

MINUTES OF THE FALL 2014 MEETING OF
NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
AREA II COUNCIL OF THE
AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Saturday, October 25, 2014

Marriott New York - LaGuardia Airport
East Elmhurst, New York

In Attendance:

Seeth Vivek, M.D., President
Jeffery 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. Altesman, Amyot, Bark, Bayrakdarian, Borenstein, Brody, Chester, Cross, Denea, Dowling, Engel, Gennaro, Goldblum, Gordon, Herman, Kessler, Koss, Kunkel, Licciardi, Mattson, Munnangi, Neal, Nininger, Panahon, Pender, Perlman, Peyser, Poniemani, Rajanna, Ramani, Rodriquez-Tellez, Russakoff, Satloff, Thomas, Varon, Vito, Weinstein, Wilson

Staff: Rachel Fernbach, Esq., Donna Gajda, Richard Gallo, Linda Majowka, Meagan O'Toole, J.D., Jamie Papapetros, Annette Patterson, Megan Rogers

Guests: Jenny Boyer, M.D., Speaker of the APA Assembly, Kathleen King, American Professional Agency, Saul Levin, M.D., APA CEO & Medical Director, Sam Muszynski, Esq., APA Director of Healthcare Systems & Financing, Cindy Tunney, American Professional Agency

1. Dr. Vivek called the meeting to order and welcomed guests Jenny Boyer, Speaker of the APA Assembly, Kathleen King, American Professional Agency, Saul Levin, M.D., APA CEO & Medical Director, Sam Muszynski, Esq., APA Director of Healthcare Systems & Financing, and Cindy Tunney, American Professional Agency.
2. Dr. Vivek introduced Cindy Tunney from APA, Inc., the APA-endorsed malpractice insurance company. Ms. Tunney provided an update on APA, Inc. activities and products.
3. Chair's Report – Seeth Vivek, M.D.
 - a) Dr. Vivek reminded Council and Committee members to please return their Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms.

- b) Dr. Vivek presented Glenn Martin, M.D., NYSPA Immediate Past President, with a plaque in recognition of his service as NYSPA President. Dr. Vivek noted that Dr. Martin continues to serve the APA as Speaker-Elect of the APA Assembly. Dr. Martin thanked the Council for the honor.
- c) Dr. Vivek awarded James Nininger, M.D., Immediate Past Area II Trustee, with a plaque recognizing his service as Area II Trustee. Dr. Vivek noted that Dr. Nininger continues to serve as a member of the APA Practice Guidelines Committee and a member of the Board of Trustees of the APA Foundation. Dr. Nininger thanked the Council for the honor.

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

Dr. Viswanathan presented minutes from the March 22, 2014 meeting of the NYSPA Council. A Motion to Accept the minutes with minor clarifications was Approved.

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

Dr. Denea presented the financial statements for January-September, 2014, along with a comparison to the same period for 2013 and 2012. The Council discussed a proposed dues increase for 2016. A Motion to Accept the financial statements was Approved.

6. NYSPA Budget – Aaron Satloff, M.D.

Dr. Satloff presented the NYSPA 2015 Budget Proposal, which will be voted on by Council at its March meeting.

7. Jenny Boyer, M.D., Speaker of the APA Assembly, provided an update on Assembly affairs, including some newly established work groups. Dr. Boyer announced some agenda items for the upcoming November Assembly meeting.

8. NYSP-PAC Report – Edward Gordon, M.D.

Dr. Gordon presented the NYSP-PAC financial statement for January-September 2014, 2013 and 2012 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. The Council discussed strategies for increasing participation in the PAC.

9. OMH Commissioner, Ann Sullivan, M.D., addressed the Council and provided an overview of issues and challenges currently facing OMH, including the transfer of individuals with serious and persistent mental illness into managed care health and recovery plans (HARPSs), parity concerns regarding the HARPS, implementation of the delivery system reform incentive payment program, implementation of a telepsychiatry program in OMH licensed clinics across

the state, clinic operations issues and housing issues. Dr. Sullivan then answered questions from the Council.

