirms that being LGBTQ represents normal human variation and does not imply or constitute a mental health disorder"*



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Created and passed a Statement Against Conversion Therapy, available for anyone to access on MPA's website.
- Doubled our committee membership from 3 members to 6 members (including two early career psychologists).
- Acquired funding/support for our biennial conference on Cultural Competence, a partnership with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.



### 2020 GOALS

- Identify diversity-related barriers to joining MPA and participating in MPA-sponsored programming via a program evaluation.
- Successfully re-apply for CEs for our postponed biennial conference on Cultural Competence, a partnership with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.
- Complete and seek MPA approval for two position statements for the public.



## EARLY CAREER PSYCHOLOGIST (ECP) COMMITTEE

The purpose of the ECP committee is to understand the needs of early career psychologists in the State of Michigan, as well as increase engagement with, and advocacy for, early career psychologists within the state.

Lisa Vroman-Stokes, PhD,  
Chair

## 3 EVENTS

GRAND RAPIDS

LANSING

ANN ARBOR



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Gained support and funding for the first annual ECP specific conference to be held in 2020 (now postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic).
- Held three networking mixers across the state in Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Ann Arbor to help facilitate the development of professional relationships and assess the needs of ECPs across the state.
- Increased committee membership, including one early career psychologist and two graduate fellows (total of 7 committee members).



### 2020 GOALS

- Continue planning the first annual ECP specific conference (to be held in spring 2021).
- Hold monthly virtual discussion forums on topics of interest for students and ECPs to continue engagement and advocacy efforts.
- Collaborate with MPAGS to launch a new mentorship initiative, which aims to connect graduate students, ECPs, and established psychologists throughout the state to facilitate mentorship relationships.



Alan Lewandowski, PhD,  
Chair

## ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Ethics Committee provides ethics education, outreach and leadership development. We educate MPA members, non-MPA Michigan psychologists, and the public to adjudicate ethical concerns for MPA members and the public as is necessary. We address concerns from the public regarding ethical practice of MPA members. We participate in planning CE programs to meet the Ethics requirements. We provide on-call service for MPA members.

Our Ethics Chair, Dr. Lewandowski has just completed a chapter on ethics in the ICU to be published in 2021 by Oxford Press and edited by Kirk Stucky and Jennifer Stevenson-Jutte titled *Psychology in Critical Care: An Emerging Role in Rehabilitation*.



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Promoted MPA by providing ethics consultations to members
- Promoted MPA by providing ethics consultations to the public
- Promoted MPA by providing ethics outreach and education
- Promote MPA by developing new leaders through ethics opportunities for from student members
- Promote MPA by revising previous and developing new guidelines for the ethical practice of psychology.
- Provide both a presence within MPA and to the public by participating in MPA conferences and providing ethical presentations. Committee members attend as many MPA conferences and MPA-sponsored events.



### 2020 GOALS

- Promote MPA by providing ethics consultations to MPA members, non-members, and the public
- Promote MPA by providing ethics outreach and education
- Promote MPA by developing new leaders through ethics opportunities for student members
- Promote MPA by revising previous and developing new guidelines for the ethical practice of psychology
- Provide both a presence within MPA and to the public by participating in MPA conferences and providing ethical presentations

Learn more about the ways the Ethic Committee supports MPA and works for Membership by clicking [here!](#)



Deb Smith, PsyD,  
2019 Chair

## FINANCE / INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Finance/Investment Committee aims to maintain MPA's fiscal viability by providing financial oversight and monitoring, investment planning and oversight, and strategies to increase sources of revenue for fiscal accountability.



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Reviewed and approved the Reserves Policy
- Reviewed the following policies and made recommendations to the following policies
  - Policy Development and Review
  - Financial Policy (edited draft)
  - Document Retention Policy (new)
  - Whistleblower Policy (new)
  - Dues Adjustment Process Policy
- Approved and sent to the full MPA Board the 2019 MPA Mid-year budget Revision
- Approved and sent to the full MPA Board a balanced budget for 2020



### 2020 GOALS

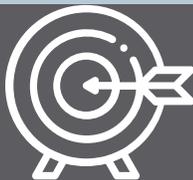
- Long Term Investment (increase)
- Short-Term Investment (increase)
- Fundraising
- Restricted Funds Policy Review
- Funding for Student Posters
- Funding for Scholarships
- Funding for Advocacy
- Budgets for Committees
- Audit

## INSURANCE COMMITTEE (IC)



The MPA Insurance Committee engages with insurance entities across the State of Michigan to advocate for psychology and the mental health needs of the public.

