

**2016 APA
Practice
Organization
Annual Report**

APAPRACTICE

ORGANIZATION

Promoting and supporting practicing psychologists

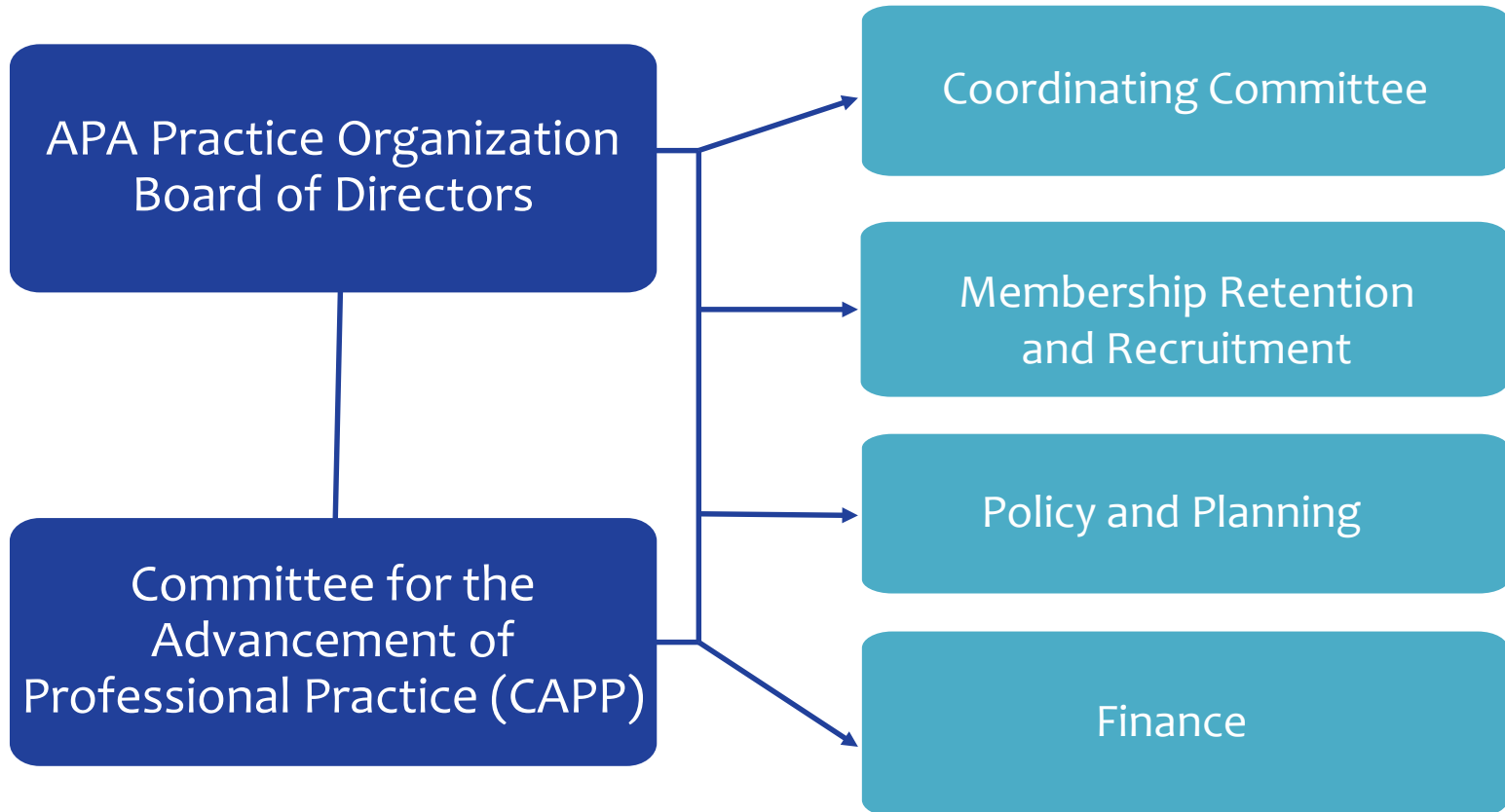


AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

APAPRACTICE
ORGANIZATION

- Promote “**psychology**”
 - Advance psychological knowledge to benefit society
 - Promote research in psychology
 - Establish standards of ethics, conduct, education and achievement
- Promote “**psychologists**” by advancing the trade of professional psychology
 - Engage in unrestricted lobbying, including for reimbursement rates
 - Work with political action committee Psychology PAC