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

Dr. Pender reported that she has attended two meetings of the Board of Trustees to date. She reported that the Board is working on a strategic planning initiative and plans to prepare a member survey to gather input on member concerns. Dr. Pender noted that there is continued growth in APA membership. Dr. Pender also reported that the APA has hired Rodger Currie as its new Director of Government Relations. Mr. Currie, an attorney, possesses extensive experience on Capitol Hill and in the health care arena.

11. Saul Levin, M.D., APA CEO and Medical Director, addressed the Council and discussed APA initiatives including scope of practice and psychology prescribing, changes in the Medicaid program, mental health issues relating to the Ebola virus, and strategic planning. Dr. Levin announced some new APA staff hires, including Jason Young, Director of Communications, Kristin Kroeger, Chief of Allied and External Partnerships, and Jon Fanning, Chief RFM Officer.

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

- a) Dr. Perlman noted that this is an election year. He discussed scope of practice issues, including efforts by psychologists in New York to achieve prescribing privileges. Dr. Perlman noted that New York is unique in that it is the only state with an express statutory prohibition against psychology prescribing. Finally, Dr. Perlman acknowledged all those who have written articles for the Behavioral Health News NYSPA Report. He appreciates the effort and expertise shared and encourages anyone interested in authoring a column to let him know.
- b) Mr. Gallo discussed election year issues. He noted that opposing psychology prescribing is NYSPA's top legislative priority this year and that we need to marshal all our resources. Mr. Gallo provided an update on the Veterans Mental Health Training Initiative (VMHTI), a \$165,000 state grant to provide training on veterans mental health issues to primary care providers. The first training session has been scheduled for November 14, 2014 at Albany Medical Center.

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

- a) Mr. Stein highlighted all the activities and events taking place at the LaGuardia Marriott today, including two lectures on mandatory electronic prescribing, an electronic prescribing vendor fair and a presentation on maintenance of certification. Additional educational efforts in connection with electronic prescribing include individual vendor presentations to be made available via webinar and a vendor questionnaire that will be posted on the NYSPA website.

- b) Mr. Stein provided an update on NYSPA opposition to psychology prescribing in New York State. NYSPA has approached a contract lobbyist about possible representation if the need arises. Mr. Stein plans to invite the RFM and ECP committees to take the lead in legislative advocacy on this issue and to meet with legislators in early 2015 to address this very serious issues.
- c) Mr. Stein provided an update on the VMHTI. He encouraged all district branches to consider hosting a training session for internal medicine, family practice medicine and emergency medicine physicians in their area. A set of slides and honoraria will be made available. NYSPA is working to identify possible speakers.
- d) Mr. Stein reported that NYSPA plans to collaborate with the APA on a packet of materials that members will be able to utilize to request information from insurance carriers in connection with medical necessity reviews and service denials.
- e) NYSPA plans to advocate with insurance carriers to eliminate prior authorization requirements or other restrictions on the prescription of buprenorphine, a medication used to relieve withdrawal symptoms.

14. NYSPA Scientific Paper Contest – Seeth Vivek, M.D.

Dr. Vivek reported that the contest, currently in its sixth year, received 14 entries this year. He thanked Drs. Denea and Satloff for serving as judges. Dr. Vivek announced the winners of the contest:

First Place

Kshamta Bhatt, M.D., Jamaica Hospital

“Is memantine effective in improving the quality of life in patients with mild-to-severe Alzheimer’s disease: a Review”

Second Place

Linda Drozdowicz, M.D., NYU

“Psychiatric Adverse Effects of Pediatric Corticosteroid Use”

Third Place

Mohammad Tavakkoli, M.D., Westchester Medical Center

“Caring for Persons with Early Childhood Trauma, PTSD, and HIV: A Curriculum for Clinicians”

Dr. Bhatt, the First Place winner, presented a summary of her paper.

