



Nevada Psychological Association

NPA News

The Voice of Psychology in Nevada

Upcoming CE Events:

- **September 10th, 2021**
Helping Clients with Substance Abuse Disorders
Shane Kraus, PhD
6 CE Credits
- **October 8th, 2021**
Sleep Disorders: Treatments for Youths Across Infancy, Childhood and Adolescence
Michelle Grimes, PhD
3 CE Credits
- **October 22nd, 2021**
Embodied Psychological Practice for Burnout Prevention
Whitney Owens, PsyD



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2021 Spring Newsletter

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ A Message from our President ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



It is an honor and great privilege to serve the Nevada Psychological Association (NPA) as the 2021-2022 President. We have all benefited from the previous leadership of Dr. Sara Hunt and Dr. Noelle Lefforge. I am thankful for the opportunities to learn from them and for their continued commitment to NPA. I look forward to working with Dr. Lauren Chapple-Love, President-Elect, and accomplishing great things with the returning and new members of the NPA Executive Board. Our Executive Director, Wendi O'Connor, has

made this such a smooth and seamless transition and I am extremely grateful for her help and her dedication to NPA. Now that we are finding some light at the end of the tunnel with pandemic, I am anxiously anticipating what we can continue to accomplish virtually and begin to make plans for in-person events again. The pandemic has taught us all about compassion, flexibility, and what we are truly capable of under pressure. Although everyone has experienced virtual fatigue, I want to thank everyone for their dedication and commitment to continuing this platform through the end of 2021. I remember Dr. Sara Hunt asking the question about how NPA can effectively respond to the pandemic and what our role is as psychologists and as an association. That was a moment that I felt a sense of community and pride in supporting our community and being a voice for so many who were struggling from uncertainty and responding to change. I am 100% certain that we will continue to respond in great ways while we figure out what normal will look like again with returning to doing things in person again amid current recommendations.

The mission statement of NPA to advance and represent psychology as a science and a profession, as well as to serve the professional needs of its membership and the community is key to guiding the organization through this coming year. We recently met for a full day of strategic planning for 2021-2022 and moving past COVID-19 was a topic of multiple discussions given its impact on our members and communities. In particular, we discussed how COVID-19 changed the way NPA operates due to social distancing and other public health guidelines, and how to transition to previous ways of functioning within NPA. We are in the third year of our current three-year strategic plan and we remain committed to our previous Strategic Business Objectives (SBOs) of: • Improve financial stability, • Provide high quality services to members, • Develop and support leadership, • Advocate for psychology as a science and profession, and • Embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into NPA culture. We discussed continuing the online presence and virtual business operations through the end of this year, as well as discussing if virtual NPA-sponsored CE events (especially for the online library) would be a long term benefit due to this component being an important source of income for our organization. Additionally, we received a legislative update from NPA's lobbyist, Bryan Gresh and NPA's legislative co-chairs, Dr. Christina Patterson, and Dr. Laurie Drucker on their efforts during this legislative session that will be ending in a couple weeks. During this 2021 Nevada Legislative Session COVID-19 and how it has impacted the state is a major factor related to state budgets and provision of healthcare (e.g., telehealth). This session also was focused on social justice for our marginalized populations, mental health, and education. The meeting was also an opportunity for me to share my Presidential Initiatives to: 1. Keep NPA fiscally and operationally viable, 2. For NPA to be active and impactful in preparing for the next legislative session, and 3. Continue to advocate for higher reimbursement rates for psychologists, 4. Continue impactful work and trainings on diversity, equity, and inequality that NPA has been advocating for and active in advancing within NPA, and 5. Continue to be responsive to member and community needs related to COVID-19. This will continue to be a busy year for NPA and will require us all to be flexible and adaptable to increase our resilience in the coming year. It also presents an opportunity for our regional boards and committees to identify ways to collaborate and combine efforts to ensure NPA continues to meet our SBOs. Please reach out to the regional board presidents and committee chairs to learn more about the important work that they do on behalf of NPA. Finally, I would like to see more NPA members be a part of the committees and bringing their ideas to help us continue to be a small but mighty association. In this time, there is a need for psychologists more than ever to respond with our knowledge, our skills, and our advocacy to support our communities, each other, and the profession of psychology. Feel free to email me at tara.borsh@boystown.org. Continue to be safe, be healthy, and be strong. We all got this and will continue to do great work this year.

~ Tara R.S. Borsh, Psy.D. President, Nevada Psychological Association

2020-2021: A Year in Review by Sara Hunt, Ph.D.

It has been an honor to serve NPA as president for the past year. My year-in-review highlights how NPA was able to weather and respond to multiple issues over the past year. With the surge of the pandemic coinciding with the start of my presidency last spring, I shifted my presidential initiatives to 3 priorities: 1) keep NPA fiscally and operationally viable during the public health crisis, 2) have NPA be active and impactful in the current Nevada legislative session, and 3) be responsive to member and community needs related to COVID-19.

To keep our organization fiscally and operationally healthy over the past year, we quickly shifted our continuing education (CE) training to a virtual platform for the year. For 2020, our CE income and membership income both exceeded budgeted amounts due to grant funding NPA received from community organizations, lower event costs due to using virtual platforms, and record setting attendance and profit at our Last Chance Ethics Training in November. At the request of our student state advocacy coordinators, and through CE Committee action, the Executive Board revised the student membership level to expand opportunities for students to benefit from NPA's CE trainings. Also, our Executive Director, Wendi O'Connor, oversaw a revamp of our website earlier this year to enhance NPA's business and communication processes.

NPA's Legislative Committee, under the direction of Co-Chairs Dr. Laurie Drucker and Dr. Christina Patterson, is doing a herculean job of tracking and providing advocacy on a number of issues currently being considered in Carson City. They have provided testimony on various pieces of legislation related to mental health systems, scope of practice, and access to care in Nevada. They could still use any help members could provide throughout the rest of the session and in the interim year to carry out NPA's mission of advancing and representing psychology as a science and a profession to policy makers.