APA Practice Organization Governance



About the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP)

Nine elected members to CAPP

In addition, there are the following:

- Currently, two appointed members
- One APAGS Representative
- APA Practice Organization
Treasurer: non-voting member

Committees:

SPTAs
Divisions
Nominations and Elections
Membership R&R

Workgroups:

Communications
Integrated Care Policy
Psychological Assessment
BPA/CAPP
Business Models

CAPP nominations for next election cycle opened February 13, 2017

www.apapracticecentral.org

2017 CAPP Members



Kate Brown, PhD



Lindsey Buckman, PsyD



Kathleen Ashton, PhD



Tyler Bradstreet, APAGS



Jean Carter, PhD



June Ching, PhD



Traci Cipriano, PhD



BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, PhD



Brett Hom



Jo Linder-Crow, PhD



Peter Oppenheimer, PhD



Diana Prescott, PhD



Jorge Wong, PhD

Practice Organization Accomplishments

Practice Organization Priorities

■ Advocacy

- ❖ Legislative
- ❖ Marketplace
- ❖ Legal and Regulatory
- ❖ Political Action Committee (PAC)

■ Member Resources

■ Collaboration with the SPTAs

■ In the News

Legislative Advocacy

Legislative Advocacy in 2016



- Advocating for the “Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act” that became law, as part of the 21st Century Cures Act. This legislation helped to better coordinate federal funding for mental health care.
- Building bipartisan support for the “Medicare Mental Health Access Act” (HR 4277)/(S 2597) to add psychologists to the **Medicare physician definition**
- Protecting key psychological and mental health provisions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as Congress looks to repeal/replace it

Key Mental Health Provisions in the ACA

- Mental Health Parity and Essential Health Benefits Package (EHB)
- Insurance Market Protections
- Integrated Care
- Medicaid Expansion
- Mental and Behavioral Health Grants

Marketplace Advocacy

Practice Organization: PQRSPRO

APAPO PQRSPRO

- A registry-reporting option for psychologists and other health care professionals.
- Makes reporting easier; includes approximately 14 mental and behavioral health measures.
- CMS imposed penalties for failure to report in 2015 and 2016.
- PRQRS will be replaced by Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) in 2017.
- APA will transition to MIPSPRO

Registration Growth for PQRSPRO



Legal and Regulatory

Legal and Regulatory Advocacy

Success with...

Parity/Insurance Challenges

Risk Adjustment Audits

Legal & Regulatory Member Consults

Innovative Practice Models

❖ Innovation Summits



Parity/Reimbursement Issue: 90837 procedure code

- Persuaded Anthem and Highmark BCBS to clarify the educational intent behind intimidating letters to psychologists who use 90837 (60-min psychotherapy) more than their peers
 - ❖ Anthem and Highmark confirmed that the letter was not meant to discourage appropriate use of 90837
- Filed complaints with Pennsylvania and Utah insurance commissioners re insurers paying little or nothing more for 90837 vs 45-minute code (90834)

Other parity enforcement efforts

- Began work with The Scattergood Foundation on a parity complaint survey for patients and providers.
- Submitted comments that were adopted by White House Parity Task Force's final report
- Met with top federal parity officials re enforcing outstanding complaints

Risk Adjustment Audits (ACA)



- Persuaded Aetna to adopt our approach for psychologists responding to risk adjustment audits, that lets them comply with HIPAA and state privacy laws, e.g., producing only minimal part of record
- Convinced Anthem BCBS of California to change its audit protocol so psychologists could comply with state's unique confidentiality law.