15. Assembly Update and Action Papers

- a) Marvin Koss, M.D., member of the Assembly Rules Committee, presented the Draft Reference Committee Rosters for the upcoming Assembly meeting. The Council

discussed the Proposed Position Statement on Firearm Access, Acts of Violence and Relationship to Mental Illness and Mental Health Services. Dr. Koss reported on additional items that will be reviewed by the Assembly in November and announced that there will be an Assembly Reception on Saturday evening at the J.W. Marriott.

- b) Jeffrey Borenstein, M.D., Chair of the Assembly Public Affairs Workgroup, reported that the Assembly is hoping to increase collaboration between the Assembly and the APA Foundation. The Workgroup will meet at the November Assembly meeting and plans to hold conference calls throughout the year. Dr. Borenstein reported that the Workgroup is seeking an Area II representative and to please let him know if you or anyone you know is interested in serving.

16. Addiction Committee – Jeffrey Selzer, M.D.

Dr. Selzer reported that the Committee discussed: (i) insurance challenges particularly with respect to Buprenorphine prescribing; (ii) required training for physicians prescribing opioids; (iii) medical staff applications that improperly request information about past psychiatric or medical conditions. The committee continues to seek wider representation from the upstate area.

17. Children and Adolescents Committee – Lenore Engel, M.D.

Dr. Engel reported that the Committee discussed: (i) the problematic practice of insurance carriers in limiting pill quantities and improperly requiring pill splitting; (ii) ways to better identify children who would benefit from referral to state agencies, including OMH, OASAS and OPWDD; (ii) concerns regarding I-STOP.

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

Dr. Russakoff reported that the Committee discussed: (i) National Government Services' recent approval of TMS for the treatment of refractory depression; (ii) coverage for suboxone; (iii) increased problems with pharmacy benefit managers and (iv) parity in reimbursement rates. Dr. Russakoff announced that James Nininger, M.D. has agreed to serve on the MSSNY Interspecialty Committee to replace Glenn Martin, M.D., who will be stepping down.

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

Dr. Thomas reported that the Committee's recent advocacy event went very well and was well attended. The Committee hopes to create an ECP listserv.

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

Dr. Cross reported that the Committee discussed the recent hiring of Jason Young as the new APA Director of Communications. The Committee also discussed: (i) possible training for psychiatrists on how to interact with members of the media; (ii) a possible panel discussion on

vicarious trauma among members of the media; (iii) recent news stories that implicate mental health issues.

21. Public Psychiatry Committee – Edmund Amyot, M.D.

Dr. Amyot reported that the Committee hopes to recruit more state psychiatrists as members of the Committee.

22. MSSNY Committee on Psychiatric Medicine - Edmund Amyot, M.D.

Dr. Amyot reported that the Committee discussed a proposed state requirement to complete CME on the treatment of substance abuse. The Committee does not oppose these requirements but would like to have input in their development.

23. Resident and Fellow Member Committee – Kandace Licciardi, M.D.

Dr. Licciardi reported on the Committee's recent advocacy training event and today's maintenance of certification presentation. Both of these events were co-sponsored by the ECP Committee. Dr. Licciardi reported that the RFM listserv is going well and the Committee continues to use social media to reach out to RFMs.

24. New Business

- a) Glenn Martin, M.D. announced that NYSPA will be co-sponsoring a conference this December on correctional health and issues in telehealth and psychiatry services in jails and prisons.
- b) Dr. Viswanathan reported that the Brooklyn DB 5K Run & Walk was very successful and will be held annually.

25. Old Business

The Council discussed budget issues and a possible dues increase.

26. Dr. Vivek reminded Council members to please forward any Grand Rounds or other scheduled member events to NYSPA Central Office so that the event information may be posted on the NYSPA website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramaswamy Viswanathan, M.D., Secretary