

August 2023

# Public Service Psychology

Newsletter of APA's Division 18



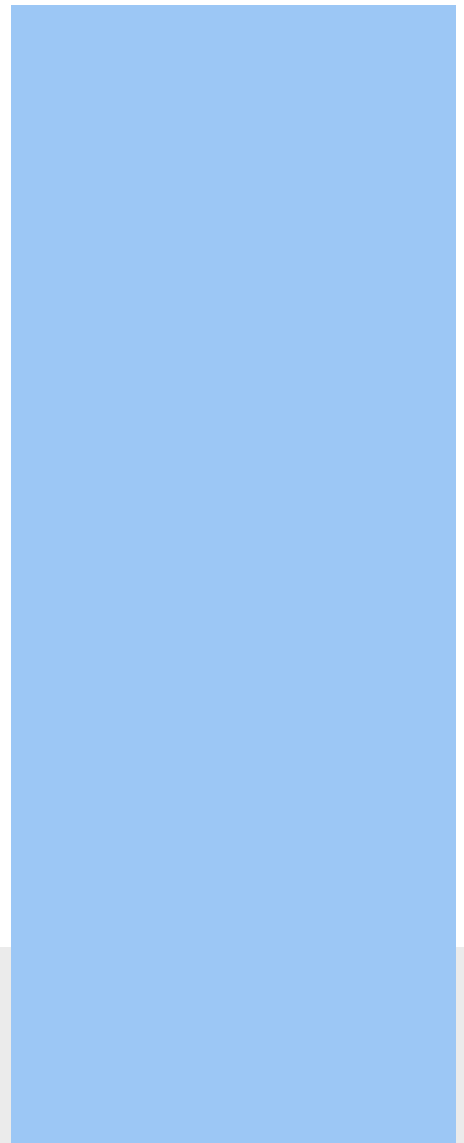
## IN THIS ISSUE:

Historian's Column

Research Spotlight

Committee Report

Announcements



# HISTORIAN COLUMN

Timothy P. Carmody, PhD



*In this historian column, I profile past Division 18 leaders who have made significant achievements in their advocacy efforts for public service psychology and those vulnerable individuals served in public sector settings.*

## Dr. Ellen Scrivner

The APA Presidential Citation was presented to Dr. Scrivner by APA President Jennifer Kelley in 2021. The citation reads as follows:

“In recognition of her commitment, dedication, and leadership in advancing strategies to reduce police bias and violence against African Americans, Ellen Scrivner, PhD, ABPP, was awarded an APA Presidential Citation. Dr. Scrivner is co-chair of the APA Presidential Task Force on Use of Force against African Americans. Created in the wake of George Floyd’s murder and subsequent racial unrest across the United States, the task force is an effort to promote and make a constructive contribution to change by convening a group of experts in relevant areas to develop a resource to aid police leaders in making lasting change that will effectively reduce illegitimate and illegal use of force against African Americans, as well as having beneficial impacts on police-community relations. [Dr.] Scrivner is a Police Foundation Executive Fellow and has had a distinguished career in executive leadership devoted to advancing policing in America. She is a recognized national expert on criminal justice policy, police behavior, and public safety and policing issues. Dr. Scrivner began as a police psychologist at both the Fairfax County Police Department in Virginia and the Prince George County Police Department in Maryland. She moved on to become president of Public Safety Innovations in Washington, and deputy superintendent of the Bureau of Administrative Services at the Chicago Police Department. Dr. Scrivner has served on the Steering Committee for the Harvard Executive Sessions on Policing and Public Safety (2010–11) and received an invitation to testify for the President’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing in 2015. A licensed psychologist, Dr. Scrivner is board certified in police and public safety psychology. She is a past president of the Psychologists in Public Service Division (APA Div. 18). In 2013, she received the Harold M. Hildreth Distinguished Public Service Award from APA Div. 18 for outstanding executive leadership in advancing public service psychology. Dr. Scrivner received her doctorate from The Catholic University of America.