Legal & Regulatory Consults

- Fielded inquiries from more than a thousand members and from state psychological associations about legal, licensing, business and policy issues
- Provided fast, accurate and concise answers on a range from simple issues (such as how to respond to a subpoena) to complex business or licensing problems
- Tracked discussions and posted responsive information to numerous APA listservs

Innovative Practice Models (IPMs)

Innovation Summits

- The Practice Organization recently started a series of multi-state summits on innovative practice models (IPMs) and integration
- 2016 summits in DC and Chicago; Houston in November 2017
- Fast learners: Attendee at Chicago summit – in consultation with the Practice Organization – became first psychologist to launch complex Management Services Organization (MSO) model
- Another summit presenter planning to launch an MSO in a few months

Psychology PAC

PAC Highlights in 2016



The PAC for professional psychology



Participation in fundraiser events



Contributions to members of Congress

Education Advocacy Trust (EdAT)



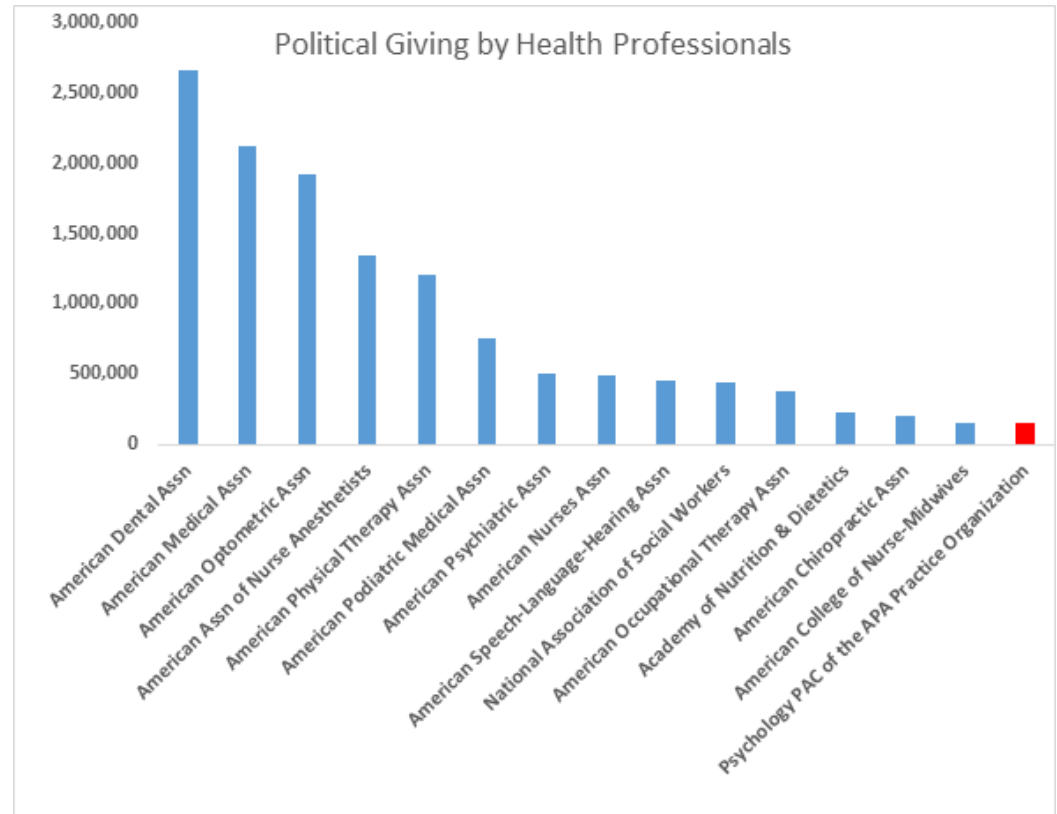
- Fundraisers for candidates who support psychology education and training
- Successful fundraising drive: “It’s PACademic”
- EdAT newsletter article about Psychology PAC’s Education Fund



Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) [center] with Karen Studwell, JD [left] and Wendy Plante, PhD [right]

