



Academy of Family Psychology Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2

Heading

June, 2004

President's Message

Theme statement, Officers transition, Future directions

By Frank R. Ezzo, Ph.D., ABPP

Over the course of the next few months we will be transitioning to new officers in the Academy of Family Psychology. The officers for 2005-2007 are: President -John Northman, President Elect -John Thoburn, Treasurer- Wes Crenshaw, and Secretary- David Terrell. I would like all our membership to welcome these new officers and feel free to contact them with your ideas to enhance the role of the Academy of Family Psychology. As the transition takes place, John Northman will introduce the new officers in a more formal manner. We are

Certified. In the future, you will see regular articles about Board Certification in The Family Psychologist. We have also learned that it is difficult to put on a Board Certification Workshop during the APA Convention. We were also affected last year by SARS in Toronto.

Future directions that will be explored during the next few years will include online learning experiences, partnering with other Academies for continuing education programs, and exploring regional workshops. More ideas

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all pleased to have this very distinguished group of Board Certified Family Psychologists at the helm.

I have been involved with the Academy for six years as Treasurer, President Elect, and President. During this time we have learned some important lessons on what to do and what not to do; in reference to marketing strategies and continuing education programs. Marketing needs to focus more on the members of Division 43 who are not Board

will be generated as the new officers tackle these and other issues. The main goal of all these activities is to increase the number of Board Certified Family Psychologists.

I continue to encourage our members to take an active role in the Academy. Networking among our colleagues who are not Board Certified needs to be done at the grassroots level. Present your thoughts to the officers, and volunteer some of your time to help

the Academy and the specialty of Family Psychology.

It is time now to thank the current officers for their knowledge and time that has helped the Academy of Family Psychology grow. Ben Ferguson, as Treasurer, has kept the books in the black. We are fiscally sound. Bill Lax, Secretary, has not only kept accurate records of our meetings and telephonic conferences; but as our resident technology expert, has helped to build our website as

Editor's Notes

By John Thoburn, Ph.D., ABPP

Perceptions regarding the purpose of the Academy in the life of professional psychology can create tension regarding identity. Is the academy an elite group of clinicians, a bastion of rank, reserved for those who have proven themselves to be the upper crust of the profession? After all, didn't members have to go through a rigorous selection process, weeding out some while elevating others? Is the ABPP one more notch in the gun of over achieving workaholics who need external validation, and one more plaque to fill up that last open space on the office wall? Or is ABPP simply a professional organization whose members, as a community, seek to a) promote and uphold high standards of professionalism in the delivery of clinical services and b) participate

and has updated the website as needed. The most recent update has brought us more into compliance with Project Diversity, initiated by the BOT of ABPP, with a Diversity Committee consisting of Drs. Florence Kaslow, Joseph Kobos, Norma Simon, and William Parham.

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(Continued on page 3)

(President: Continued from page 1)

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Frank R. Ezzo, Ph.D., ABPP (frezzo@ix.netcom.com)

(Editor: Continued from page 1)

to higher levels of efficacy and efficiency?

Truth be told, we probably all have a mixture of self-seeking and altruistic reasons for pursuing board certification. ABPP recruitment can appeal to selfishness i.e. board certification offers greater ease in cross state licensing, greater recognition and acceptance by third party payers, a comprehensive continuing education program that leads to more bang for your buck, etc. But if professional board certification in psychology is to grow, we must see that the real reason for acquiring and maintaining board certification ultimately must be that it is good for the profession – not simply that board certification is good for the profession, but that my having board certification is good for the profession. For example, we recognize that, even though state licensure is a prerequisite to practice – and that is a major motivator for its acquisition – we also understand that it is a good thing for the profession of psychology. Licensure separates the wheat from the chaff, so to speak, by establishing minimum competencies for practice. And while board certification does convey cachet for its bearer (you do get to wear a neat ribbon at APA and hang a nifty plaque on the wall), its real importance is that it establishes and requires competencies for practice that go well beyond the minimums established for licensure. Board certification conveys to the public that the profession is about offering the highest level of service to the public, not the bare minimum. It is reasonable to assume, based on the relatively low number of ABPPs, that most licensed clinicians do not have an adequate understanding of board certification along these lines. I am interested in your thoughts on this issue and would welcome your letters to the editor.

John Thoburn, Ph.D., ABPP (thoburn@spu.edu)

ABPP Report

By Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

The moving of the ABPP offices from St. Louis, MO to Savannah, GA last fall is now complete. All of the cartons are unpacked, a new and extensive computer system has been installed, and new staff has been hired. When I attended the lively and productive ABPP Board of Trustees meeting (BOT) in Philadelphia in early December, everyone was quite optimistic that everything would now run more smoothly and efficiently. Unfortunately, this has not proven to be the case, and there are still many glitches to overcome. President, Dr. Norma Simon, and CEO, Dr. Russell Bent, are working diligently to overcome these.

The number of ABPP Specialty Boards continues to increase. Two more were added in 2003 -- The American Board of Child and Adolescent Psychology, and the American Board of Consulting Psychology – a revitalization and reactivation of the defunct American Board of Industrial/Organizational Psychology. So ABPP continues to grow as more and more people in more and more specialties realize the importance of Board certification. The spirit of the Board is good, and we all interact very collegially.

I just wish we were able to convince many more of the psychologists who do marital and family therapy to enter the diplomating process. As you recruit people, remind them that we do provide mentors upon request. It would be super if each current diplomate recruited one candidate per year. Can we each individually set this as a goal?

I'm writing this just before packing to take off for the ABFamP spring meeting in Dallas, where I am sure recruitment, the examination process and scheduling, training to serve as examiners, and diversity issues will be among the hot agenda items.

I know the Academy is eager to have involvement from more diplomates, so let me encourage you to be in touch with Chairman Frank Ezzo, or Chairman-Elect, John Northman, and let them know of your interests and needs.

(Continued on page 4)

Pre-Conference Workshop

A pre-Conference workshop entitled “Contemporary Family Psychology Practice: Theories and Techniques”, is being presented on Tuesday, July 27, 2004 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, from 8:00 AM to Noon. It is being jointly sponsored by APA Division 12 and the APA Office of Continuing Education in Psychology. To register for this workshop and for complete details, please visit Division 12 at <http://www.apa/divisions/div12/conted.html> or call (303) 652-3126. The blurb in the Convention CE booklet reads:

This workshop will help participants to expand their knowledge base about current key family system theories that strengthen and support practice. They will become more familiar with the major family empirically supported treatment in functional family therapy. The workshop will increase their knowledge about treatment techniques and interventions and about which strategies are associated and flow from which theories. Participants will be able to incorporate ideas to form a sound foundation for selectivity and integration amongst and between the plethora of extant theories and techniques.

Presenter: Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Independent Practice. And Visiting Professor, Duke University Medical Center and Florida Institute of Technology.

CE Credits: 4

We urge you to attend, if possible, as part of your preparation for the diplomate in family psychology, if you do not already have it, or as a refresher course, if you do.