Because of her extensive scholarship, research, dedication to eliminating bias and discrimination in policing, and her commitment and service to APA and the profession of psychology, it is my honor to award Ellen Scrivner, PhD, ABPP with this 2021 Presidential Citation.” (Jennifer Kelly, APA President, 2021)

### **Dr. Jason Cantone**

Dr. Cantone was presented with the APA Presidential Citation in 2022 by APA President Frank Worrell. The citation reads as follows:

”[A]nd the dignity of people who are incarcerated or who have been convicted of a felony and in improving the effectiveness of the APA Council of Representatives. Throughout his tenure on Council and the Council Effectiveness Work Group, Dr. Cantone has used his training in the law and social psychology to improve the inner workings of Council, including demystifying the process of introducing a New Business Item and shepherding it through the byzantine legislative process. This past year, Dr. Cantone provided Council with a master class in how to negotiate the legislative process quickly and effectively through his work to remove a question asking applicants for APA membership to reveal whether they had been previously convicted of a felony. Dr. Cantone learned of the pain that some of our fellow psychologists were experiencing when they were asked to disclose their felony status when attempting to join what they viewed as their professional home. He jumped into action, learning more about the “ban the box” movement and the research supporting it, and the disproportionate impact of the “box” on members of other marginalized groups. He rapidly authored a new business item calling for the removal of the felony status question from the APA membership application for Council to consider. He listened to the pleas of those affected by this question for a swift resolution of the issue because of the ongoing harm this question in our application materials was causing. The resolution did come quickly, but only because Dr. Cantone spent countless hours developing support for the initiative among members of Council and the relevant Boards and Committees, all the while including those who were most affected by this application question in the discussions. He was also instrumental in creating space for those affected by the application question to be heard by Council members before voting on the item. He continues the work to this day, working with SPTAs to eliminate similar questions from their application materials. Through his work on this issue, Dr. Cantone personified APA’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion and to dismantling structures within our organization that perpetuate systemic racism. In recognition of Dr. Cantone’s substantive contributions to the inner workings of APA Council and his successful efforts to give voice to a group of our colleagues who had previously been unintentionally, yet unjustly, been discouraged from full participation in our organization, it is my pleasure to present Dr. Jason Cantone with this presidential citation.” (Frank Worrell, APA President, 2022)

## Division 18 Section History

The history of Division 18 cannot be fully understood without knowing the history of the events, challenges, and achievements of each of its sections. The mission of public service psychology can best be appreciated by examining the impact of the important work of psychologists working with incarcerated, indigenous, veterans, individuals with SMI, and patients receiving care in state and community hospitals.

I have recently reached out to leaders in each section of Division 18 to become more informed about important section-specific events, challenges, and achievements during the past couple of decades. I look forward to receiving their reports in the near future. If you have additional information regarding the recent history of a particular section of Division 18, please let me know.

## Division 18 History Webpage

I encourage you to check out the Division 18 history webpage. The Webpage link is: <https://www.apadivisions.org/division-18/about/history>

This webpage can be found on the Division 18 website through our “About” page: <https://www.apadivisions.org/division-18/about>

A list of podcasts with past presidents can also be found on this webpage.

You will also find a link to Dr. Rod Baker’s recent webinar on the history of Division 18 that was created as part of the division’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The webinar is entitled: “75 Years of Public Service: The History of Psychologists in Public Service (APA Division 18) 1946-2021” and chronicles the five periods of the history of Division 18 from its inception in 1946, years of growth and maturation, and recent public service achievements. According to Dr. Baker, the fifth and most recent period of Division 18’s history (what he called “the vision of Division 18 continues”) spanned 15 years from 2006 to 2021. I have no doubt that this period has continued its eventful historical path for public service psychology during the past two years.

In addition, the Division 18 history webpage provides a link to the *Robert W. Goldberg Division 18 Memorial History Photograph Collection*. If you have any photos that were taken during Division 18 events from 2017 to the present time that you would like to submit to the collection, please send them to me by email. Please include the names of individuals shown in these photos so that I can create appropriate captions.

## Request for Historian Stories

The history of Division 18 continues. We all know the importance of understanding the lessons taught by our past in shaping our future. If you wish to share any personal stories

or memories that you believe have contributed to the history of Division 18 and that you are willing to share with members of the division, you are welcome to contact me at [tcarmody306@gmail.com](mailto:tcarmody306@gmail.com) or phone me at 415-233-1388.

