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TREATMENT WORKS | RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE

the freudian slip

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Proposed legislation would prohibit gender change therapy for minors

The Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act (HB1 and companion bill SB10) proposes to prohibit gender change therapy for minors and withholding of certain related information from parents. The Alabama Psychiatric Physicians Association executive council is opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- Patients who have gender dysmorphia and no support are 60 percent more at risk for suicidal ideation. In patients who do have support it is clinically proven they only have a 4 percent risk of suicide ideation.
- This would affect the physician patient relationship. Government serves a valuable role in the protection of public health and safety and the provision of essential health services. APPA supports this proper role of government. Laws that veer from these functions and unduly interfere with patient-physician relationships are not appropriate. Absent a substantial public health justification, government should not interfere with individual patient-physician encounters. The patient-physician relationship is essential to the provision of safe and quality medical care and should be protected from unnecessary governmental intrusion.
- Liability lawsuits could arise from potential patient self-harm if a physician is unable to properly discuss an issue with a patient.

continued on page 2

APPA Committees

The past few issues of *Freudian Slip* highlighted members of our 2020-2022 executive council. We now focus on our committees. **Participating in a committee is a great way to grow your involvement with APPA.** To learn more about a committee contact APPA Executive Director Meghan Martin at mmartin@alamedical.org.

Membership

The membership committee works to improve recruitment and retention of members, and to ensure that all psychiatry residents in the state receive information about the society. The Membership Committee chair is J. Luke Engeriser, MD, DFAPA.

Early Career Psychiatrist (ECP)

The ECP committee plans and implements educational, career planning, and social events for ECPs to engage them in the society's activities and convey society information to them. Members are Clinton Martin, MD, FAPA; J. Clint Moore, DO; and Janaki Nimmagadda, MD, FAPA

Resident Fellow Member (RFM)

The RFM committee plans and implements educational, career planning, and social events for RFMs; and brings RFM issues to the attention of the executive council. Members are Dwight Kemp, MD, UAB; Jim LePage, MD, USA; and Lindsey Stewart, MD, USA. 🌍



Registration is open for APPA's Spring Conference

April 23-24, 2021 • Embassy Suites, Montgomery

See page 3 for details.

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WHAT'S UP AROUND THE STATE...

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

New legislation would impact physician licensure and regulation in Alabama

APPA has signed on to a letter opposing legislation being pushed by Sen. Jim McClendon (R-Springville) that would have a detrimental impact on physician licensure and regulation in Alabama. As written, this legislation would:

- Abolish the Medical Licensure Commission (MLC) and Board of Medical Examiners (BME) in their current form and reconstitute them into one much smaller entity by decreasing from 24 total (16 on the BME and eight on the MLC) to only seven people total;
- Disqualify a physician from serving on the reconstituted board if he or she is involved with his or her specialty society or state, county, or national medical society;
- Remove the ability of physicians to elect board members based on congressional districts; and
- Diminish the participation of rural, minority, and female physicians in medical regulation in Alabama.

Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights

HB137 creates the Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights and provides certain rights to all victims of sexual assault. The bill also creates a task force responsible for developing recommendations for improving the coordination of the dissemination and implementation of best practices and protocols to hospital administrators, physicians, forensic examiners, and other medical associations and leaders in the medical community. The Medical Association of the State of Alabama worked with the bill sponsor to amend the bill and ensure physician liability was not expanded.

COVID-19 Liability Protection

This bill (SB30) provides liability protection to physicians, health facilities, and businesses from claims arising from COVID-19 and the state's response to the pandemic. The Medical Association, with the help of Starnes, Davis, Florie, LLP, worked with Sen. Arthur Orr in drafting this bill. SB30 has already passed the Senate and now heads to the House.

Cares Act Tax Exclusion

These bills (SB98 and HB170) exclude any money received from the CARES Act or other similar COVID-related relief measures from Alabama income tax. "We are not going to tax any of the stimulus monies that came in for businesses, for individuals, for anyone," said Sen. Dan Roberts (R-Mountain Brook). 🌐

Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act, cont.

Synopsis of HB1/SB10

Gender Change Therapy: These bills would make it a felony for physicians to treat transgender youth with hormonal therapy and puberty blockers to help their transition. More specifically, the bills would prohibit the use of puberty-blocking drugs, hormonal therapy and surgery to treat transgender minors. Violators could face up to 10 years in prison.

House Bill 1 – <https://legiscan.com/AL/text/HB1/2021>

Senate Bill 10 – <https://legiscan.com/AL/text/SB10/2021> 🌐



ALABAMA PSYCHIATRIC
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION
A District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association

APPA 2021 Spring Conference

April 23-24, 2021

Embassy Suites, Montgomery

Registration is open for APPA's Spring Conference

APPA's executive council is moving forward with having the 2021 Spring Conference in person with a virtual option available for those who cannot attend in person. Social distancing measures will be taken. Be sure to indicate on your registration form if you will be attending in person or virtually.

