

MINUTES OF THE FALL 2015 MEETING OF
NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
AREA II COUNCIL OF THE
AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Saturday, October 10, 2015

Marriott New York - LaGuardia Airport
East Elmhurst, New York

In Attendance:

Seeth Vivek, M.D., President
Jeffrey Borenstein, M.D., Vice President
Ramaswamy Viswanathan, M.D., Secretary
Russell Denea, M.D., Treasurer
Glenn Martin, M.D., Past President
Vivian Pender, M.D., Area II Trustee
Seth Stein, Esq., Executive Director

Members: Drs. Ahmed, Altesman, Amyot, Bark, Bodic, Carmody, Chandra, Chen, Chester, Cross, Denea, Feld, Gennaro, Herman, Janardhanan, Koss, Kroplick, Kunkel, Leli, Lindenmayer, Munnangi, Neal, Nininger, Pender, Perkins, Perlman, Ponieman, Ramamurthy, Ramani, Russakoff, Safin, Sahu, Shakibaie-Smith, Shapiro, Sinha, Sullivan, Thomas, Torres, Varon, Vito, Weinstein, Weisbrot, Wilson

Staff: Jackie Cast, Rachel Fernbach, Esq., Donna Gajda, Richard Gallo, Linda Majowka, Jamie Papapetros, Annette Patterson, Megan Rogers

Guests: Stephanie Auditore, Director of Member Product Development, Engagement & Portfolio Management, American Psychiatric Association, Jon Fanning, Chief of Membership & RFM-ECP Officer, American Psychiatric Association, Ann-Marie Sullivan, M.D., Commissioner, NYS Office of Mental Health

1. Dr. Vivek called the meeting to order.

2. Presentation of Ronald Shellow Award to Herbert Peyser, M.D.

Dr. Vivek presented the Ronald A. Shellow Award to the family of Herbert Peyser, M.D. in recognition of Dr. Peyser's longstanding commitment and service to the APA and NYSPA. The Shellow Award recognizes members of the Assembly who have served the Assembly far beyond general standards.

3. Secretary's Report – Ramaswamy Viswanathan, M.D.

a) Dr. Viswanathan presented minutes from the March 21, 2015 meeting of the NYSPA Council. A Motion to Accept the minutes was Approved.

b) Dr. Viswanathan reported that the Brooklyn Psychiatric Society Second Annual 5K Run was very successful, with 35 people attending, including 19 runners.

4. Assembly Update – Glenn Martin, M.D.

Dr. Martin, Assembly Speaker, provided an update on some logistical changes and improvements that will be implemented at the upcoming Assembly meeting at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. Dr. Martin also highlighted some planned agenda items for the meeting.

5. President's Report – Seeth Vivek, M.D.

Dr. Vivek noted that NYSPA elections will be held this coming March and that the NYSPA Nominating Committee is currently comprised of Glenn Martin, M.D., Marvin Koss, M.D., Marlin Mattson, M.D., and Anil Thomas, M.D. An additional member of the Committee must be elected by the Council and James Nininger, M.D., has been nominated for that position. A Motion to elect James Nininger, M.D. as a member of the NYSPA Nominating Committee was Approved. Dr. Vivek stated that if anyone is interested in being nominated for an officer position, please contact a member of the Committee.

6. Treasurer's Report – Russell Denea, M.D.

Dr. Denea presented the NYSPA 2016 Budget Proposal, which will be voted on by the Council in March. Dr. Denea presented financial statements for January-September, 2015, along with a comparison to the same period for 2014 and 2013. A Motion to Accept the financial statements was Approved.

7. NYSP-PAC Report

Mr. Stein presented the NYSP-PAC financial statement for January-September 2015, 2014 and 2013 and the list of contributors so far this year. He encouraged all Council members and guests to contribute to the PAC if they hadn't already done so. Dr. Nininger reminded the Council to also consider contributing to the APA-PAC.

8. OMH Report - Ann Sullivan, M.D.

Ann Sullivan, M.D., OMH Commissioner, addressed the Council and provided an update on current issues, including (i) the transition of all individuals with serious and persistent mental illness into Medicaid as of 10/1/15; (ii) closure of more than 400 inpatient beds across the state and related community reinvestment activities; and (iii) a new first psychosis treatment program. Dr. Sullivan then answered questions from the Council.

9. Area II Trustee's Report – Vivian Pender, M.D.

- a) James Nininger, M.D., provided the Area II Trustee's Report since Dr. Pender could not be present.
- b) The Board of Trustees has formed several new Ad Hoc work groups, including Involvement with Social Issues, Revising the Ethics Annotations and Telepsychiatry.
- c) The APA strongly supports the reintroduced mental health reform bill (H.R. 2646) and has been asked by the sponsors to provide a formal letter of support.
- d) The Board of Trustees authorized the APA to sign a lease for new corporate headquarters located at 800 Maine Avenue, SW in Washington, DC. The lease includes an option to purchase in the future.
- e) APA staff is working on a draft policy on collaborative care in conjunction with the Workgroup on Integrated Care.
- f) APA membership has seen a 4.4% increase in total members, with a 3.1% increase in dues paying members, a 4.6% increase in RFMs, a 2.3% increase in ECPs and a 26.6% increase in international membership.
- g) The APA is exploring the creation of a new open access journal to provide a platform for increased content to members at low risk and cost and to offer a broader reach among the specialty.

10. Membership Committee – James Nininger, M.D.

Dr. Nininger reported that the Committee plans to visit residency programs and district branches around the State with the goal of achieving 100% participation. The Committee also hopes to encourage membership among psychiatrists working in state hospitals, VA hospitals and prisons. The Committee will follow up on national membership initiatives and will communicate via listserv and conference calls. Finally, Dr. Nininger encouraged anyone interested in joining the Committee or learning more about membership activities to contact him.