Finally, while information about COVID-19 was coming out fast and furious a year ago, NPA utilized its website and listserv to share information and resources to our members and community. In May of last year, then APA President, Sandy Shullman, called out a second pandemic active in our country by stating "we are living in a racism pandemic". Over the past year, the Executive Board and NPA have released public statements condemning acts of violence against individuals of color and acknowledging racial trauma and inequality that exists in our communities. Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair, Dr. Lauren Chapple-Love, and committee member Dr. Christina Patterson co-facilitated two town halls earlier this year for NPA members to process the January 6th Capitol riot and to identify ways that NPA can move forward with action, education, and advocacy.

As I pass the baton on to our next president and officers, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Wendi O'Connor for doing a million behind-the-scenes things every day that keep this organization afloat; to Past-President Dr. Noelle Lefforge who responded to all of my emails, texts, and calls to answer any question that I had about how to be president; and to esteemed colleagues who served on the executive board this past year. I thank you for your time and service to NPA. Finally, as we optimistically look to resume in-person training and socials in the coming year, I encourage you all to invest in an NPA membership, engage with one of our amazing committees, and consider leadership options to support this organization and our profession. We are a small but mighty psychology community in Nevada and you have a unique opportunity to make a difference with NPA.

~ Sara Hunt, Ph.D., 2020/2021 President, Nevada Psychological Association

Thank You

To the **Practice Directorate,**
the Committee of State Leaders and the Board of Professional Affairs
 for awarding a Small State Operational Grant of \$13,500 to NPA.
 This subsidy helps cover NPA's central office operations
 and our lobbyist expenses.

CSL and BPA continue to recognize the need of assistance by very small State Associations in maintaining central office operations, which is greatly appreciated by NPA. This grant, made possible from funds collected through the practice assessment of licensed psychologists, is awarded in the spirit of resource sharing to support projects aimed at promoting the practice of psychology.

NPA encourages all of its members to pay the APA Practice Assessment.



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

2021 Annual Strategic Planning Meeting—Saturday, May 15th

Due to COVID-19 and the continuing public health guidelines on social gatherings, this year's Strategic Planning Meeting was held virtually this year. The general membership was encouraged to attend the morning session where they were introduced to the incoming Officers for 2021/2022, presented with a brief overview of the mission and structure of NPA, and received updates from NPA's Regional Boards and Committees, NPA's Lobbyist about the 91st Legislative Session, and a review of the bills we are monitoring from our Legislative Committee chairs. The 2019-2021 Strategic Plan was reviewed, identifying our five Strategic Business Objectives (SBOs) and Translators (action items).

During the afternoon session, the Executive & Regional Board members and Committee chairs reviewed the information presented and ideas generated from the morning session, strategized on ways to recruit more members to NPA, reviewed the translators from 2020-2021, and discussed and approved translators/tasks for 2021-2022. Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee reviewed APA's EDI model and discussed how to further implement Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into NPA culture, the Field of Psychology and Society.

The following were selected by the Executive Board as our 2021-2022 Strategic Business Objectives (SBOs):



SBO#1: Improve Financial Stability

These "NPA tasks" were matched to SBO#1—Organize CE events, ECP and Diversity events, NPA Socials and NPA/NPA Mixer, apply for Small State Organizational Grant funding, NPA website, Membership renewals, Budget & Strategic Planning Meetings, NPA newsletter; and CE revenue sharing opportunities.

SBO#2: Provide High Quality Services to Members

These "NPA tasks" were matched to SBO#2—Organize CE events, ECP and Diversity events, Regional Socials, NPA/NPA mixer, Annual Business Meeting & Awards, Member Survey, Social Media, Psychologist Referral Search, NPA listserv, Membership renewals, NV BOPE collaboration, PAC fundraising/drive, PAC contributions to legislators, NPA website, Press requests and statements, responding to member requests, newsletter, Strategic Planning Meeting, and Student Poster Presentations.

SBO#3: Develop and Support Leadership

These "NPA tasks" were matched to SBO#3—Organize ECP and Diversity events, Student Poster Presentations, NPA listserv, Regional Socials, Social Media, Practice Leadership Conference, Past Presidents Dinner, Strategic Planning Meeting, Annual Business Meeting & Awards, NPA Elections, and Legislative Retreats.

SBO#4: Advocate for Psychology as a Science and Profession

These "NPA tasks" were matched to SBO#4—Diversity events, Member Survey, Awards Presentation, Student Poster Presentations, Legislative Retreat, NPA listserv, NPA/NPA mixer, Social Media, Regional Socials, Press requests and statements, NV BOPE collaboration, Strategic Planning Meeting, Practice Leadership Conference, apply for Small State Organizational Grant funding, PAC contributions to legislators, PAC fundraising/drive, and NPA website.

SBO#5: Embed Diversity and Inclusion into NPA culture

These "NPA tasks" were matched to SBO#5—Organize CE events, ECP and Diversity events, Member Survey, Awards Presentation, Strategic Planning Meeting, Student Poster Presentations, Legislative Retreat, NPA listserv, Social Media, Regional Socials, Press requests and statements, NV BOPE collaboration, Practice Leadership Conference, Budget Meeting, responding to member requests, and NPA website.





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Legislative Committee Update

The 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature began on February 1, 2021 and closes on May 31st. We began tracking almost 100 bill drafts and ended monitoring approximately 20 bills of particular relevance to psychology and mental health in Nevada. The committee provided letters and testimony on bills ranging from retention of supervisee's records to revoking the death penalty in Nevada.

Given the seismic shift to telemental health we all had to make in 2020, our primary focus was on supporting legislation to mandate ongoing insurance coverage for telehealth and parity of reimbursement for services provided through video and audio means. This past year was not only the year of a public health pandemic but also of heightened awareness of systemic and structural racism. We supported legislation requiring continuing education in cultural competency for all behavioral health providers and continue to weigh in on statewide efforts to increase the diversity of our workforce and the need to increase access for chronically underserved populations. We supported revisions to the Legal 2000, advocated to make sure that psychologists are included with the treatment team notified when kids in foster care are assessed for inpatient admissions, and supported psychology's role in mandated coverage for gender-affirming care.