Psychology PAC's Ranking during 114th Congress

Psychology PAC ranks 44th among 129 health professional PACs

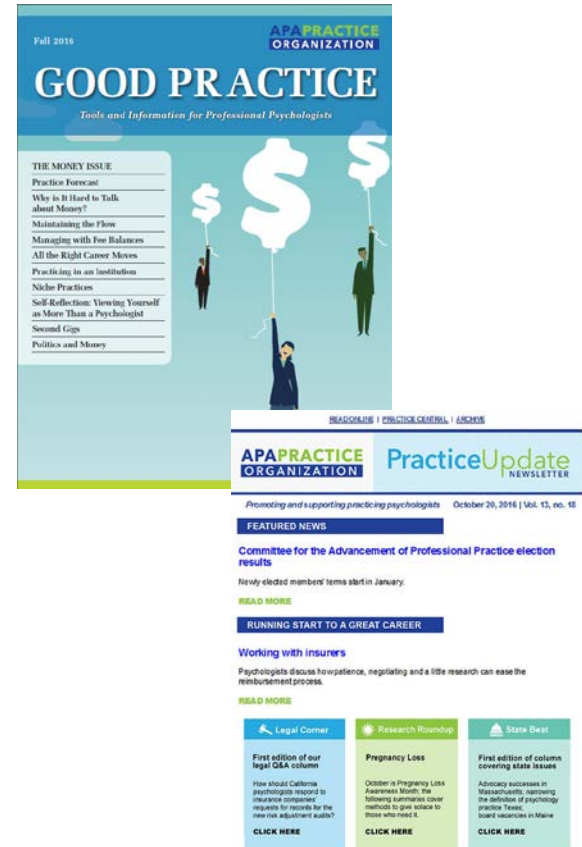


Member Resources

Resources for Practitioners: Member Communications

Keeping Practitioners Informed

- *Good Practice* magazine
- *PracticeUpdate* e-newsletter
- Practice Organization listserv, exclusively for Practice Organization members
- Practice Central website:
www.apapracticecentral.org



New Resources in 2016

- Complete Guide to Medicare
- Reimbursement webinar with Dr. Antonio E. Puente.
- Collection of Research Roundup columns from *PracticeUpdate*.
- Practice Help Desk teleconference with The Practice Institute on October 20
- *Good Practice* Fall 2016 – The Money Issue
- Refreshed *PracticeUpdate* newsletter
- apapracticecentral.org redesign



Collaborating with SPTAs

SPTA Activities

State Leadership Conference (annually since 1984)



- Organized by APA and Practice Organization
- Advocacy and leadership training for practice community
- 10,000 participants over 33 years
- Culminates with 300+ visits annually to members of Congress

SPTA Activities

- Grants to SPTAs
 - ❖ \$250,000 in organizational development grants awarded to small state psychological associations working to defend state licensing laws and scope of practice.
 - ❖ Over past 10 years –
 - ❖ \$1,540,000 in legislative grants awarded.
 - ❖ \$2,730,000 in organizational development grants awarded.
- RxP Action Fund
 - ❖ Advances Practice Organization's efforts to achieve RxP for qualified licensed psychologists.

Professional Psychology in the News

APA Practice Organization staff has been interviewed...

■ By such media outlets as:

The
New York
Times

MENTAL
HEALTH
WEEKLY

BuzzFeed

npr



THE SUN
www.baltimoresun.com

new england
PSYCHOLOGIST

■ On topics including:

- ❖ Telehealth
- ❖ Parity
- ❖ HIPAA
- ❖ Health care reform
- ❖ Scope of practice
- ❖ Prescription privilege
- ❖ Record keeping

If not the Practice Organization, Who Else?

- 1 Challenging reimbursement rate cuts
- 2 Taking action against managed care/insurance company abuses
- 3 Advocating for practitioners' interests in health care reform
- 4 Affirming the doctoral standard
- 5 Confronting assaults on scope of practice
- 6 Fostering political action for psychology
- 7 Advocating for higher rates and expansion in Medicaid