Louis Post, PhD, Chair



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Established a collaborative relationship with the Michigan Association of Health Plans to address issues of mutual interest to the two associations.
- Continued to work with BCBSM on issues related to patient access to care and to provider reimbursement.
  - BCBSM accepted MPA's contention that the PGIP is not, in its current form, working for participating psychologists, as most cannot gain Physician Organization membership, and thus cannot qualify for BCBSM incentive fee uplifts. BCBSM agreed to propose how to rectify this situation.
  - In response to MPA's objections BCBSM agreed to reduce the PGIP fee withhold to 5%, and to make this reduction effective for participating psychologists one year sooner than for physicians.
  - Began to engage with BCBSM regarding their process for retrospective reviews of behavioral health providers.
  - Committee members published multiple articles in BCBSM publication for participating providers, highlighting psychological interventions.



### 2020 GOALS

- Reduce the negative impact of the BCBSM PGIP on the incomes of participating psychologists who are not able to join the program, because they cannot gain membership to a Physician Organization.
- Seek to revise the process applied by BCBSM to retrospectively review behavioral health providers.
- Remove roadblocks to psychologists' joining the Priority Health panel.
- Address the level of reimbursement offered by Priority Health for mental health care.
- Improve access to mental health care for Priority Health covered individuals.
- Collaborate with the Michigan Association of Health Plans to advocate that the State of Michigan begin reimbursing psychologists for Health and Behavior codes.
- Advocate to the State of Michigan to apply an exception to the rule that only physicians can perform pre surgical evaluations, so that psychologists can conduct pre-bariatric surgery evaluations with Medicaid covered individuals.

## INSURANCE COMMITTEE (IC) (CONTINUED)



## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Recruited new committee members
- Initiated a collaborative process with the Integrated Care Committee
- Challenged Priority Health regarding infringement on the scope of practice of licensed psychologists.
- Submitted a position paper to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services addressing systemic shortcomings adversely impacting access to mental health care and to quality of care, for Medicaid covered individuals.
- Initiated planning for the 2020 Insurance Conference.
- Provided information and assistance to individual MPA members seeking help with insurance related questions and problems.
- Via e-blasts, communicated insurance related updates to entire membership.



## 2020 GOALS

- Address with insurers the implications of the anticipated increase in the baseline demand for mental health services, secondary to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, on patient access to care.





## INTEGRATED CARE COMMITTEE

The goal of the ICC is to improve the accessibility of quality psychological care for the residents living in Michigan who face health challenges.

Jennifer Peltzer-Jones, PsyD,  
RN, Chair



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Formation of a full committee consisting of 12 members from different regions and specialties, doubling 2018 Committee membership
- Led by the ICC, MPA adopted the very successful 2nd Annual Michigan Health Psychology Symposium
- Increased overall membership at 2nd Annual HP Symposium in partnership with the Membership Committee and hosted a Social Hour
- Engaged with the Michigan Association of Health Plans in regards to the work of Health Psychology, and presented at a Medical Directors Meeting regarding the benefits of Integrated Health Psychology
- Worked with the Insurance Committee to lobby for increased use of Health Behavior Code recognition with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Advocated for fair billing practices and against scope of practice issues experienced with Pre-Bariatric Surgery Evaluations
- Contributed to the MPA White Paper sent to the State advocating for positive changes in order to make competent behavioral healthcare more available for the residents of Michigan
- Participated in and supported specialty MPA projects (Pain Consortium)



### 2020 GOALS

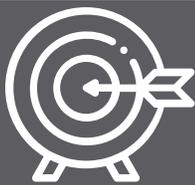
- Continued advocacy for Health Psychologists in Michigan by increasing Membership in order to accurately identify problems faced by Michigan HPs
- Sponsor the 3rd Annual Michigan Health Psychology Symposium
- Work with the Insurance Committee to establish the ownership and reimbursement for the HBAI Codes within Michigan Medicaid and Medicaid HMOs, thereby increasing access to Health Psychologists by some of our highest need patients
- Extend the partnership among the Insurance Committee and the Michigan Association of Health Plans
- Continue the advocacy for the role of HPs as independent practitioners with Michigan Medicaid Plans
- Continue to support health related specialty projects such as the Pain Consortium
- Supply health related education materials for patients and providers for MPA's website and social media sites



## LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Licensing Committee educates MPA members regarding licensure issues; monitors the Administrative Rules of the Michigan Board of Psychology; assists Michigan psychologists to meet Continuing Education requirements as defined by the Board of Psychology; monitors scope of practice changes for other professions which affect psychologists; and advocates for legislation to revise licensure regulations for Masters-level psychologists which clarifies the definition of Psychologist and promotes independent practice for masters-level training.