# COMMITTEE REPORT

APA Ethics Code Task Force

Rita Wood, PsyD



## APA Ethics Code Task Force Meeting Summary for May 2023

*I have been the Division 18 representative at the APA Ethics Task Force Committee. I wanted to provide an update on what has been occurring with the Ethics code updates.*

The most recent meeting held where representatives were invited to attend to provide representatives were informed of the standards currently being discussed at that time. These areas were competence; testing, assessment, and evaluation; relationship with the public; scientific integrity and research; education, training, and supervision. The task forces use the following criteria when making revisions to the code: applicability, clarity, and enforceability. This helps to shape the direction the task force takes with each area. There is a long process the revisions must go through prior to public comment and after public comment. The process was explained as follows:

1. Completion of final drafts are shared with the Ethics Committee on a rolling basis
2. Revisions are made based upon comments given by the Ethics Committee
3. A draft of complete ethics code is given to the Office of General Counsel
4. There is a 60-day public comment window
5. The task force does revisions and reviews received by the Ethics Committee and Office of General Counsel
6. A final version is sent to the Ethics Committee
7. Ethics Committee recommends the final version to the APA Board and Council to adopt.

The APA Ethics Code Task Force has been meeting to update the Ethics Code and will be seeking public comment about proposed changes in the near future. The website for more information and to review the task force's meeting minutes is the following: [Ethics Code Task Force \(apa.org\)](https://www.apa.org/ethics-code-task-force) The meeting minutes links on the website give more detailed information regarding the processes that have occurred at each meeting with the May 2023 minutes having slides about the process the drafts go through during this entire process of revisions.



## FEATURED ARTICLE:

**Dr. Patrick Deleon PhD, MPH, JD**



For our nation’s mental/behavioral health providers, the recent COVID-19 pandemic highlighted for society and for the Administration the critical importance of *ensuring access* to quality mental/behavioral health care for all Americans. USPHS Surgeon General Vivek Murthy describes the growing youth mental health crisis in America as the “defining public health crisis of our time.” He further warned that social media carries a “profound risk of harm to the mental health of children and adolescents.” The July/August *APA Monitor* proclaimed: “More than 20% of teens have seriously considered suicide.” For those with vision, today’s political climate provides an unprecedented opportunity to significantly transform the mental/behavioral environment just as, over 100 years ago, the Flexner report revolutionized medicine. The fundamental question is whether psychology’s training institutions will rise to the occasion and effectively address society’s pressing need; or perhaps in the alternative, will an entirely new form of mental/behavioral health care providers evolve, driven by other health care professions, service delivery systems, or those who “pay the bills”?

More than three decades ago, Michael Smyer’s 1992 ad hoc Task Force on Psychopharmacology (RxP) reported to the APA Council of Representatives that “practitioners, with combined training in psychopharmacology and psychosocial treatments, could be viewed as a new form of health care professional, expected to bring to health care delivery the best of both psychological and pharmacological knowledge. Further, the proposed new providers had the potential to dramatically improve patient care and make important new advances in treatment.” Yet today, none of the current APA Presidential candidates addressed RxP during their July/August campaign statements, notwithstanding its potential positive impact on historical Health Disparities and the effectiveness of holistic, patient-centered care.

Steve Ragusea: “It’s been said that psychologists spend too much time talking to themselves rather than interacting with their cultural environs. As Alvin Toffler first predicted in *Future Shock*, the pace of social innovation is escalating. And although

psychology has built a widely recognized reputation for excellence around the world, we must build upon the strengths of our science while expanding into a rapidly arriving future full of social and technological change. Knowledge from genetics, psychopharmacology, and behavioral research must be integrated into our existing model. We must broaden our vision and expand the scope of our practice past the narrow view of the consulting room. The front page of any newspaper provides a quick glimpse of the ways in which society needs doctors of behavior, psychologists. It is our destiny to respond to these pressing human needs.