Additionally, we monitored legislation to expand Medicaid coverage of services from crisis care to cognitive assessment. We began a collaboration with professionals in the autism community and reached out to legislators about diversity and inclusion. We tracked the efforts of the Legislature to increase the pool of providers in Nevada by reducing licensure limitations and supported efforts to improve the pipeline that keeps Nevada-trained providers in our communities. There is much work to be done in all these areas. We are grateful to the involvement and engagement of our committee members and will continue to develop a base of Psychologist-experts who can provide not just review of legislation but testimony and advocacy in the future.

The Legislative Committee's efforts were not limited to our tracking of legislation. We nominated Senator Pat Spearman for NPA's Legislator of the Year award in recognition of her tireless efforts to advocate for mental health, gender and diversity in our communities. In response to the need for increased advocacy by professionals such as ourselves, the Legislative Committee is excited to expand our engagement from addressing scope of practice issues to advocating for the development of better mental health services for all Nevadan's – including those whose voices are too often unheard.

At the end of the legislative session, we will send you a final update of the bills we supported, any that we opposed, and ongoing areas of need.

Laurie Drucker, Psy.D. & Christina Patterson, Ph.D.
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs



Nevada Psychological Association: 2021-2022 Executive Board Members



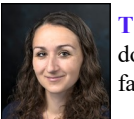
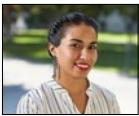
President: Tara Borsh Psy.D. is the Director of the Boys Town Behavioral Health Clinic in Las Vegas. Dr. Borsh specializes in behavioral pediatrics and utilizes evidenced-based treatments (E/RP, PCIT, CBT, TF-CBT, ACT, etc). Dr. Borsh provides therapy and psychological evaluations, as well as parent training and education on behavioral health concerns. Dr. Borsh received her Doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology from Midwestern University in Illinois. Dr. Borsh enjoys working with parenting concerns, anxiety, depression, trauma, ADHD, disruptive behaviors, and elimination disorders.

President-Elect: Lauren Chapple-Love, Ph.D. earned her masters in Forensic Psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She went on to earn her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of North Dakota. Her clinical experience primarily lies in Forensic and Correctional Psychology. While in the community, she has worked with court-mandated individuals in sexual health. Dr. Chapple-Love has focused on diverse populations (LGBTQAI+, People of Color, etc) and the ways that they process and can excel while living within systems of oppression and majority culture spaces.



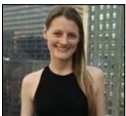
Past President, Sara Hunt, Ph.D. is the Assistant Dean of Behavioral Health Sciences at the UNLV School of Medicine and an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. She has worked in medical settings on multidisciplinary teams and advocates for integrated models of healthcare. Dr. Hunt's work with the UNLV Mental and Behavioral Health Training Coalition is focused on addressing the mental and behavioral health workforce shortage in Nevada.

Secretary: Claudia Mejia, Ph.D. is a bicultural-bilingual (Spanish-English) licensed psychologist in Nevada and currently the Director of Social and Behavioral Health Services at Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada, where she provides direct clinical services to patients, develops behavioral health and social services programming, and supervises graduate trainees. Dr. Mejia continues to prioritize BIPOC mental health and integrated behavioral healthcare with focus on bilingual service provision and training.



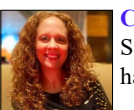
Treasurer: Rachele Merk, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist at the Boys Town Nevada Behavioral Health Clinic in Las Vegas. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from UNLV. She specializes in providing evidence-based care to children and families, through individual and family therapy, and psychodiagnostics evaluations for learning, cognitive and social-emotional concerns.

Treasurer-in-Training: Sunshine Collins, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist in Las Vegas providing clinical and forensic assessments and related services. She works directly with patients and also with attorneys, the courts, and county and state organizations. Having previously served as NPA Southern Board Secretary and Treasurer, this is her first year as the NPA Executive Board Treasurer-in-Training.



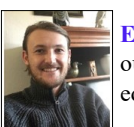
APA Council Rep: Noelle Lefforge, Ph.D., ABPP served as a faculty member and an assistant training clinic director at UNLV for ten years and has held various positions within NPA. She is now the Training Clinic Director at University of Denver's Graduate School of Professional Psychology where she is active in teaching, training, supervision, clinical service delivery, research, mentorship, advocacy, and interprofessional education and practice.

CE Committee Chair: Kelly O'Neill, Ph.D. has been licensed in Nevada since February, 2015. She conducts therapy with all populations; with an emphasis on children and teenagers. Dr. O'Neill has been a part of the NPA in various roles and loves working with a great group of individuals striving to help others and ensure we are Nevada strong!



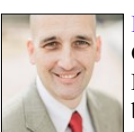
CE Committee Chair-in-Training: Emily Slife, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, where one of her roles is serving as the Training Director of the APA-accredited Nevada Psychology Internship Consortium. Dr. Slife has previously served as a member of the CE Committee and on the Southern Board as Vice President and Treasurer.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair: Stephen Grey, Ph.D. is an early career postdoctoral clinician from the University of North Dakota. His clinical interests include multicultural psychology, supervision, training, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy.



ECP Co-Chair, North: Lucas Cylke, Ph.D. is currently working as a postdoctoral psychological assistant in a private practice outpatient setting in Reno, NV. He completed his internship at University of Nevada, Reno Counseling Services and completed his graduate education at Wichita State University and sees himself as a generalist. In his free time he enjoys worrying about his plants in his garden.

ECP Co-Chair, South: Rachael Pinkerman, Psy.D. works at Stein Forensic Facility treating and evaluating individuals committed for competency restoration. She completed her pre-doctoral training at Broughton State Hospital, in rural North Carolina. She graduated with her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology, finished her post-doctoral training at Stein, and earned her license to practice in December of 2019. While she maintains that she's Midwesterner at heart, she considers Nevada home.