Jeffrey Andert, PhD, Chair



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Committee and MPA leadership have a positive, respected relationship with the Board of Psychology and LARA
- MPA leadership is routinely consulted by LARA regarding changes in rules and regulations impacting the practice of psychology in Michigan
- There are many examples of recommendations provided by MPA which have been implemented in administrative rules changes
- The MPA Board has a history of advocacy for licensure-related issues which promote the ethical practice of psychology with consideration of the mental health needs of the public
- MPA legislative advocacy staff consistently monitor legislative changes which may impact licensure for psychologists
- MPA was actively involved in the establishment and revisions to continuing education requirements for psychologists



### 2020 GOALS

- Monitor Administrative Rules changes by the Board of Psychology and advocate for the professional practice of psychology.
- Educate members regarding licensure issues in coordination with MPA public relations structure
- Educate members regarding Continuing Education requirements and assistance available through MPA for meeting requirements
- Explore the successful establishment of state associations in assuming responsibility for managing CE credits/requirements – e.g., Ohio Psychological Association
- Monitor scope of practice changes for other professions which impact psychologists
- Following the leadership of the MPA legislative advocacy staff, participate in the promotion of legislation which impacts licensure issues

## MASTERS COMMITTEE



To represent Limited Licensed Psychologists within the scope of the Michigan Psychological Association in order to maintain quality of psychological services and care for residents living in Michigan.

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Established the committee, now composed of 8 members representing various LLP groups
- Held committee meetings once every 2 months

Jeff Toepler, MA, Chair



### 2020 GOALS

- Monitor developments affecting LLPs' licensure and scope of practice at the state and national level
- A more diversified committee (cultural, geographical, areas of practice)
- Liaise with other MPA committees, perhaps have LLP presence on MPA committees, to interface and represent the LLP voice
- Find ways to connect with the 4400 LLPs in MI
- Have a link for the Master's Committee, to send out information to LLPs and increase visibility on the website
- Continue to connect with APA on accrediting master's degree graduate programs in psychology, and on their efforts to promulgate a model licensing law and uniform nomenclature for master's level psychological practitioners.
- Connect with graduate programs in MI to encourage membership and dispense information about licensing and legislation
- Update the position paper re: mental health codes and make recommendations re: public-versus-private practice disparity on supervision and unfair playing field with other master's practitioners



Molly Gabriel-Champine,  
PhD, Chair

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The MPA Membership Committee works to promote membership in the organization. We represent the interests of psychologists by:

- Advocating for providing benefits, services and opportunities of value to psychologists and coordinating with other committees within the organization for the provision of such.
- Advocating for organizational membership and participation by those engaged in the practice of psychology at various psychological practice licensure levels, or as academic professionals or graduate students in the field of psychology.

We represent the mental health needs of the public by:

- Developing and implementing membership policies that promote adherence to ethical standards for the profession and of practice in the community.



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

2019 brought a new chair to the Membership Committee. Initial work has focused on increasing and diversifying the membership of MPA. Specially, the Membership Committee has made it a goal to increase ECP and graduate student members. As part of a rebranding effort, outreach has focused on making MPA an organization that continues to take care of its existing membership, but also serves the needs of the next generation of psychologists. We are also trying to do a better job understanding who comprises our membership, by understanding membership data. This also serves to better recruit and retain members. We want to make sure we are continuing to be a meaningful organization for all members, regardless of years in practice.



### 2020 GOALS

Goals for the Membership Committee include increasing membership by 100 members. An outreach effort will be conducted in early 2020 where ECPs and graduate students, who have not been a member of MPA, are offered one free year of membership. The Membership Committee will also continue to strengthen its ties, and inter-committee work, with the Communications Committee, the Early Career Professionals Committee and Graduate Student Committees, ensuring that MPA is an organization of active and informed members.



## MICHIGAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION GRADUATE STUDENTS (MPAGS) COMMITTEE

MPAGS Committee represents the interests of students in psychology graduate programs throughout Michigan. The committee provides support and guidance for students at all stages of their graduate school career. MPAGS is passionate about involving students in learning practical skills as they advance in the field of psychology and prepare to become active members in professional psychology.

Megan Pejsa-Reitz, MS, Chair



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

MPAGS is pleased to have been able to connect more than five graduate student members to other MPA committees, as those students have been able to make meaningful contributions to MPA and learn from established psychologists. MPAGS has been fortunate for collaborations with the ECP and Membership Committees to enhance the student experience with MPA and increase overall MPA graduate student membership.



### 2020 GOALS

In collaboration with the ECP and Membership Committees, MPAGS is launching a mentorship program. The program aims to connect graduate students, early-career professionals, and established providers throughout the state of Michigan in a mission to facilitate meaningful mentorship relationships. MPAGS sees this as an opportunity to build valuable connections throughout Michigan, provide meaningful guidance to psychologists in the early stages of their careers, and encourage MPA member participation across various career stages.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE



The Program Committee facilitates Psychologists' professional excellence and training by sponsoring multiple seminars on topics essential to this goal during the calendar year. We facilitate financial viability of MPA by having financial gain from seminars.

Chris Sterling, PsyD, Chair



### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- On February 8, we welcomed the return of the APA Trust for a 6 CE event. Amanda Zelechowski, PhD presented a conference at Schoolcraft College, helping members earn needed ethics CEs and offering an opportunity to have a discount on malpractice insurance. Dr. Zelechowski was an excellent and knowledgeable presenter.
- On April 26, the Spring Annual Convention at the Henry Center welcomed Sylvia Naar, PhD, who presented on Motivational Interviewing - Practical Applications for Psychotherapy. The research-based presentation offered clinicians the opportunity to enhance their skills and gave them additional tools for helping their clients.
- We supported the return of the Annual Michigan Health Psychology Symposium on November 1. This was the first time that MPA held a seminar at Crystal Gardens in Howell, MI. Turnout was excellent, demonstrating that this site was accessible and convenient for many members. Student posters received very positive and interested feedback by those attending the symposium, which featured several presenters on topics pertinent to those practicing in a variety of health care settings.



### 2020 GOALS

Accessibility to quality educational experiences and required Continuing Education credits is consistently an ongoing Program Committee goal. Meeting APA standards helps guarantee a worthwhile investment of members time to an MPA Seminar. Michigan is the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest state with the 10<sup>th</sup> largest population by state. (Remember your grade school Geography). The COVID crisis quickly brought keeping accessibility into sharp focus. Bringing Zoom formatted seminars is an essential goal. The Spring Annual had a successful turnout, and brought positive feedback for MPA's first Zoom Seminar. Members will see an improving Zoom experience for MPA seminars. Remote accessibility, and building MPA's electronic library of education/seminars, will continue to grow and improve.



Dane Ver Merris, PHD,  
2019 Chair

## REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Regional Committee is to develop, support, and sustain regional subgroups of MPA within the State of Michigan, and by so doing to provide MPA members with opportunities for networking, peer consultation, mentoring, and CE credits near to members' place of residence or employment.

### Washtenaw/Ann Arbor Regional Group

- The Washtenaw Psychological Society is nearly 5 years old with over 300 members.
- Meetings are held monthly with social and CE components.
- Peer consultation groups for various interest areas (child, psychodynamic, health, OCD, social justice, integrative)
- Google Drive site for documents and resources, as well as an internal email list for questions and referrals
- Mentoring program for members beginning independent practice.
- Elizabeth Imbesi, PhD, has been the liaison with MPA and has assumed the role of MPA Regional Groups Chair as of 1/1/2020

### Grand Rapids Regional Group

- The Grand Rapids Area Psychological Association (GRAPA) is moving toward critical mass.
- 2-3 meetings a year with about 20 attendees, who have been enthusiastic about the group.
- Combination of social and CE
- Topics have included CE rules, CMH services, and others.
- Next meeting anticipated as Covid19 restrictions relax.
- Sylvia Malcore, PhD, accepted the role of liaison with MPA beginning in 2020.

