



CCPA NET Letter

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Collin County
Psychological
Association

January 2005
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DID YOU MISS THE BEST HOLIDAY SOCIAL?

Many of those who attended our Holiday Social, thought it was the best one we have had! If you weren't there, we missed you and hope you can join us next year!



Here, Carol Mohney, receives her award for her second service on the Exec Board as President. Thank you Carol for your efforts over the last 14 years in making CCPA an effective group!

As well as getting re-connected, we had a fun gift exchange! Jason Simpson really enjoyed the trading, even though he might have ended up with the ornament. The "Freud" doll was in high demand!



Inside this issue:

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Meetings

Review your 2
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FUTURE MEET- INGS:

- 1/28— Insurance, Billing & HIPPA Southfork Hotel 12 Noon
- 2/25— Legal & Ethics Update Southfork Hotel 12 Noon

"INSURANCE, BILLING & HIPPA"

1/28—12 PM Ψ J. Dillard & D. Hurst

Please attend and bring a friend!
Our meetings are a great time to network!

UPCOMING MEETINGS—SCHEDULE THESE NOW!

Our monthly meetings are held from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. on the 4th Friday of each month at the Southfork Hotel Plano, unless otherwise specified. The Southfork Hotel is on the east side of 75, 1 block north of 15th Street in Plano. Meetings are usually held in the Hackberry room. Members may order lunch from the menu, or just enjoy the presentation. 1.5 CEU credits are given to members for attending the meeting.

Feb 25— Legal Issues & Ethics with Robby Malone, ATTY.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR REFERRAL INFO. ON www.psychselect.com/ccpa! We try to keep it up to date, but we need you to verify your location and phone info. Remember you need to be current on dues to be listed!

***Jan 28— Insurance, Billing, & HIPPA with J. Dillard & D. Hurst
JLD Associates. Southfork Hotel Plano***

OPPORTUNITIES!

Office Space

Several large offices with waiting area available. Located in Richardson near UTD. Office with other mental health professionals.

Contact: Frank Wichern (972) 234-3178

Two story, reasonably priced (\$950), 1200 sq ft office for rent. Four offices, waiting room, break area, rest room. 1325 19th St. Ste. 4B, Plano

Contact: Dan Perkins 972-562-9140

West Plano 2300 sq. ft. office condominium has two spaces for lease to mental health professionals. The smaller office is about 172 sq. ft. in area and faces onto an eastern courtyard. The larger office has about 272 sq.ft. and has eastern and northern windows, a skylight, and built-in cabinets. Both have internet connections, phone hookups, recessed lighting, and soundproofing. The suite itself has a very nice and spacious waiting room, a nice admin area, file storage, a kitchenette, and interior restrooms for clients and staff. A separate exit is also provided for client and staff use. Free parking and easy access to all parts of the Metroplex are added features of this location. Please call Tom Van Hoose for more details at 972-250-2919.

Services

Groups

Sarah Spreda, PhD and Jason Simpson, PsyD will be offering a **Divorce Recovery Support Group!** The group will concern issues about the divorce transition. Contact them at 972.670.5153 Or 469.879.9588

email: groups@SynergistWeb.com

Employment Sought:

Marcia Moriarity who has been employed for a number of years in a psychologist's office is seeking employment. Contact Marcia at 972.867.8599

Billing

WE MANAGE MANAGED CARE! You are in charge of scheduling your patients, treating your patients, and your TRF's. We do the rest. We are seasoned professionals. We make the phone calls to managed care and make sure they pay. We pre-authorize, file your claims, process your EOB's, do all the billing and collections, send you monthly reports, answer patients billing and insurance questions, and more! Free yourself to market your practice or balance your life! Call JLD and Associates at 972 -424 - 9212.

LET THIS SPACE WORK FOR YOU! Advertise your specialty or service so our members can refer or utilize it! Send to: wichern@att.net

CCPA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: Greetings CCPA members! January 2005



Welcome to the online edition of our CCPA Net Letter! Please keep us informed of any changes in your e-mail address. You can always check for the latest issue as well as recent back issues on or www.psychselect.com/ccpa website.

Please complete and return your TPA group insurance enrollment form today even if you never intend to buy the insurance! We need your help. Please act now. See your e-mail or go to the TPA website www.texaspsyc.org.

Thanks to Dr. Frank and Pattie Wichern for the use of their wonderful home and their warm hospitality for the Christmas social. It was a delightful evening full of warmth, empathy and positive regard. The energy level and sense of community seemed to be the most intense during the gift exchange. I hope those who ended up with the lottery tickets had good luck with their tickets. As for myself, I was robbed twice and went home without my Freud action figure. Next Christmas I will come loaded for bear!

The 2004 TPA Conference was held at the river walk in San Antonio. Dr. Paul Burney asked that the legislative subcommittee (Mr. White and Chris Shields) present the proposed 2005 legislative agenda. After an in-depth discussion on all the issues, the following legislative plan was approved: (1) TPA supports the independent regulatory agency for psychologists in Texas – Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychology. (2) TPA supports the doctoral degree as the entry level to the practice of psychology. (3) TPA supports the current title of Licensed Specialists in School Psychology as the appropriate title for psychologists working in the school system. (4) TPA supports statutory laws that require that all continuing education workshops be provided by TPA or approved TPA providers. (5) TPA supports statutory requirements that all appropriately trained psychologists should be allowed to prescribe medication. The board will evaluate other issues suggested by you or other psychologists and contact Dr. Burney if any other issues should be included in our 2005 agenda.