Public Education Campaign Coordinator: Robert Moering, Psy.D. graduated from the Univ. of Maryland with a Master of Arts degree in Counseling and he earned his Doctor of Psychology degree from Florida Tech where he completed his internship with the James A. Haley VA Medical Center. Currently he works as the Local Recovery Coordinator for the VA So. NV Healthcare System where he coordinates care between the VA and community partners, engages in program development, writes policies and procedures, and serves as the Associate Training Director for Psychology. He is the VA liaison to the So. NV VA Advocacy Council. Dr. Moering is also a Marine Corps Veteran .

UNLV State Advocacy Coordinator: Cody Kaneshiro is a current clinical psychology Ph.D. student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Born and raised in Waipahu, HI, Cody completed his undergraduate education at the University of Southern California where he double-majored in Psychology and Narrative Studies.



UNR State Advocacy Coordinator: *elected by students, elections are still in progress*

Nevada Psychological Association: 2021-2022 Regional Board Members



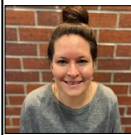
Northern Regional President: Laura Drucker, Psy.D. has been licensed as a psychologist in Nevada since 2003. She graduated with a degree in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University in 2001. Dr. Drucker works in private practice providing outpatient psychotherapy services to children, adolescents, and adults. Dr. Drucker provides integrative treatment informed by neuroscience, mindfulness, and insight-oriented therapies.



Northern Regional Vice-President: Daniel Gunnarson, Ph.D. is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno Clinical Psychology Program. During his career, he has worked in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings with a wide range of clients. He currently is a Psychologist with the Rural Regional Center in Carson City and on Burning Man's Crisis Intervention Team and a member of the Northern Region Behavioral Health Policy Board.



Northern Region Secretary: John Crum, Ph.D. was born and raised in Reno, Nevada. He currently has his own practice specializing in neuropsychological testing and therapy in Reno. More information about him is available on his website <https://renopsychologicalservices.com>



Northern Region Treasurer: Elyse Kompaniez, Ph.D. recently completed her postdoctoral respecialization and is in the midst of completing her postdoctoral fellowship at Theory & Practice in Reno, Nevada. The focus of her practice is providing treatment and assessment to children, adolescents, and their families. The integration of science and practice, which is informed by her foundation in cognitive neuroscience, is core to her clinical work.

UNR Campus Representative: *elected by students, elections are still in progress*



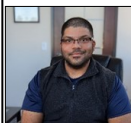
Southern Regional President: Amelia Black, Ph.D., CGP is a licensed counseling psychologist and certified group psychotherapist. She is a clinician at The Evidence Based Practice of Nevada and a clinical supervisor at UNLV's The PRACTICE. Dr. Black completed her doctorate in counseling psychology at Brigham Young University and received her internship training at the LA County Psychology Internship in Corrections before completing a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in clinical psychology and group psychotherapy at UNLV's The PRACTICE. Dr. Black is passionate about expanding access to care and has worked with diverse populations in a variety of interdisciplinary and team-based settings, which has taught her the importance of collaborative care.



Southern Regional Vice-President: Christeen Sonaly Silva, Psy.D. earned her Master's and Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles, CA. She completed her APA Accredited pre-doctoral internship at Western Carolina University Counseling and Psychological Services, and PostDoctoral Fellowship at University of North Carolina Wilmington Counseling Center. Sonaly is currently a staff psychologist at UNLV Counseling & Psychological Services. She also sees clients part time at a private practice. Sonaly is a strong advocate for social justice and equity, and her approach to client concerns includes using a multicultural framework and catering to the individual client's needs.



Southern Region Secretary: Michelle McGuire, Psy.D. is a Nevada Licensed Psychologist. She has a diverse background working with a number of different populations, including developmental and intellectual disabilities, serious mental illness, and chemical dependency, providing individual, group, couples and family therapy to children, adolescents, and adults. She is the Clinical Director of Creative Behavioral Connections providing neuropsychological testing and oversight of treatment services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.



Southern Region Treasurer: Christopher Shewbarran, Ph.D. is currently completing his postdoctoral internship in Las Vegas, NV at Reflections Therapy. He is a graduate of the American School of Professional Psychology, San Francisco Bay Area, and he is originally from Tampa, Florida, home of the 2020 Stanley Cup Champions Tampa Bay Lightning, and 2020 Super Bowl Champions Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Although this is his first year serving on the NPA Southern Board, Dr. Shewbarran is very excited to fulfill this position and looks forward to working with the NPA board and membership community throughout his term.



UNLV Campus Representative: Mallory Constantine, B.A. is a third year in the clinical psychology doctoral program. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Mallory's intended research and clinical areas of focus include severe anxiety disorders in maltreated youth. During her free time, she enjoys swimming, anything art related, volunteering with non-profit organizations and traveling with her husband.



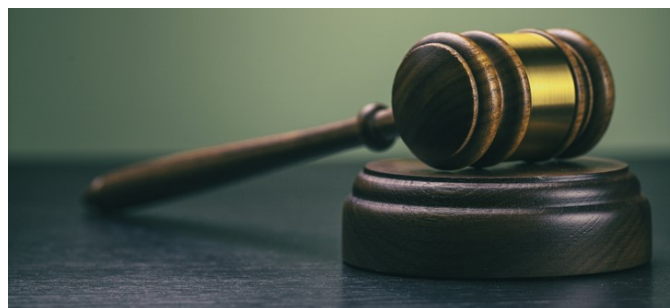
Board of Directors

APA Council Rep Update—Dr. Noelle Lefforge

APA Council's February meeting was perhaps the most impactful I have experienced during my tenure as Nevada's representative. As you can see from the list of resolutions and guidelines that we approved, the focus of the meeting was on high-impact policy with broad implications. It was truly an honor to cast historic votes for these items:

- [Standards of Accreditation for Master's Program in Health Service Psychology](#)
(note: these will be submitted to the US Department of Education; future steps include implementation regulations and a model licensure act for master's level practice)
- [Gender Identity Change Efforts Resolution](#)
- [Sexual Orientation Change Efforts Resolution](#)
- [APA Resolution of Racism, which defines racism and serves as a foundational document for planned future resolutions related to addressing, and striving to eradicate, racism](#)
- [Resolution on APA, Psychology and Human Rights](#)
- [APA Professional Practice Guidelines for Evidence-Based Practice in Health-care Psychology](#)
- [Guidelines for the Evaluation of Dementia and Age-Related Cognitive Change](#)
- [Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Sexual Minority Persons](#)

We also learned about Dr. Jennifer Kelly's presidential initiative of health equity. We were introduced to APA's new Chief Diversity Officer, Maysa Akbar, PhD; she has an exciting vision for the organization and is already putting it into action. Lastly, I wanted to share this video, which highlights APA's current work and influence: [APA Impact: Looking Back, Looking Ahead](#). My virtual door is always open, so feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns, ideas, and advocacy.



Are You a Member of NPA? You should be and here is why!

The mission of the Nevada Psychological Association (NPA) is to advance and represent psychology as a science and a profession, as well as to serve the professional needs of its membership and the community.



Like Us on Facebook:

www.Facebook.com/NevadaPsychologicalAssociation

Follow us on Twitter: [@NVPsychology](https://twitter.com/NVPsychology)

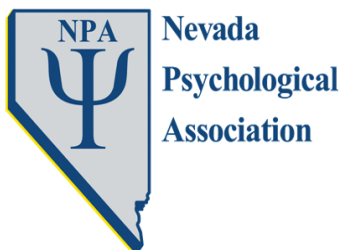


Are You a Member of NPA?

You should be and here is why!

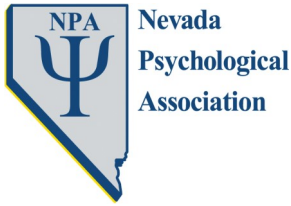
As a member of the Nevada Psychological Association, you are making an investment in the future of psychology! And here are some of NPA membership benefits:

- **Define the Profession**—You will have a strong voice in how our profession is defined in the state of Nevada through NPA's advocacy initiatives.
- **Save Money**—NPA members receive Early Bird registration and member discounts to all of our Continuing Education workshops. Members also have exclusive access to discount programs through AffiniPay & Office Depot/Office Max.
- **Professional Networking and Referrals**—Join our Psychologist Referral Search to make your practice easy to find with referral resources at your fingertips.
- **Develop Your Leadership**—By participating on our Executive or Regional Boards or on one of our Committees (Legislative, ECP, Diversity, Continuing Education).
- **NV Board of Examiners Liaison**—NPA advocates for licensing issues and keeps up to date with the latest news affecting psychologists.
- **Experience a Sense of Community**—Psychologists can sometimes feel isolated. NPA helps keep you connected through our listserv, Regional Socials, CE workshops, and more.



**It is time to invest in psychology in Nevada!
Become a member of NPA today so
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Subscribe me/keep me subscribed to the NPA Member listserv an interactive email communication list used by members to discuss pertinent information with colleagues, i.e., referral sources, ethical questions, practice information etc.

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NPA has a variety of Committees serving our membership and carrying out our mission. Please indicate in which committee you would be interested in learning more about:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education Committee |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> ECP Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Diversity Committee |

I authorize NPA to send e-mails to me as necessary. _____ (initials)

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I agree to abide by the ethical principles set forth by the American Psychological Association and I certify that all statements made herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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****AUTOMATIC DUES RENEWAL NOTICE:** The initial term of this Agreement shall be one (1) year commencing as of the date hereof. Thereafter, the term of this Agreement shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year terms unless member provides written notice to NPA central office at least ninety (90) days in advance of the end of the membership year that it does not wish to renew the term of this Agreement.

Full Members: (✓ box below):

(Flat fee dues)

- Full member, 5 years post licensure \$250.00

Please note that 30% of dues is designated for the lobbyist and is not tax deductible. \$15 of your dues payment will go to support your respective region (North or South) and its activities.

Early Career Psychologists (choose 1 and ✓):

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 years post-licensing | \$225.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years post-licensing | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years post-licensing | \$175.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year post-licensing | \$150.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing year | \$125.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post-doc/Unlicensed | \$100.00 |

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- Student Member \$50.00
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- Retired Member \$65.00

detailed description available online

C. NEW! Optional Membership Renewal Add-Ons:

- Platinum Member "Add On" + \$250.00 \$250.00 _____
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- Student Scholarship "Add On" + \$250.00 \$110.00 _____
Sponsor a student membership! Renew your dues and pay for a 1-year Student membership and registration fees to attend our 2022 Annual Conference.

D. Additional Donation Opportunities:

- Political Action Committee (NPA-PAC) \$100.00 or _____ (other donation amount)
Your donation to PAC allows us to support Nevada State Legislators who share our passion and positions. This is NOT tax deductible.
- NPA Student Fund \$100.00 or _____ (other donation amount)
Your donation will help fund Student travel to PLC, our Annual Conference and Strategic Planning
- NPA Century Fund \$100.00 or _____ (other donation amount)
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Your donation supports our Legislative Committee activities

E. Total of A or B, and C: _____

F. Make Your Payment (choose 1 and ✓):

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Want to get more Involved with NPA? Join one of our Committees!

NPA Committees:

Legislative: Advocates for psychology and psychologists by participating in the development of legislation and policies relating to mental and behavioral health services in Nevada. The Legislative Committee advises the Board of Directors of suggested legislative actions, and carries out such actions as approved by the board with the assistance of the NPA lobbyist. This may include proposing legislation to be introduced to the Nevada State Legislature, meeting with legislators, arranging for educational meetings about legislative matters for members and legislators, building relationships with others interested in mental health issues which are of common interest with psychologists, developing relationships with state agencies to further mental health services and acilitate the status and role of psychologists within the state. NPA's advocacy efforts are supported by your membership in NPA. NPA's advocacy benefits all psychologists, NOT just those who belong to our organization.