### Rural Michigan Group

- This group, which is fairly informal, continues to meet approximately bi-monthly as a rural consultation group.

# APA Appointed Positions





Josephine Johnson, PhD

## MPA FEDERAL ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

The primary goal is to cultivate and strengthen relationships with each Member of Congress from Michigan. The Federal Advocacy Coordinator serves as an essential key contact on mental health issues before the Congress, and works to develop and maintain an effective grassroots network of psychologists within Michigan.



The American Psychological Association Services, Inc. Practice Leadership Conference (PLC) was held March 9-12. Drs. Johnson, Ensor, Patterson, Siegel, Vroman Stokes, and Mr. Swanson, attended. The theme of “Advocacy and Leadership” converged with major changes at APA. APA Services, Inc. replaced APAPO (American Psychological Association Practice Organization) as part of the implementation of a new strategic plan.

The APASI Government Relations Office is focusing much of its efforts toward passage of H.R. 884. Lead contacts in specific legislative districts were identified to make a direct appeal for co-sponsorship of H.R. 884, Medicare Mental Health Access Act, to allow psychologists to practice independently in all Medicare-covered treatment settings. Dr. Plummer contacted Rep. Kildee’s office and Drs. Patterson and Ensor contacted Rep. Dingell’s office. MPA was asked and agreed to send Representatives a letter asking for co-sponsorship of H.R. 884.

The APA named Katherine B. McGuire as its first chief advocacy Officer. She is responsible for implementing a unified, strategic vision for the association’s government relations efforts and coordinating APA’s broader advocacy initiatives in non-governmental sectors. She will also be responsible for growing psychology’s political action committee, Psychology PAC.

Dr. Johnson wrote an article for the Michigan Psychologist, entitled: PLC, PUNDITS, and POLITICS. It focused on political analyst, David Wasserman’s analysis of data gleaned from the 2016 Presidential and Michigan’s role in it. The article also addressed the need for psychologists to understand the growing impact of legislation on the profession and become more politically savvy about supporting candidates who support the important work that psychology and psychologists provide.

Perennial federal advocacy efforts focused on developing a grassroots legislative contact network. Key goals are to identify lead contacts for each House member, especially those on the targeted legislative committees. Ideally this should be a psychologist who lives and/or works in the district of the congressperson.

Advocacy Coordinator Goals



Enacting the Medicare Mental Health Access Act (H.R. 884/S. 2772), noted above., and support its inclusion in legislation to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

Avoiding the projected cuts in Medicare payments for psychological services in 2021.



Generate support for an increase in funding for the Graduate Psychological Education and Minority Fellowship Programs as part of the appropriation process.



Establishing Medicare coverage of audio-only telehealth services. Millions of Americans lack the broadband access needed to use audio-visual telehealth services, they should not be denied access to help during the current crisis.





## MPA TASK FORCES

### Pain Psychology Network

In 2019, the MPA Pain Psychology Network (chaired by Bruce Hillenberg, PhD) was formed as a subgroup of the Pain and Opioid Epidemic Task Force. The goal of this task force is to utilize psychological expertise to help address the pain and opioid crisis in Michigan. There are multiple initiatives in the pipeline, including a clinician-facing interactive Zoom event on November 18, 2020. The event is entitled “Virtual Grand Rounds: Pain Psychology Competencies.” Future events will include public-facing education events and pain resources on the MPA website.

### Policy and Procedure Task Force

In recognition of both the pending by-laws revision and a significant generational transition in MPA leadership, the Board approved the formation of a Policy and Procedure Task Force (chaired by Joy Wolfe Ensor, PhD) to codify the Association’s best practices and to provide an archive to guide MPA’s practices in the future. In 2019, the Board approved 12 newly written or revised policies. Another seven have been approved in 2020 to date, with more in draft form. The Task Force’s 2020 goal is to complete the MPA policy manual and to shift to assisting with their ongoing review.