Discussion around the above topics was relatively brief. Most of the focus was on the idea that TPA should be in charge of the authorizing of CEU providers. TPA would like to better enforce minimum standards. It was observed that the LPC board now charges 50 dollars per year to those who provide LPC CEU's and TPA felt we should do something similar. TPA would like to present a united front and support the TSBEP and some diplomatic comments were made regarding how the TSBEP might take steps to make the united front easier to support. Prescribing medication was discussed briefly and the board observed that at present between 60 and 100 psychologists in Texas have completed the necessary coursework to begin prescribing if and when the law is passed in Texas.

One of the most exciting and urgent issues discussed during the general conference was group health insurance for TPA members. TPA is very excited that after much time and effort they have finally been able to work out a deal with a national carrier to provide group health insurance for TPA members. As most of you realize one of the great difficulties of private practice is the prohibitive expense of health insurance. Now finally TPA has made a giant step forward with establishing affordable group health insurance. The enrollment form that you probably already have received by e-mail is **not** a commitment that you will buy the insurance. At this stage it is analogous to a vote that will allow the negotiations to go forward. If you have a family of 4 you have 4 votes so please vote. Please fill out the enrollment form and e-mail it in. You don't have to be a TPA member to enroll. The carrier is just looking at potential business. The advantage to psychologists is that once we have a contract we will have member health benefits (This is the same as employee benefits you would have if you worked for a big corporation.) and then we can work on tailoring those benefits to our needs as time goes on. But first we have to get the initial contract so please send in your enrollment form! Please see your e-mail and the TPA website for more details.

Please join us on the fourth Friday of January and each following month for the exciting continuation of our monthly educational programs!

Happy New Year to all of you!

Steve Sliwinski, Ph.D.

Suggestions, comments? Please contact me at dr.sliwinski@comcast.net.

**Collin County
Psychological Association**

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*The network of psychologists that
connects!*

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**ANNOUNCEMENT OR OTHER
RELEVANT INFORMATION,
CONTACT CCPA: wichern@att.net**

BOARD MEETINGS:

Please attend!

600 W. Campbell Rd #5,
Richardson

NOON – First Friday of month!

**CCPA THANKS
Frank & Pattie Wichern
for sharing their home
for the Holiday Social!**

MENTOR'S CORNER: *CCPA encourages it's members to build profitable, ethical practices. These tips are timely and* we solicit your suggestions, recommendations and Questions!

When you get a complaint! From a recent National Psychologist article by B. Caudill, JD:

Things psychologist should do!

(1) Immediately locate the file and be sure the file is complete. It is always advisable to make a second copy of a file that may be the subject of a Board complaint so that if anything happens to cause the destruction of the file there is a backup.

(2) If there are any e-mail or other computer-based communications with the patient or complainant print them off and have them available for review.

(3) Obtain the billing statements that relate to the case.

(4) Advise your malpractice carrier of the situation and request that you be assigned counsel. Most malpractice policies have expressed coverage for administrative complaints and hearings and it's necessary to have the assistance of counsel because psychologists do not know what defenses exist or how to marshal the evidence to make their case the strongest.

(5) Be truthful with your attorney. It is much easier to put together a defense when you know what the problems are than to have somebody put a false good light on a case and have the defense get undermined when the facts are shown.

Things you should not do!

(1) Never contact the complainant directly. This will almost always be portrayed as an attempt to intimidate or harass the complainant. This is particularly true if the psychologist tries to make it sound like damaging information in the patient file will call the complainant's credibility into question. It may be true, but it appears to be an attempt to intimidate the complainant.

(2) Do not discuss the case with anyone other than the attorney that you are working with. Frequently psychologists will be so shocked by a Board complaint that they will talk to friends, colleagues, and even relatives about the situation. This simply expands the universe of potential witnesses who may need to be contacted.

(3) Under no circumstances create documents and put them in the file after becoming aware of a Board complaint. The file should not be tampered with. Nothing should be added that wasn't in the file before you became aware of the complaint. In some instances a psychologist's credibility has been destroyed by the introduction into the file of notes that were made after the complaint was made, but which are presented as if they were contemporaneous. If there are notes or records in the file that are unclear, poorly written, smudged, or otherwise not in pristine shape, that adds to the credibility of the notes. Nothing is more suspicious than a file of pristine, beautifully written, and well thought out notes that could not possibly have been made in the course of a normal session. Lawyers have an expression, "the cover-up is worse than the crime." This frequently comes into play when attempts are made to bolster a written record where a psychologist did nothing wrong but the subsequent attempts to augment the record make it look like he or she has a guilty conscience. I should also note that some psychologists have been told by supposed experts that when a Board complaint arises they should add discharge summaries or other documents to the file that weren't there before the complaint was known. The simple rule is the file should be gathered together but should not be augmented in any way once the psychologist knows of the complaint. (More next issue.)