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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Police Psychological Services Section Newsletter



Message from General Chair Cerise M. Vablais, MBA, PhD, ABPP

Greetings Everyone,

I am so looking forward to seeing you all in Boston! It's been a busy year for all of us and I am grateful that we are able to gather together in person again this year!

We are very pleased to announce that **Dr. Nicole Rafanello** has taken the helm as **Chair of the IACP PPSS Diversity Committee** as **Dr. Mariya Dvoskina** cycles out of the role. Thank you to both of them for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

As Chair, I have elected to establish a new committee to work to further our service to the chiefs and the profession. I have appointed a **Legal Affairs Committee**, which will be chaired by Dr. Ryan Roberts, who is also an attorney. While Dr. Roberts will be directly soliciting membership interest, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you might have in the meantime.

During the past year, the Board has worked very hard on multiple initiatives, including the revision of the Fitness for Duty Evaluation Guidelines which were posted on Engage for review in September.

We also transitioned the role of APA and CEU liaison to the Board to ensure that going forward there is shared responsibility in ensuring we can obtain CEUs for our annual education program. A thanks to Drs. Ryan Roberts and Lew Schlosser for their assistance with the APA and the New York Board of Psychological Examiners.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in just a few short weeks and to continuing the work of our great section.

Sincerely,

Cerise M. Vablais, MBA, PhD, ABPP
General Chair



Vice Chair Update Oliver Stone, PhD

Dear Colleagues:

I hope this short piece finds you well and excited about IACP 2024. I look forward to the meaningful interactions the event makes possible. To help forge new relationships or simply reconnect, the Executive Board and IACP staff have worked diligently to create an opportunity to gather at this year's Social Event. Hors D'oeuvres, drinks, and fellowship await at a comfortable venue (Westin Boston Seaport District) just steps from the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

In the year that's passed, I've been encouraged by the response to the adopted change in the criteria needed to join the Section as a member. I again appreciate the discussions I had with many of you along the way and hope that what emerged serves the Section well going forward. Should you have questions about the new criteria, please don't hesitate to contact the Membership Chair or another member of the Board.

I was fortunate to attend this year's Policy Council Midyear Meeting in April, which permitted contact with other sections and committees. Beginning to build relationships with those involved in these efforts was informative and rewarding. I left Grapevine with a clearer understanding of how sections and committees can work together and hope to find ways to collaborate with others when matters within our purviews intersect.

See you in Boston soon!

Oliver Stone, PhD
Vice Chair



Immediate Past Chair Update Michael Bricker, PhD

Greetings Everyone,

I wanted to take an opportunity to provide you with some updates as I've served this year as Immediate Past Chair:

- I've had the pleasure of supporting our current Chair, Dr. Cerise Vablais, who's done an excellent job of representing our section, fielding IACP requests, and leading the Board through the 2024 year. Additionally, as is customary of my role as Immediate Past Chair, I've done my best to provide any input and guidance I can offer to other Board members as they have navigated their respective roles.
- I've had the privilege of serving on our Section's Fitness for Duty Guidelines Revisions Committee this year as we've worked to bring our FFDE Guidelines up-to-date and identify best practices and maximal compliance with evolving case law on FFDEs. A special thanks to Cerise for her willingness to involve me in this important Committee. It's been an honor to serve IACP and our Section in this role.
- I have been pleased to serve as a member of the PPSS Ethics Committee this year. It is clear to me what a valuable role this Committee plays to PPSS members and IACP alike, as we help provide support, guidance, and input on sensitive matters within the police and public safety field. I look forward to my continued service on this Committee in the coming year ahead.

I am very excited about the upcoming convention and look forward to seeing you all there! Our Education Chair, Dr. Carla Moore, has done an outstanding job of navigating the many complexities involved in developing and orchestrating our PPSS program for this year. I have no doubt this year's program will continue our history of offering arguably the best continuing education available in the Police and Public Safety field, as we all work to maintain our competence and stay on the cutting edge of developments affecting our profession. While I will be transitioning off of the Executive Board this year, I remain deeply committed to serving the Section in whatever way is needed and am always happy to be a resource to new and existing members who may have questions about the Section or interest in involvement and leadership.

Michael Bricker, PhD
Immediate Past Chair



Membership Chair Update Stephanie Barone McKenny, PhD

The IACP Police Psychological Services Section (PPSS) is fortunate to have 198 members who hail from across the U.S. and its territories and extends internationally. Overall, we have 91 female members (46.0%) and 107 male members (54.0%).

We are so fortunate to have international members from Canada and Portugal. California—the most populous state in the U.S.—boasts the most members (36 or 18.2%) of any region. Colorado and Florida are tied for the second most members at 14 each (or 0.1% each). There are 15 states (or 30% of the states) that have no members, and this might reflect an opportunity to be of service.

US State of Territory, Canadian Providence, or International Area	Number of IACP PPSS Members	US State of Territory, Canadian Providence, or International Area	Number of IACP PPSS Members
Alabama	0	Minnesota	3
Alaska	0	Mississippi	0
Arizona	5	Missouri	3
Arkansas	1	Montana	0
California	36	Nebraska	3
Connecticut	3	Nevada	0
District of Columbia	1	New Hampshire	1
Delaware	0	New Jersey	8
Florida	14	New Mexico	2
Georgia	6	New York	9
Hawaii	1	North Carolina	5
Idaho	1	North Dakota	0
Illinois	11	Ohio	5
Indiana	5	Oklahoma	0
Iowa	2	Ontario, Canada	3
Kansas	2	Oregon	5
Kentucky	0	Pennsylvania	3
Louisiana	0	Portugal	1
Maine	0	Rhode Island	3
Maryland	5		
Massachusetts	4		
Michigan	5		

Please encourage your colleagues to become section members so we can continue to grow as a community and learn from one another. Feel free to email me with membership questions.