Continuing Education (CE): Responsible for the planning and execution of 4-5 continuing education trainings for licensed psychologists, mental health professionals and graduate students each year, including the Annual Conference.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI): The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is dedicated to promoting diversity statewide in Nevada. This includes welcoming psychologists from diverse backgrounds as well as promoting culturally sensitive services and practices to the community. NPA has developed a Diversity Mission statement, which includes scientific and evidence-based information about working with diverse populations in our CE trainings. We strongly support full equity and inclusion of individuals of different genders, ethnicities, ages, backgrounds, sexual orientations, abilities, national origin, immigration status, and so on, within our organization and throughout our communities across the world.

Early Career Psychologists (ECPs): We are proud to have ECP's strongly represented on our regional and state boards, and send an ECP to the annual APA Practice Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. NPA is committed to supporting the needs of early career psychologists by offering discounts on membership, opportunities to participate in monthly support group meetings, and extends a special welcome to newly licensed psychologists every fall at annual social events, held in both Las Vegas and Reno. We are active in recruiting ECP's to participate in committees and leadership positions in the state, and offer mentorship opportunities to interested psychologists.

Public Education Campaign (PEC): This is an APA-sponsored initiative. Interested psychologists can obtain a fully developed presentation kit, including marketing materials and power-point presentations, for use in giving presentations to local businesses and community groups. Current initiatives include campaigns on Mind/Body Health and Resilience and the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Awards. In 2014, APA added a new campaign initiative, Psychology: Science in Action, that demonstrates how translational science is unique to psychology and helps people in all areas of their lives.

Want more Info? Contact our Executive Director at admin@nvpsychology.org or (888) 654-0050

Northern Region Board Update

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Elysse Kompaniez-Dunigan (Treasurer) back to the Northern Regional Board – and are grateful to Dr. Leeanne Hemenway for her previous two years of service as Treasurer. Board members continuing for another term include Dr. Dan Gunnarson (Vice-President) and Dr. JP Crum (Secretary) as well as myself. We bid farewell and best wishes for internship year to Ali Molari and Adrienne Chong and look forward to meeting our new student representatives from UNR. We will continue working with our Northern ECP rep, Dr. Luke Cylke, to welcome early career psychologists to NPA. As we emerge from pandemic restrictions we are hopeful to resume our tradition of the Annual Fall Social - introducing students, post-doc's and newly licensed psychologists to the community. In addition, the Northern Board will be doing its first strategic planning this month – looking at ways to increase regional involvement and interaction. As always, please reach out to any board member if you have questions about what we do, would like to become more involved, or have suggestions for what we can do for you.

Respectfully,

~ Laura Drucker, Psy.D.

2021/2022 Northern Region President



Public Education Campaign (PEC) Coordinator Update

NPA frequently receives requests from the media for interviews. Psychologists are uniquely positioned to respond to interview requests based on our training and experience. Not only do we help answer important questions, provide insight into current events, or educate the community, we also represent our profession and provide positive exposure to the public. Participating in media interviews does require an understanding of how to interact with the media and a good deal of preparation. The American Psychological Association has a good article on interacting with the media (click [here](#)).

To assist media with finding a good fit for the story they are interested in running, NPA is putting together a list of psychologists who are interested in being interviewed by the media. When NPA receives a request, we want to be able to refer them to a psychologist with the expertise needed to complete the story. Shortly, NPA will be sending out a survey asking if you'd like to be included on the media referral list and what specialty area you are comfortable (e.g., pediatric psychology, trauma, diversity issues, school psychology, neuropsychology, etc.).

~ Robert Moering, Psy.D.

2021/2022 Public Education Campaign Coordinator

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Wanted: 295,000 Psychologists—or so Say the Experts?



Morgan T. Sammons, PhD, ABPP | February 2021

COVID-19 vaccinations have begun to roll out, however uncertainly, across the world. In the US, a growing number of those in targeted groups, including healthcare providers, have received both doses. New cases of COVID-19 seem to have peaked in the US in early January, and **daily deaths** from the virus, although still at levels not seen since the beginning of the pandemic, are showing at least a temporary decline. The data remain uncertain but it looks as if, at long last, we may be making slow progress. But to paraphrase Churchill, while this may be the end of the beginning, it is without question

not the beginning of the end. Many months of vigilance and constant adaptation will be required before we can contemplate a more normal existence. Some of us, particularly in VAs and medical centers, have been continuing to provide in-person services. Others are, however cautiously, beginning to plan for a return to the office and resumption of in-person psychological services.

How do we prepare for a return to the office? Most psychologists who responded to our surveys during the last year indicated that as soon as they and their patients are vaccinated that they are looking forward to a resumption of in-office practice, though telepsychology will likely become a permanent feature of most practices. But we know that even with widespread vaccination, risks of viral transmission are still present. What we do not know are the legal risks that may accompany inadvertent infection in the office setting, particularly salient since it remains unknown if vaccinated individuals can transmit the virus. Will psychologists be liable for office-based viral transmission? It seems unlikely but the best assurance against this is to continue to maintain appropriate hygiene and social distancing protocols. If psychologists are employers, the EEOC has issued guidance on what can be required of employees. Barring legitimate health issues or sincerely held religious beliefs, employees can be mandated to be vaccinated, and the EEOC does not deem inquiring about COVID-19 status to be a violation of employee privacy. While EEOC regulations are being continually updated, employers should familiarize themselves with **current guidance**.