### By-Laws Revision Task Force

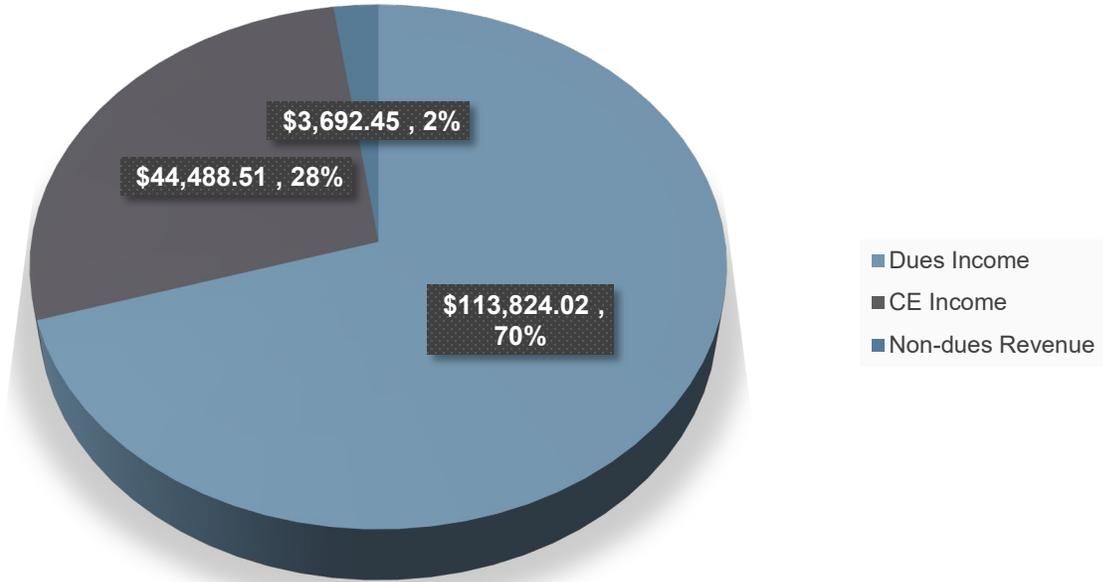
In 2019, this task force, chaired by Dane Ver Merris, PhD, completed a multi-year process of revising the MPA By-Laws. The MPA Board approved moving the by-laws forward to membership, who in turn voted overwhelmingly to accept them. The new by-laws are now in effect.