Stephanie Barone McKenny, PhD
Membership Chair



Education Chair Update Carla Moore, PhD

During the month of July and August, as Education Chair, the tasks and projects completed included the following:

- Coordinated with Dr. Trina Hall (Education Vice-Chair and committee member) to gather the necessary information and documents in efforts of completing the APA CEU application renewal process for IACP PPSS
- Finalized the IACP conference PPSS Educational Workshop schedule with IACP representative, Julia Malear
- Updated the Education committee on the final schedule and delegated tasks/responsibilities to committee members for week of conference
- Worked with the Education committee members to develop a sign in/out sheet and QR for section members to earn APA CEUs
- Coordinated with ABPP committee regarding sponsored luncheon during the conference

As Education Chair, I will continue to post updated communication regarding the conference workshops via Engage and meet with Education committee members.

Carla Moore, PhD
Education Chair

Diversity Committee Update

Firstly, we are thrilled to announce that **Dr. Nicole Rafanello** is the new Chair of our Diversity Committee. With her extensive experience and passion for diversity, Nicole will be a tremendous asset in guiding our initiatives. Thank you, Nicole, for stepping into this crucial role!

Our Diversity Committee is also gearing up for a significant presentation at the upcoming IACP conference. In light of the increasing violence extremism in American communities, understanding how bias-driven factors affect society is more important than ever. Our session will explore the pathways to violence and radicalization, identify pre-incident indicators of targeted attacks based on race, ethnicity, and other identities (such as Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and LGBTQ+ issues), and discuss strategies for developing culturally competent violence prevention programs. This presentation aims to equip law enforcement and police psychologists with the knowledge necessary to better serve and protect our diverse communities. We hope you will join us!

A special thank you goes out to **Drs. Trina Hall, Jessie Semman, Ana Gamez, and Austin Camblin**. Your creativity, hard work, and dedication have been vital in bringing this presentation to fruition.

If you're interested in joining the Diversity Committee, have ideas or feedback, or have any questions, please contact Nicole at nicole@drorafanello.com. We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your continued support and engagement!

Ethics Committee Update

The committee continues to provide confidential consultations to section members on issues across the PPSP domains. We also continue our recruitment efforts as several members, including the committee Chair, are cycling off this year.

The Committee is also pleased to announce that some of our members will be participating in a panel presentation at this year's IACP Conference on current issues impacting ethical psychological practice. We are also working on an informational webinar on a topic that is relevant to first responder clinicians, chiefs, and other law enforcement leaders.

If you have a consultation request or are interested in joining the Ethics Committee, please email the Committee Chair, Dr. Medina Baumgart, at drbaumgart@att.net

Global Affairs Committee

The IACP PPSS Global Affairs Committee was formed in 2023 and is currently chaired by **Dr. Casey Stewart** and has as its members Drs. **Ingrid Freriks, Kyle, Handley, Mini Mamak, and Pietro D'Ingillo**. The committee was initially formed to

- Broaden the focus of psychological services outside the U.S, to the larger/global law enforcement community and police psychology community
- Identify what law enforcement organizations outside the U.S lack access to psychological services/assistance and learn what those agencies and police psychologist abroad are saying they want and need.

The committee meets quarterly and has discussed a range of other areas of important focus to the global community of law enforcement and police psychologists. The committee is currently developing for global distribution to world police executives/leaders a survey asking them to describe their utilization of psychological services and identify the biggest psychological and behavioral issues/challenges facing their organizations and personnel. The survey will also ask what they think is needed on this front.

The committee is also developing for distribution a list of police psychology scholars/researchers/practitioners across the globe for purposes of making psychology/psychologists more accessible to police chiefs/leaders across the world.

The committee is looking to expand membership to include psychologists from places further abroad to be more representative and thus more knowledgeable and effective. We plan to bring people on in augmented fashion to create a sustainable committee. Please contact Dr. Casey Stewart if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Public Policy Committee

The public policy committee is in progress, and members have been selected. Members will be announced at IACP once confirmed. We anticipate holding our first meeting in advance of IACP. The initiatives of the committee are as follows:

Background: In recent years, states and POST boards have started to implement statutes and policies surrounding pre-employment screening and wellness visits. These statutes and policies vary significantly across states and often include language that is in direct opposition to best practices and guidelines established by professionals in our field. Further, the importance of mental health and psychological well-being among police officers has gained significant attention with the International Association of Chiefs of Police Officer Safety and Wellness symposium and initiatives. As we strive for standardized practices across states, we recognize the need for experts to contribute to policy development.

Committee Purpose: Our Committee aims to:

- Review existing state POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) guidelines.
- Review existing state statutes.
- Propose evidence-based standards for psychological evaluations and wellness programs.
- Advocate for policies prioritizing best practice processes and officers' mental health.

Committee Member Role: Committee members will:

- Collaborate with fellow psychologists, law enforcement professionals, and legal experts.
- Shape policies that impact hiring, retention, and officers' mental health, resilience, and overall well-being.
- Influence state statutes to align with best practices.

Meetings and Commitment:

- We plan to hold monthly virtual meetings.