As the pandemic continues to unfold, we see yet again evidence of the long-term unsustainability of our healthcare system, and the difficulty in transforming it, as illustrated with the quiet death of an experiment, perhaps even a noble experiment, to change healthcare provision in the US. Three years ago, the corporate behemoths Amazon and JP Morgan Chase joined the investment fund Berkshire Hathaway to create a healthcare insurance plan that was ‘free of the profit motive.’ Headed for some time by the writer and surgeon Atul Gawande and eventually named “Haven,” the plan envisioned provision of low-cost quality health care to the over 1.2 million employees of these firms as well as the provision of a national model that would take on for-profit insurers. But after months of relative quiet (and the departure of Dr. Gawande and other talents), Haven announced its closure. Online post-mortems were generally **dismissive**, noting that even companies with 1.2 million employees didn’t have enough market share to leverage large-scale change. A **Harvard Business Review** analysis also noted what is likely the most salient factor—the perverse incentives that pay physicians to conduct more tests and hospitals to keep beds full, rather than focus on prevention and cost-avoidance.

In the end, the influence of the middlemen in health care was too great to overcome. When the largest corporations and the wealthiest Americans cannot provide a supply-side fix to health care, it is a signal that our desperately broken system must be wholly remade. As I have repeatedly noted, unless we pay attention to the social determinants of health, we will always be chasing our tail, in an ever-more costly circle that wastes not only our national treasure but the well-being of its citizenry. The pandemic has brutally illustrated the failings of our healthcare system. We are still far too reliant on a system that relies on employee healthcare plans as the portal to care, a precarious stance when so many lower-income jobs have been lost in the pandemic. Will an expansion of the Medicare program via Medicare Advantage, as is evidently being contemplated by the current administration, make a difference? Perhaps—and such initiatives should be closely watched—but again, unless we look at a fundamental restructuring of American healthcare delivery, we will be in the same predicament as before. Capitated healthcare models have been in existence for over 30 years, yet they are not the dominant model in the healthcare marketplace. There is a natural resistance to capitated models when the cost savings go to for-profit insurers. If savings instead go toward health-sustaining community initiatives, acceptance would be far more popular.

As we have seen, the demand for elective surgery and other outpatient procedures has fallen drastically during the pandemic. Though I have argued previously that we should not anticipate an epidemic of mental health problems in its

Wanted: 295,000 Psychologists—or so Say the Experts? (continued)

aftermath, its mental health consequences are real. But planners are evidently taking note of the increased attention to the mental health needs of the citizenry. Largely lost in the political furor that has characterized the past few months was the release by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration of an extraordinary **document** that underscores what we have known for some time—that the rising need for mental health services is not met by the current workforce of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and counselors. In order to provide sufficiently robust services to patients with substance abuse and other mental disorders, SAMHSA has projected an *almost tenfold* increase in the number of health service psychologists. These are numbers that have never been promoted by a government entity, to the best of my knowledge. The report, which is undated and does not include authorship, principally addresses unmet workforce need for dealing with seriously mentally ill and substance-abusing populations. Such reports are commonplace, and commonly ignored, but this one contains some astonishing figures. By the report's calculations, there are currently 28,630 psychologists working in behavioral health settings. This is probably a small underestimation, but is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Profile for 2019. Per SAMHSA's calculations, a net total of 295,302 behavioral health psychologists is required to meet the demand for integrated psychological and substance abuse services. Also, the report calls for an additional 104,167 'mid-level prescribers' (i.e., not medical doctors), which should include prescribing psychologists. Other professions are deemed to be similarly understaffed, with the report citing the need for 110,546 general psychiatrists, 96,614 social workers, and 1,436,228 counselors. Let's contrast these findings with those of a report from HHS's **Health Research and Services Administration** in 2019, which calculated that should unmet need for mental health services increase by 2030, an additional 14,300 psychologists would be required. Which of these wildly diverging estimates, both coming from the same Department of Health and Human Services, is correct? We really have no way of knowing.

What we do know is familiar to all of us:

1. Demand for psychological (and other health and mental health, including substance abuse) services is being artificially depressed by the pandemic.
2. Demand for substance abuse and mental health services has persistently been depressed by lack of access—either patients lack the monetary means to access services or services are not geographically available.
3. We have no way of knowing what future demand will be, but it is certain to be higher than at present.
4. Without immediate action by the academic and training community, it will be very difficult to meet increased demand requiring an additional 14,000 psychologists in the next 9 years, as estimated by the most conservative prediction noted above.
5. Without a fundamental restructuring of our educational system, there is no possible way that the psychology workforce can create an additional 295,000 psychologists, nor can medicine create another 110,000 general psychiatrists. Medical and psychological training models predicated on a span of 7 years to produce a generalist physician or psychologist are simply too inefficient. The infrastructure cost alone of ramping up traditional programs to accommodate such a massive influx of students would be unsupportable.

The only way to even partially meet such a substantial requirement (presuming that such estimates are in any way reliable) would be to enroll graduate students in an intensive, year-round academic curriculum of two to three years and couple this with a highly structured training experience. Such models have been proposed. Whether we are talking about 15,000 or 200,000 new psychology trainees, it's time to re-examine our time-honored but inefficient educational models. Returning to the main theme of this column, if we do not, in all phases of education and all aspects of practice, address social determinants of health and simultaneously address the perverse incentives that escalate the cost of care, we will be unprepared for when the next national health emergency occurs. As it inevitably will.

