

2006

Police Psychological Services November 2006



2006 Annual IACP Conference: The Year in Review / Our Future Defined

This is an exciting time. We just completed one of our most successful conferences ever. Attendance was high, not only from our own section membership but also from IACP general members as well. Dave Corey and Phil Trompetter put together an exceptional program that showcased the full range of our membership's skills.

We had presentations on assessment and treatment, prevention and intervention, and consultation and operational considerations for working with law enforcement. Our colleagues shared the latest in research and standards of practice. The level of contribution was high, as was the quality of the work presented.

While no doubt many of us were forced to choose between equally compelling workshops, we had more options than ever, and how exciting it was to see that our group had so diversified and grown that there was indeed so much new information to share. Many of the presentations drew standing-room-only audiences, and that was after Kim Kohlhepp, our ever-present man of the hour, able to leap tall buildings, or at the very least keep it all glued together, had already secured us one of our largest venues ever.

Phil now officially joins the board as program chair and will undoubtedly continue the tradition of providing a well-organized, professional training conference that stimulates and caters to the interests of a more and more diverse group. Clearly, the IACP Psychological Services Section membership has become the source for the most up-to-date, cutting-edge training in the field of police psychology.

Continuing Education Program and the Annual Conference

For the umpteenth year in a row, Scott Allen greased the wheels and coordinated our efforts to make available to our membership a whopping 10 continuing education credits. As always, he accomplished this feat with such finesse that only a select few had any idea of the mountain of paperwork he had climbed, to say nothing of the frustration and aggravation, to provide what on the surface appeared as a smooth, almost seamless, service.

It's time for Scott to now pass the baton, though he has graciously agreed to help us forge a new path, with the section itself as the new CE provider. Both he and Gary Rogers, with the help of a yet-to-be-formed annual conference committee, all under the tutelage of Phil, our new program chair, will work together to take this conference to the next level in advancing both the field of police psychology and our role as advisors to the general IACP membership. If you would like to become involved and actively contribute to the design and development of the annual conference as a member of this standing committee, please contact Phil, back channel, at ptrompet@ix.netcom.com.

Participation in the annual conference can serve as both an opportunity for exploration and a stepping-stone for those individuals potentially interested in becoming a member of the section board. One of the first tasks of this new committee will be to assess the success of the current conference and evaluate the use of this same format for future conferences. It was suggested that, if we do continue with concurrent presentations, we seek out improved means of making available the various presentation materials to those unable to attend, through the use of increased handouts, PowerPoint presentations on disk, and so on. Changes in presentation times to increase the ease of attending the various tracks without having to leave in the middle of a workshop will also be addressed. Various potential future topics of interest for next year's conference were identified,

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including prescription medication addiction and the impact of a pandemic, either natural or manmade, on first responders. I know there are a lot more cutting-edge ideas out there and it will be the job of this committee to find them!

Several firsts occurred this year as the section continued to expand in both size and influence. This was the first year our section's continuing education workshops were listed not only as a separate track but also included as part of the general conference offerings. This was also the first, and hopefully not the last, year that the section had its own conference hotel, care of Dave Corey, who had secured us an exceptionally well-priced deal at a great facility close to the action. Section members could casually meet and catch up on old times in a comfortable haven, and several commented on the increased camaraderie and networking opportunities that this provided. There is no going back from here.

In the hope of repeating this experience and adding to it, a recommendation was made to establish a standing networking committee composed at least in part of representatives from our future host cities (New Orleans, San Diego, Denver, Orlando, and Chicago, in that order) that would take on the task of planning the Saturday night social event as well as arranging for the availability of a host section hotel that would afford members the increased networking opportunities if they wished.

Conference Networking

Guy did a yeoman's job of securing funding support and planning our evening of entertainment. A special thanks to Pearson Assessments and the Network of Multicultural Training Professionals for underwriting the evening. We will try to design the evening in the future with an eye toward increased opportunities for interaction among the membership in a casual, relaxed atmosphere.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this working committee which will be overseen by Dave Corey and Guy Seymour, please e-mail Dave, back channel, at dmc@davidmcoreyphd.com, to volunteer. If you are from one of the upcoming host cities, your assistance would truly be appreciated, and if we all work together, a great conference will be had by all.