“How do we begin to address these issues? One essential piece of the answer is psychopharmacology training and practice within the scope of professional psychology. Research has shown that psychologists have been safely and effectively practicing psychopharmacology for over 25 years. We now have prescriptive authority (RxP) in Colorado, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, New Mexico, and Louisiana; as well as in the U.S. military and USPHS. Sometimes I wonder if my colleagues are even aware of the transformational changes taking place in society that should be impacting how we train young psychologists. What I’m sure of, is that if we don’t adapt to change, we will suffer the same fate as the once respected science of phrenology, and join that profession in the dustbin of history. They failed; we should not.”

One of the profession’s modern-day visionaries, Morgan Sammons, was one of the first two Department of Defense psychopharmacology Fellows (1994), Dean of the California School of Professional Psychology, and recently retired CEO of the *National Register*. He has been urging our academic colleagues to consider from what their perspective might be, a dramatic reconceptualization of what constitutes appropriate training for health service psychologists. His proffered positive action strategies include: recognizing that the educational needs of researchers and those of clinicians are different; acknowledging that the competencies currently addressed in competency-based education must fundamentally reflect the knowledge and skills required for the practice of health service psychologists; understanding that a wholesale revision of the doctoral curriculum is the fulcrum on which other necessary changes pivot; and that psychology must collectively expand the scope of practice of health service psychology.

Medical education has undergone a recent transformation, during which the historical building blocks in basic education (for example, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, etc.) that were previously taught in semester-long courses, are no longer recognizable as such. Instead, they are now consolidated into courses which teach the subject matter while integrating this with clinical skills, and, for example, education in health disparities. Clinical correlations don’t have to wait – it’s the fundamental expectation that these courses will be taught within a clinical framework that examines not only how the doctor approaches the patient but also thinks about how the patient approaches the doctor. Such a modification for psychology would be fundamental to the necessary discussion of what defines a doctoral-level psychologist.

Not all psychologists are going to be members of a healthcare delivery team. Nevertheless, Morgan proposes that all should possess the requisite abilities to do so. Today's graduate curriculum must be radically reshaped to make it more clinically focused, less costly to complete, and dramatically more time efficient. Why, for example, should summertime education remain optional? Why should students delay licensure for a year devoted to completing their dissertation?

His vision includes having tomorrow's doctoral health service psychologists possessing the capacity of acting as an integral member of a multidisciplinary health delivery team while focusing upon the evaluation and treatment of emotional disorders and the complex interplay between emotional and physical well-being. Health service psychologists must possess expertise in the etiology and treatment of emotional disorders and a working knowledge of common states of health and illness. Psychology can no longer pretend that physical disorders are beyond the ken of psychology. Knowledge of psychopharmacology is the lingua franca of modern mental health treatment. In essence, the evolution of psychology's training modules must preserve the basic knowledge and competencies of the profession while teaching them in an integrated, clinically oriented fashion. For example, Morgan postulates that there might well evolve three distinct sequences of instruction: the Doctor-Patient Relationship, the Therapeutic Relationship, and Foundations of Health Service Psychology. To remain stagnant in comfortable isolated professional silos is simply not acceptable. The underlying question remains: Will psychology effectively address society's most recent pressing need?

**The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Practice Leadership Conference -- 2017: *Practice, Politics & Policy***, what better forum for APA President Tony Puente and Executive Director for Professional Practice Katherine Nordal? Over 400 colleagues attended that spring, enjoying the lush harmonies of The Capital Hearings. Copies were provided of the recent *Washington Post* article "GOP health-care bill would drop addiction treatment mandate covering 1.3 million Americans" and the full text of President Donald Trump's Address to the Joint Session of Congress during which he proclaimed: "Finally, the time has come to give Americans the freedom to purchase health insurance across State lines – creating a truly comprehensive national marketplace that will bring cost way down and provide for better care."

APA's expressed concern regarding the GOP's position on the Affordable Care Act, deemed "Repeal and Replace," highlighted the benefits of the current law's requirement of a package of Essential Health Benefits, requiring coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services (including behavioral health treatment); applying parity requirements for mental health and addiction equity; extending Medicaid coverage; and, establishing an array of basic insurance protections. Not surprisingly, making progress on obtaining recognition under the "physician" definition of Medicare by obtaining co-sponsorships of the Medicare Mental Health Access Act, then sponsored by current U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown and Susan Collins, was also urged.