11. APA Group Discount Proposal

Jon Fanning, APA Chief Membership and RFM-ECP Officer, and Stephanie Auditore, APA Director of Member Product Development, provided an overview of the new APA and DB Group Discount Proposals and answered questions from the Council.

12. Vice-President's Report – Jeffrey Borenstein, M.D.

Dr. Borenstein provided an update on the committee working to improve communication between the Assembly and the American Psychiatric Foundation. The goal of the committee, which will sunset at the end of this year, is to facilitate information sharing between the APA Area Councils and the Foundation. The committee hopes to identify ambassadors from each area to provide updates on local activities and initiatives and to provide feedback.

13. Legislative Report – Barry Perlman, M.D. and Richard Gallo

a) Dr. Perlman provided an update on the following federal legislative issues: (i) H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, which has been reintroduced in the House; (ii) APA's concerns regarding the proposed merger of several large health insurance carriers; (iii) the new Medicare Merit-Based Incentive Payment System; and (iv) an update on national scope of practice efforts.

b) Mr. Gallo provided a summary of the 2015 legislative session, including NYSPA's efforts with regard to psychology prescribing and other scope of practice bills, prescriber prevails in Medicaid Managed Care, efforts to raise the age of criminal responsibility to eighteen years of age and prohibition of sexual orientation change efforts in individuals under 18.

c) Mr. Gallo provided an update on state legislative issues, including parity implementation efforts, malpractice reform efforts, the new telemedicine bill, and the Veteran's Mental Health Primary Care Training Initiative.

14. NYSPA Scientific Paper Contest

Dr. Vivek announced the winners of the 7th Annual NYSPA Scientific Paper Contest:

1st place

Cognitive Impairment in Schizophrenia: Interplay of BDNF and Childhood trauma? A review of literature
Geetanjali Sahu, MBBS, Maimonides Medical Center

2nd place

Spontaneous Movement Disorders in First Episode Schizophrenia
Houssam Raai, MD, Bronx Lebanon

3rd place

Is Olanzapine effective in treatment of anorexia nervosa? A review article
Maanvi Kumar, MD, Jamaica Hospital

Dr. Sahu, the First Place winner, presented a summary of her paper. Dr. Vivek thanked contest judges Drs. Satloff and Denea and NYSPA staff for their assistance. Dr. Viswanathan announced that the first annual NYSPA poster contest will be held in Spring 2016 and more information will be shared soon.

15. Executive Director's Report – Seth Stein, Esq.

a) Mr. Stein reported on a letter NYSPA recently sent to the New York State Justice Center expressing members' concerns with the way Justice Center investigations are conducted. Issues addressed include (i) assertions by Justice Center investigators that individuals being questioned are not entitled to legal counsel; (ii) suggested procedure for investigations that involve clinical issues regarding psychiatric care and treatment; and (iii) development of a possible protocol for responding to multiple false reports and/or repeated baseless complaints. The Council discussed possible solutions and strategies.

b) Mr. Stein provided an update the new telemedicine bill, which goes into effect on January 1, 2016 and mandates coverage for telemedicine under private insurance plans, but not under government health plans, self-insured plans or union plans. Mr. Stein addressed some current challenges with the bill as currently written and noted that NYSPA is seeking guidance from state and federal regulators on implementation of the statute. NYSPA is planning to host a webinar to address practice, billing and ethical issues related to the practice of telemedicine.

16. Action Papers – Marvin Koss, M.D.

Dr. Koss reported that there are 21 action papers and 17 position statements that will be reviewed at the upcoming Assembly meeting. The Council voted to endorse "Making Access to Treatment for Erectile Disorder Available Under Medicare."

17. Public Psychiatry – Jean-Pierre Lindenmayer

Dr. Lindenmayer reported that the Committee discussed (i) updates on Medicaid redesign; (ii) an interest in reviving regular meetings between NYSPA and the OMH Commissioner and (iii) ways to increase Committee membership.

18. Economic Affairs – L. Mark Russakoff, M.D.

Dr. Russakoff thanked Ellen Jaffe, APA staff, for attending the meeting and for her valued contributions. The Committee discussed: (i) pharmacy benefit manager issues; (ii) issues regarding the transition to ICD-10; and (iii) CPT coding and billing issues.

19. Early Career Psychiatrists - Anil Thomas, M.D.

Dr. Thomas reported that the Committee has now created a listserv and hopes to increase its activities and hold regular conference calls.

20. Presidents and Presidents-Elect – Barbara Ponieman, M.D.

Dr. Ponieman reported that the Committee discussed the following items: (i) membership recruitment and engagement; (ii) handling of ethics complaints; (iii) the new APA group discount proposal and (iv) issues relating to the Justice Center.

21. MSSNY Committee on Psychiatry and Addiction – Edmond Amyot, M.D.

Dr. Amyot reported that the Committee discussed the potential consolidation between OMH and OASAS and issues relating to electronic prescribing and the I-STOP prescription monitoring program.

22. Public Affairs Committee – C. Deborah Cross, M.D.

Dr. Cross reported that five district branches were represented at the meeting. The Committee discussed the issue of gun violence and mental health and how to change perceptions and influence public debate on the issue.

23. Resident and Fellow Member Committee – Mirabela Bodic, M.D.

Dr. Bodic reported that the Committee discussed (i) the recent increase in the number of RFMs who voted in APA national elections; (ii) possible collaboration with international psychiatry residents; (iii) current action papers and (iv) the RFM listserv recently established by the APA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramaswamy Viswanathan, M.D., Secretary