Membership Brings in 16 New Members

Guy Seymour, our membership chair, brought in a record 16 new members as he hands the gavel, or in this case the postage stamps, over to our new membership chair, Dave Corey. Welcome to new members: Robert Cipriano, Evan Axelrod, Daniel Claiborn, Bruce Cappo, Ron Waln, Adam Herdina, Edrick Dorian, Barbara Pavlo, Jay Nagdimon, Robin Greene, Shirley St. Peter, Wayne Hunt, Scott Herrmann, Steve Barron, Stephanie Barone, and James Warren.

Dave is already on the prowl to identify and draw into our ranks other psychologists working in the field of police psychology who may not yet know of our existence. Participation in this recruitment venture by the entire section membership will ensure that we are able to stay informed and on the cutting edge of our field while providing a smooth succession to those up and coming. Let's face it: some of us have already been around for a long time and won't last forever. We owe it to both the profession and our constituents, the IACP general membership, to provide mentorship for the future.

Membership To Explore New Qualifications

In this same vein, it behooves us to once again explore the issue of membership qualifications with an eye toward adding additional classifications. I know that this is a sensitive issue but there are a significant number of international, as well as local, preeminent academic and organizational psychologists who are actively involved in contributing to the field of police psychology who do not qualify for section membership under the current guidelines. We risk losing our hard-won position as the de facto subject matter experts and

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advisors to the IACP general membership in matters related to the field of police psychology should we choose to maintain our current elitism.

A means exists whereby we can maintain both our current professional standards and control of the future of our section while increasing our inclusiveness. Over the next year, Dave Corey, with the assistance of Andy Ryan and Gary Aumiller, will oversee a yet-to-be-formed committee tasked with exploring these issues and developing a proposal to be voted on by the section membership at next year's conference in New Orleans. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dave, back channel, at dmc@davidmcoreyphd.com.

Business Meeting a Success

We had a very successful business meeting with lots of tangible accomplishments and ideas for future focus. Both the Peer Support and Consulting Police Psychologist guidelines were unanimously approved by the section membership.

I attribute this to the hard work of our committee chairs and co-chairs as well as the great participation of large numbers of our membership, either as committee members or as guideline reviewers. The opportunity was supplied for everyone to have their chance for input and indeed all the bumps were worked out ahead of time, making for smooth sailing on the final vote. Good work and thank you to all, with a special thanks to Wayne Schmidt, chair of the IACP Legal Officers Section, who contributed both ongoing input and review of our final products even while on vacation in the Alps. Now that is dedication.

New Projects Identified for Exploration

Two new projects were identified by the membership as possible areas worthy of future exploration. One recommendation focused on developing best practices to provide some standardization and guidance to psychologists who provide special assignment screening. This would be the next step in what has been referred to as the PEPSA project. Last year's survey, recently re-released by Phil and Dave, confirmed that a significant portion of our membership is currently involved in conducting these types of assessments and desirous of establishing a standard of practice. To proceed, we now need to identify a working committee and a chair willing to take on this task. Phil and Guy will work together to oversee this process. If you are interested in getting involved, please e-mail Phil, back channel, at ptrompet@ix.netcom.com.

The second project involves identifying a list of competencies for professionals entering our field. Over the years, most, if not all, of the pre- and postdoctoral internship programs in police psychology have disappeared. The identification of competencies specific to police psychology would serve to increase the professionalism of the field as well as provide an avenue for recruitment and training of new psychologists.

As part of this project, this group will also look at the issue of improving integration and interfacing with other organizations that address different facets of police psychology, including APA Division 18 and ABPP. Dave Corey will oversee this working group. This is an opportunity to define our area of expertise and establish the field of police psychology as a recognized area of specialization. Please e-mail Dave, back channel, at dmc@davidmcoreyphd.com, if you want to contribute.

Other Business

Support for Clearinghouse: In other business, the section membership voted to support an IACP initiative for the police psychology and physicians sections to support research and the development of a clearinghouse related to prevention and intervention of suicide amongst law enforcement personnel. The section board will continue to monitor and remain involved in this project.