Highlights of the APA Practice Organization's 2017 Annual Report presented by Katherine and Kate Brown included: promoting "psychologists" by advancing the trade of professional psychology; providing a real-world view of clinical practice, patient outcomes, safety, and clinical, comparative, and cost-effectiveness; telehealth; the RXP Action Fund; and the sad fact that the Practice Organization's grants were being significantly curtailed; and affirming the doctoral standard. Notwithstanding the public's perception that their elected officials did not care about what real people think, the conference presenters emphasized that Senators and Congresspersons really DO care. Thus, one could not overstate the importance of the forthcoming Hill visits and individual psychologists "Telling Your Story!" At that time, the Psychology PAC ranked 44<sup>th</sup> among the 129-health professional PACS, well behind the American Dental Association, American Medical Association, American Optometric Association, and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Are we doing any better in 2023?

**Psychology's Critically Impressive Investment:** Michelle Ryder, CEO of the American Psychological Foundation (APF) – "The party will be with APF during APA's 2023 Convention! We are starting off Thursday with a networking event, in partnership with the Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CECP), for early career researchers to learn more about available APF grants. Our staff will be on hand to answer questions and match people with opportunities. On Friday, Beth Morling will give the Charles L. Brewer Lecture, titled "Let's Stay Together" as the recipient of the prestigious Brewer Distinguished Teaching Award. On Saturday, APF is hosting an all-star lineup beginning with the Spielberg EMPathy Symposium. Charlie established this symposium in 1994 to bring scholars from Divisions 3, 8, and 12 together to discuss their perspectives on emotion, motivation, and personality and to contribute to advances and integration of relevant theory and research. This year, the speakers are Elizabeth Kensinger (Div. 3), Coren Apicella (Div. 8), and Bethany Teachman (Div. 12). Directly following the symposium, Barbara Held and Christopher Green will co-present at the Arthur W. Staats Lecture. This lecture series was established in 1998 through a gift from the Staats family in honor of his long and distinguished career. The series continues his focus on research that unifies psychology and grounds it as a science. Finally, APF will host the Lynn Stuart Weiss Lecture on Attaining Peace through World Law (featuring Sara McClelland) and the Rosalee G. Weiss Lecture for Outstanding Leaders in Psychology (featuring Danny Wedding). Capping off Saturday to celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, APF is hosting L8 Night, a 70's themed dance party with an open bar and light refreshments. This ticketed event is open to all Convention attendees." It is indeed a pleasure to serve as an Honorary Trustee of APF. "There's no map or compass to guide me" (Wild Uncharted Waters, The Little Mermaid, Jonah Hauer-King).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please congratulate our new Executive Board Members and Leaders!*

## **President-Elect**

Gayle Iwamasa

## **Community & State Hospitals:**

Sarah Robertson, Ph.D., Chair-Elect

## **Native Psychologists and Communities:**

Billie Jo Kipp, Ph.D.

## **Police & Public Safety: \_**

Karen Amendola, Ph.D., Chair-Elect and Stephanie Williams, Ph.D., incoming Secretary-Treasurer

**Criminal Justice:** Morgan Hill, incoming Secretary-Treasurer

## **Veterans Administration: \_**

Marie Mesidor, Ph.D., Chair-Elect

Cassi Franklin, Ph.D., incoming Secretary-Treasurer

## **Education Member-at-Large**

Suzanne Spinola

## **APA Science Partner**

Jennifer Eno Loudon

## **Webmaster**

Noosha Niv

## **Interdivisional Webinar Series Chair**

Katia Arroyo Carrión

## **Public Service Psychology Newsletter co-editor**

Julia Hajdukovic

Check out our new website:

[publicservicepsych.org](http://publicservicepsych.org)



 Facebook: [Facebook.com/Division18](https://www.facebook.com/Division18)

 Twitter: [Twitter @apadiv18](https://twitter.com/apadiv18)

 LinkedIn: [LinkedIn.com/company/apadiv18](https://www.linkedin.com/company/apadiv18)

 Instagram: [Instagram.com/apadiv18/](https://www.instagram.com/apadiv18/)