# FINANCIALS

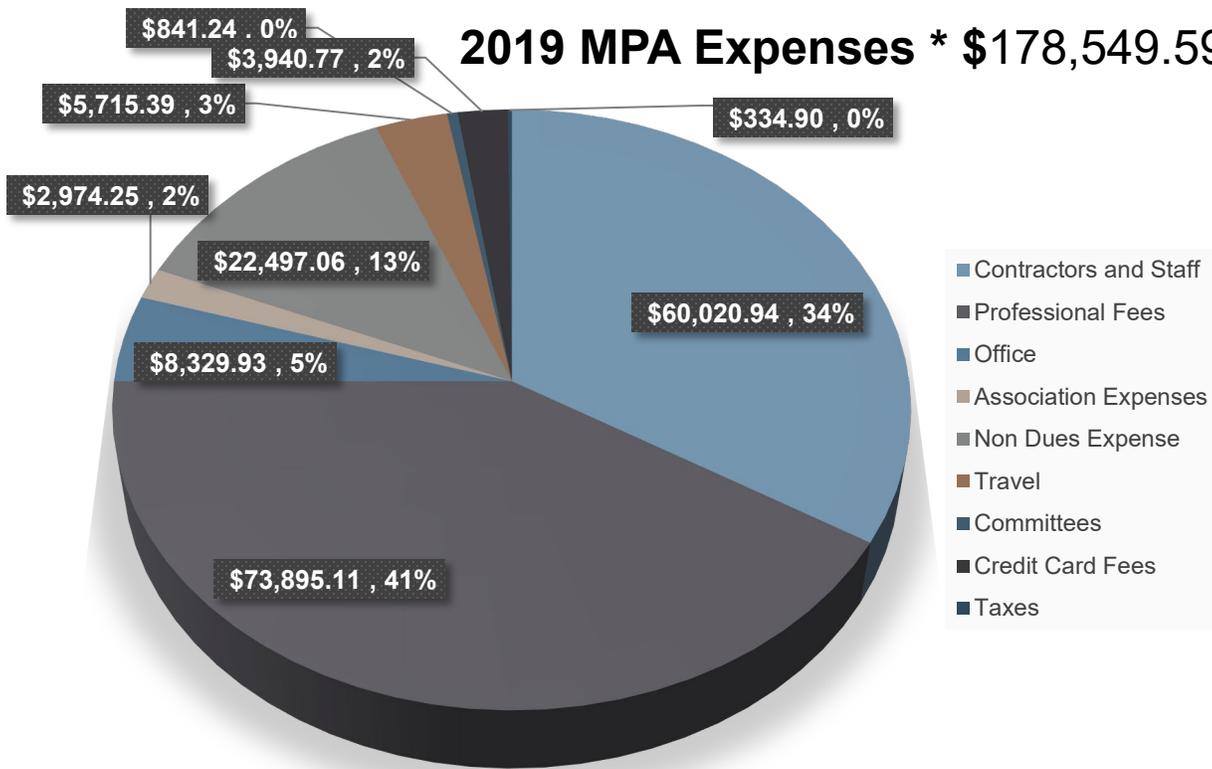
# 5



### 2019 MPA Revenue Total Revenue \* \$162,004.98



### 2019 MPA Expenses \* \$178,549.59



\* Note: \$22k not moved from Paypal account for dues renewals at the end of year....deposited in Jan. 2020

# 6

## MEMBERSHIP & EDUCATION

**646 TOTAL MEMBERS**

**93 NEW MEMBERS**

**14 ECPs**

**21 CE'S**

**4 CE PROGRAMS**

**334 ATTENDEES**

*How we do...*



*...what we do?*

# ETHICS COMMITTEE

1. Promote MPA by providing ethics consultations to members
  - a. The Committee meets monthly to educate MPA members, non-MPA Michigan psychologists, and the public to adjudicate ethical concerns for MPA members and the public as is necessary.
  - b. Although not required, inquiries of non-members of MPA are responded to as a means to educate and encourage callers to join MPA.
  - c. The Committee provides on-call consultations for MPA members, psychologists and the public.
    - i. Many inquiries are placed on the monthly agenda and the entire Committee provides real-time consultation to the psychologist or public during the monthly ethics meeting in Lansing.
    - ii. The Committee supports membership by following up each non-MPA telephone contact by encouraging the caller to join MPA.
2. Promote MPA by providing ethics consultations to the public
  - a. The Committee addresses ways of being more publicly relevant to the practice of psychology in Michigan, Michigan licensed psychologists, and as a means to endorse and increase MPA membership. By providing guidance to non-psychologist individuals (with concerns about MPA members), academic institutions, government agencies, hospitals, and both medical and mental health groups, the committee increases the relevancy of MPA to those within and outside of the discipline of psychology.
  - b. The committee is available to communicate with academic institutions and hospital HR and/or legal departments, and state agencies about psychological ethics and ethical guidelines that can be used for institutional education and risk management.
3. Promote MPA by providing ethics outreach and education
  - a. The Ethics Committee continues to actively reach out and be available to other agencies, groups, and professionals and offers assistance as needed. The purpose of these activities is to promote the ethics committee as an expert group within MPA, thereby promoting MPA to the public as the psychological authority.
  - b. To this end, the Ethics Committee continues to establish and revise a series of opinions in the form of ethical standards that address common or important concerns and dilemmas that are not addressed by Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL), yet affect psychological practice directly or indirectly. These Ethical Standards of Practice are authored by committee members and are available through the MPA website to provide guidance to MPA members and clarification for the public regarding the above "gray" areas.
  - c. ESOPs provide a foundation upon which the Ethics Committee represents MPA as *the* organization representing the largest number of psychologists in Michigan, and as a result, an expert authority on psychological matters in general and those specific to our state. One ESOP regarding Third Party Observation was authored by Dr. Lewandowski and was later published in a peer reviewed psychology journal.