New Web Site Committee: An informal review of the current use of the IACP Psychological Services Section's Web site led to a proposal to establish a Web site development committee. One of the first tasks of

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this committee will be to gather and upload to our Web site materials from all of our members who presented workshops as part of either the Psychological Services Section's track or the general conference track. We are looking for creative, out-of-the-box thinkers who are comfortable and familiar with Web site development and technology to improve our section's visibility and influence. Wayne Schmidt, chair of the Legal Officers Section, has offered his assistance and expertise as well. Please contact me at alhonig@lasd.org if you have the interest and energy to help move us forward in this age of technology.

Application Fee and Dues Increased: The Psychological Services Section's application fee and yearly membership dues were discussed with a motion passed to increase both to \$50.00. The current fee to process a new member application is \$10.00, while the yearly section dues are currently \$25.00. The increase in fees, combined with efforts to reduce section expenditures, will allow absorption of new costs associated with the change in the CE process as well as allow for a small budget to go toward our annual social networking event.

E-Mail Replaces Regular Mail: In an effort to control section expenditures, most notably postage costs, the decision was made to no longer mail newsletters or correspondence but instead to use e-mail. All section members should join the e-mail list. Those section members who are not current subscribers should contact Kim Kohlhepp at kohlheppk@theiacp.org. Future communications and information dissemination will occur through the e-mail list. Members are reminded to please use proper e-mail list etiquette and only use the reply key when their response is intended for the entire section membership. Communications meant for individual section members or groups of members should be sent back channel by typing in the intended recipient's e-mail address.

Job Opportunities Announced: Several job opportunities were announced. Interested members can contact Mike Gelles at mgelles@ncis.navy.mil regarding several positions in the federal government or Audrey Honig at alhonig@lasd.org regarding availability of a law enforcement psychologist position at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

New Section Board: Last, but not least, your new section board was voted into office. The process was a little bumpy, but we got through it. A plan is already under way to professionalize our elections and afford all interested nominees an opportunity to share with the section membership their views on the issues of importance to our association. The process will take a little longer but I think it is well worth the time and effort. For now, I assure you that your new section board will work hard to dedicate itself to representing the interests of both the section and the IACP general membership. The current officers and their contact information are listed below:

Audrey Honig
Chair
alhonig@lasd.org
(213) 738-4500

Guy Seymour
Vice Chair
Guyo@ix.netcom.com
(404) 624-9624

Dave Corey
Membership Chair
dmc@davidmcoreyphd.com
(503) 620-8050

Philip Trompetter
Conference Program Chair
ptrompet@ix.netcom.com
(209) 521-8400

Kim Kohlhepp
Treasurer
kohlheppk@theIACP.org
(703) 836-6767 ext. 237

John Nicoletti
Past Chair
jpsych46@aol.com
(303) 989-1617

New Orleans Site of Next Year's Conference: Plan now to attend next year's conference in New Orleans. As you can see, it will be a full agenda. Remember, in accordance with our bylaws, all voting occurs as part of the annual conference, and where else can you receive 10 quality CEUs in your chosen field? This is your future; be in charge of its direction. Opportunities abound for everyone to get involved. Each of us joined

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this association wanting to have an impact on our profession, to both learn and contribute to the field of police psychology, to educate and inform our constituents, the IACP general membership. It is up to each and every one of us to be involved, to share our input and enthusiasm. Take the time to identify your passions, and, out of consideration for your colleagues, volunteer to participate in only those committees where you are truly willing to commit the time and energy to make a difference. Given that we meet only once a year, these are truly working committees. Now is the time; don't sit on the sidelines; get involved. Choose your area of interest from the list below and send us an e-mail to start the process. The identified section board member will choose a chair and oversee the project. We have a lot of work ahead. We look forward to an exciting year, and thank you in advance for your support and enthusiasm.

Annual Conference Program Committee
ptrompet@ix.netcom.com

Networking/Social Event Committee
dmc@davidmcoreyphd.com

Section Membership Qualifications Committee
dmc@davidmcoreyphd.com

Specialty Assignment Screening Committee
ptrompet@ix.netcom.com

Web Site Development Committee
alhonig@lasd.org