Call for Abstracts: Deadline March 26

In conjunction with the Spring Conference, APPA will host a Resident/Medical Student Poster Contest. Residents and students who are interested in participating are asked to coordinate with a faculty member in preparing a poster for the meeting. The posters are assigned abstract numbers and are published on the APPA website so count as "Published Abstracts" on your CV. This is a very easy way to build your academic portfolio!

The posters will be judged at the conference and awards given to the highest ranking posters.

Abstracts should be sent to [Luke Engeriser, MD](mailto:Luke.Engeriser@alabamapsych.com), by March 23 for consideration. See examples of abstracts at www.alabamapsych.com/abstract.

Accommodations

Embassy Suites by Hilton
300 Tallapoosa St, Montgomery, AL

The APPA room rate at Embassy Suites is \$129 per night. [Reserve a room online.](#)

Registration

Registration is free for Early Career Psychiatrist, Residents and Students! Register online at www.tinyurl.com/APPA2021SpringConference or print a registration form at www.alabamapsych.com/physicians.

Agenda

Note: Times are subject to change.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Registration/Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Treating Co-Occurring Psychiatric Disorders in Substance Use Disordered Patients

Stephen Taylor, MD, MPH, DFAPA, Certified Medical Officer, Behavioral Health Division, Pathway Healthcare, LLC

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Transitional Age Youth

Blessing Falola, MD, Assistant Professor, University of Alabama-Birmingham

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors/Poster Viewing

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Genetic Testing in Psychiatry: Ready for Primetime?

Matthew Macaluso, DO, Bee McWane Reid Professor, University of Alabama-Birmingham

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Cerebral Asymmetry and Psychiatry – Facts vs. Fiction

Godehard Oepen, MD, PhD, DLFAPA, Psychiatrist, Grayson & Associates/Ascension

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Pick up boxed lunch/Business Meeting

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mentalization Based Treatment: Beyond Borderline

Owen Muir, MD, Founder and Chief Innovation Officer, Brooklyn Minds

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Social/Racial Determinants of Mental Health

Irena Bukelis, MD, Associate Professor, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology, University of Alabama - Birmingham; and Dwight Kemp, MD, Resident, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology, University of Alabama-Birmingham

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Afternoon Break/Poster viewing

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Behavioral and Psychological Treatments of Insomnia

Anna Ivenenko, MD, PhD, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Medical Director of Pediatric Sleep Medicine, Northwestern University/AMITA Health

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast with Exhibitors/Poster Viewing

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Risk Management and Telepsychiatry

Charles D. Cash, JD, LLM, Associate Director of Risk Management, PRMS

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors/Poster Awards

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Coding Changes for 2021

Dorothy O'Keefe, MD, Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University

11:15 a.m.

Evaluation/Adjourn

SAVE  DATE

Coming Attractions

2021 APPA Spring Conference

April 23-24 | Embassy Suites, Montgomery

2021 APPA Fall Conference in conjunction with SPA

October 6-9 | Westin Huntsville

2022 APPA Spring Conference

April 1-2 | The Lodge at Gulf State Park

2022 APPA Fall Conference

October 7-8 | Marriott Resort, Auburn-Opelika Grand National

2023 APPA Spring Conference

TBA

APA News Briefs

February Course of the Month – Racism and Climate Change: Impact on Communities of Color

The devastating impacts of global warming and associated environmental degradation are serious general health and mental health issues. Although all global populations will be affected, the impacts are not equally distributed. Communities of color are among the first and most profoundly impacted and are often the least able to cope, respond and recover. This course will address the connection between the unconscious embedded attitudes about race and current specific ways communities of color are impacted by the changes due to climate disruption. Access the *Course of the Month* and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.

APA Election Results

The following officers will be installed during the APA Annual Meeting, May 1-3: President-elect: Rebecca W. Brendel, MD, JD; Secretary: Sandra M. DeJong, MD, MS; Early Career Psychiatrist Trustee: Elie G. Aoun, MD, MRO; Minority/Underrepresented Representative Trustee: Felix Torres, MD, MBA; and Resident-Fellow Member Trustee-elect: Urooj Yazdani, MD.


Registration for the 2021 APA Annual Meeting is Open

The premier psychiatry event of the year will be hosted online May 1-3, 2021. This year's theme is *Finding Equity Through Advances in Mind and Brain in Unsettled Times* and the educational program will cover the full breadth of psychiatric topics focusing on the most pressing issues facing your practice and patients. Learn More at <https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/meetings/annual-meeting>.

Frequently Asked Questions about Telepsychiatry

In this installment of *APA's Telepsychiatry Blog*, Drs. Steven Chan and Krysti Vo tackle some frequently asked questions received by our members about telepsychiatry practice and licensing.

APA Members Can Order PPE Through Project N95

To help members who are having trouble acquiring PPE, *APA is collaborating with Project N95* to purchase the following items at bulk pricing rates: N95 respirators (certified by CDC and NIOSH), Nitrile powder free gloves, Level 1 and Level 2 AAMI isolation gowns, ASTM Level 1 and Level 3 surgical masks, Hard surface disinfectant and Disposable face shields. There are no minimum order quantities. APA member login required. 

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Articles or advertisements should be sent to Charlotte H. Morris, at cmorris@alamedical.org two weeks in advance of printing.

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