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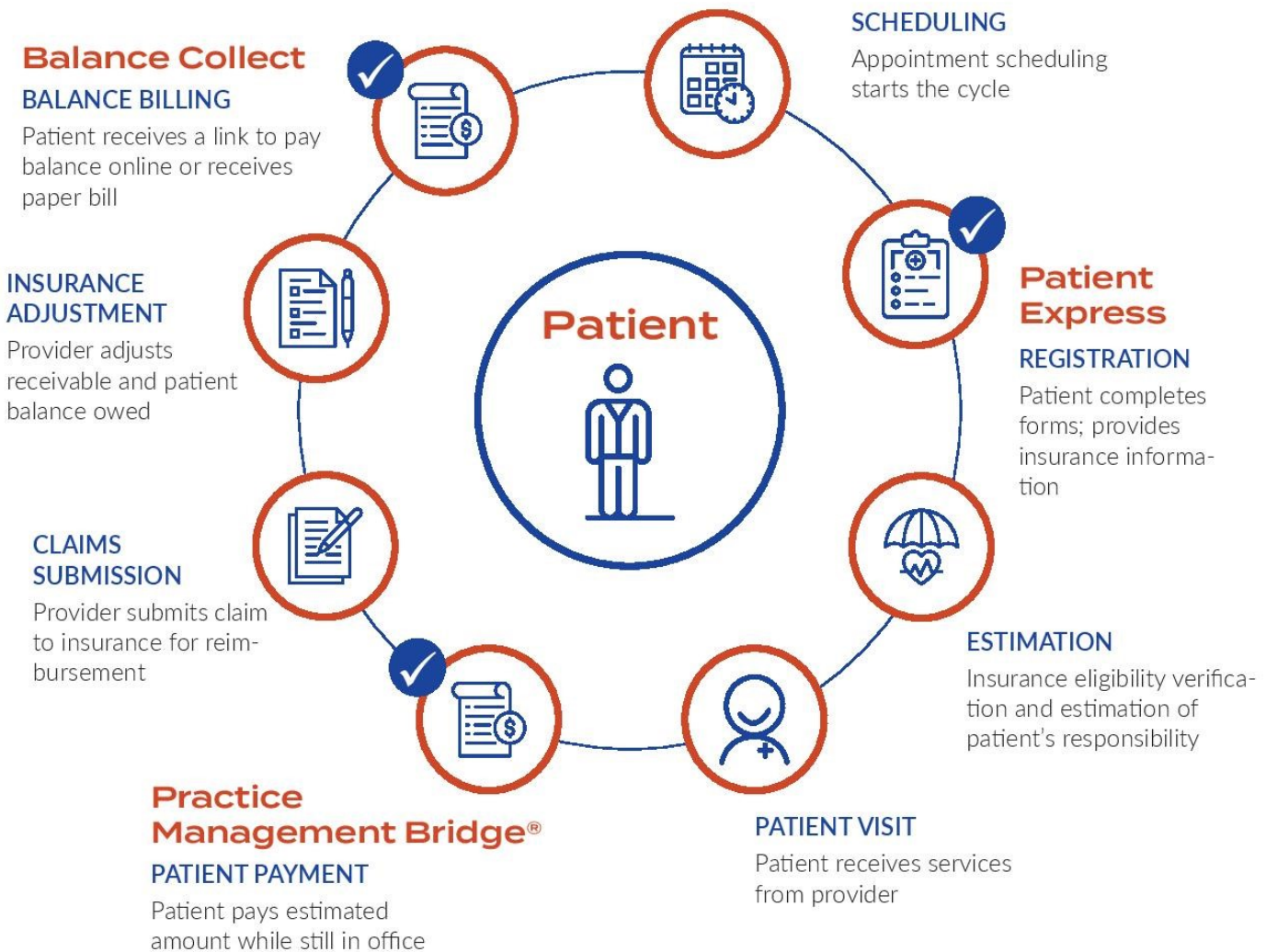
Journey Program for Children ages 5-11, helps children make a successful transition from childhood to early adolescence.

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The Patient Experience with Practice Management Bridge® - Most Optimal

Pre-Care - 1 day

Patient Practice Relationship

Patient calls to schedule appointment



Receptionist sets appointment in PM system



PMB

Receptionist sends patient registration link



Patient Registration

Patient completes registration; provides insurance info and COF



Card on File Designation

Point of Care - 1 day

Patient Practice Relationship



Patient checks-in



Receptionist takes insurance card and ID; verifies eligibility, estimates amount patient owes



Patient sees provider, receives services and checks out

PMB

Receptionist/Billing collects payment - Card Present, Vaulted Card, Payment Plan



Card Present



Payment Plans

PMB posts payment to patient's ledger in PM System



Post Care - 30+ days

Patient Practice Relationship



Billing submits claim to insurance



Upon receipt of insurance payment, billing adjusts balance remaining owed by patient in PM system

PMB

Billing statement mailed to patient for payment w/ link to pay online, or Text to Pay



Online Payments "No login required"



Text-to-Pay Balance Due

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Exciting news!

The Nevada Psychological Association has launched an all-new **NPA Career Center** on our newly designed website!

Are you hiring? NPA's Career Center exclusively serves mental health professionals, putting your job opening in front of highly qualified candidates.

Our all-new Career Center is mobile-friendly, incredibly convenient and easy to use. Jobs can be posted any time in under five minutes. 30-60-90-Day Listings are available and are displayed on the home page of our website.

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To access NPA's Career Center, [click here](#)



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Advocating for Psychologists in Nevada

The mission of the Nevada Psychological Association (NPA) is to advance and represent psychology as a science and a profession, as well as to serve the professional needs of its membership and the community.

To become a member, complete the Membership application in the center spread of this newsletter, or join online: www.NVPsychology.org under Join/Renew tab

NPA Committee Involvement:

Legislative: Advocates for psychology and psychologists by participating in the development of legislation and policies relating to mental and behavioral health services in Nevada.

Continuing Education: Responsible for the planning and execution of 4-6 trainings each year, including the Annual Conference.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Seeks to promote diversity and diversity related issues in Nevada.

Early Career Psychologists: Connects psychologists in the beginning stages of professional development monthly in order to collaborate, network, and discuss issues regarding the practice of psychology.

Public Education Campaign: Utilizes APA created messages to promote mental health through public meetings, community outreach, and in all forms of media.

NPA 2021 Continuing Education Calendar

Helping Clients with Substance Abuse Disorders: Treatment Recommendations for Clients Dealing with Co-Occurring Issues
Shane Kraus, PhD
September 10th, 2021
6 CE Credits

Sleep Disorders: Treatments for Youth Across Infancy, Childhood & Adolescence
Michelle Grimes, PhD
October 8th, 2021
3 CE Credits

Embodied Psychological Practice for Burnout Prevention
Whitney Owens, PsyD
October 22nd, 2021
3 CE Credits

More Details and Registration are available online at:
www.NVPsychology.org
click on the LEARN tab

Also check out our Homestudy CE Library: tinyurl.com/wj2x3e8s