- d. The TPO ESOP has been offered as evidence and accepted as an authoritative document in court.
    - i. The TPO document assisted in a civil lawsuit in Traverse City.
    - ii. The TPO document assisted in a 2019 Amicus Brief in Michigan to preclude the use of third parties that compromise the integrity of psychological evaluations. The Ethics Committee advocated against TPO and supported MPA's Board of Directors to financially fund this Amicus Brief.
  - e. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Lewandowski developed a consultation relationship with the Fraud Division of the Office of the Attorney General (AG). The Ethics Committee has had several face-to-face meetings and continues to provide expert opinion to the AG and its representatives on questions or concerns about psychological matters. (In 2018-2019 the Ethics Committee assisted in the case of fraud in the Upper Peninsula which ultimately resulted in arrest and prosecution of a limited license psychologist who defrauded the State of Michigan of \$1.5 M, misrepresented his credentials, engaged in dual relationships, sexual exploitation of patients, selling illegal drugs, and lack of record keeping. Currently the Committee is assisting in a large fraudulent billing case.)
  - f. The Ethics Committee remains available to speak to universities, colleges on ethics issues and will be available to take part in the upcoming 2021 MPA Ethics Conference.
4. Promote MPA by developing new leaders through ethics opportunities for from student members.
    - a. The Ethics Committee developed a non-voting doctoral student member position to develop new psychologists in early leadership.
    - b. Olivia Gratz, M.S., an MPA student member and doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology is completing her tenure in the position as assistant member for the 2019-2020 calendar year.
    - c. Ms. Gratz's replacement is now being sought and a final candidate for that position is under consideration.
  5. Promote MPA by revising previous and developing new guidelines for the ethical practice of psychology.
    - a. Committee members will continue to revise committee bylaws, as the current document is dated (2006). The outdated bylaws have some risk management concerns.
    - b. The Committee continues to establish guidelines and clarification for ethical standards of practice (ESOPs) not addressed by MCL.
  6. Provide both a presence within MPA and to the public by participating in MPA conferences and providing ethical presentations. Committee members attend as many MPA conferences and MPA-sponsored events.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**President**  
Joy Wolfe Ensor, PhD

**FUN FACT:**  
"I am a dedicated amateur classical pianist and have been taking lessons since age 6."



**President Elect**  
Antú Segal, PsyD, ABPP

**FUN FACT:**  
"I was born in Argentina and I am a native Spanish speaker."



**Past President**  
Elissa Patterson, PhD

**FUN FACT:**  
"In graduate school I was the captain of an antique wooden motor boat called Red Beard's Raven."



**Treasurer**  
Valencia L. Montgomery, PsyD

**FUN FACT:**  
"I am a classically trained dancer and love to travel. Performed during the 2000 Sydney Olympics."



**Secretary**  
Cynthia Rodriguez, PhD



**Executive Director**  
LaVone Swanson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



**APA Council Representative**  
Susan Silk, PhD



**Children and Families Committee**  
Brittany Barber-Garcia, PhD

**FUN FACT:**  
"After completing all of my higher education outside of the state, I moved back to MI and now live within 100 feet from where I grew up."



**Communications Committee**  
Christina M. Limke, PhD

**FUN FACT:**  
"I studied abroad in Florence and speak Italian."



**Diversity, Inclusion and Social Responsibility Committee**

Sarah Domoff, PhD  
**FUN FACT:**  
"I volunteer at the local animal shelter and have adopted my first dog (she was my foster fail)!"



**Early Career Psychologists Committee (ECPC)**  
Lisa Vroman-Stokes, PhD



**Ethics Committee**  
Alan Lewandowski, PhD



**Federal Advocacy Committee**  
Josephine Johnson, PhD



**Finance Committee**  
Valencia L. Montgomery, PsyD



**Insurance Committee**  
Louis Post, PhD



**Integrated Care Committee**  
Jennifer Peltzer-Jones, PsyD, RN

**FUN FACT:**  
*"I have a full tiki bar and a beach in my backyard"*



**Licensure Committee**  
Jeffrey Andert, PhD



**MPA Graduate Students 2019-2020**  
Megan Pejisa-Reitz, MS

**FUN FACT:**  
*"I enjoy the outdoors - I am an avid hiker, camper, and kayaker"*



**MPA Graduate Students 2020-2021**  
Kelsey Hill, BA

**FUN FACT:**  
*"I love to travel and I've been able to visit 12 different countries in the past 8 years."*



**Membership Committee**  
Molly E. Gabriel-Champine, PhD

**FUN FACT:**  
*I am a huge fan of Michigan Football and Diet Pepsi (together, separately, I'll take either).*



**Program Committee**  
Chris Sterling, PsyD



**Regional Membership Groups**  
Elizabeth Imbesi, PhD

**FUN FACT:**  
*"I started studying karate last year (tang soo do) and recently earned my green belt."*



**Master's Committee**  
Jeff Toepler, MA

Annual Report layout and graphic design by  
Valencia L. Montgomery, PsyD



**Michigan  
Psychological  
Association**

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