

MPS NEWS

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Editor: Heidi Bunes

January 2019

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Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please email heidi@mdpsych.org.

MPS News Design & Layout
Meagan Floyd

President's Column

New Year's Reflections and Resolutions

Greetings to all our members and friends. As 2018 comes to a close, it's worth taking time to reflect on the past year's achievements and challenges. I'm particularly grateful for a number of great successes this year. Here's a brief (and un-ranked) list:

- A successful legislative session that saw useful changes in the emergency petition and involuntary commitment laws, a ban on conversion therapy for minors, reimbursement for telemedicine in ACT and new extreme risk protective orders to address the problem of firearms in the possession of dangerous individuals
- Resources and an event marking the 10-year anniversary of the parity law
- Improved ties with our colleagues in Suburban Maryland
- Partnering with MedChi to explore opportunities for psychiatry as the Maryland Medicare waiver evolves
- Seeing an MPS member complete her year as APA President, while another continues to advocate for psychiatrists and our patients as APA CEO
- Yet another successful and well-attended psychopharmacology CME event in the fall
- MPS committees continuing their important work, blessed with continuity of experienced leaders and members and bolstered by an infusion of new participants
- An expanded online presence, with a new look on Facebook and greater engagement in social media, including new Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts

For the coming year, our resolutions are simple: keep momentum going and continue to engage with our members and others interested in the advancement of psychiatry and the well-being of our patients.

Best wishes to all for the coming year!

Patrick T. Triplett, M.D.

MPS ADVOCACY DAYS IN ANNAPOLIS

On **Thursday February 7th** from 8:30AM—1PM, we invite all MPS members to join us in Annapolis to meet with House and Senate leadership to discuss current and future legislation affecting psychiatry and mental health in Maryland. There are many new legislators this year! MPS lobbyists help with talking points and protocol. Contact Meagan Floyd (410-625-0232) or [email](#).

2019 Dues Renewals

You should have received information regarding your 2019 membership dues sent via email as well as USPS. As the largest source of income, member dues are critical to MPS viability. Please [email](#) or call MPS at 410-625-0232 with any questions. We can't do this without your support!

The next MPS Council meeting will be held at 8 PM Tuesday, January 8 in the MPS office.

Congratulations!

With MPS recommendation, the APA has advanced the membership status of the following MPS members.

New APA Distinguished Fellows

This status reflects exceptional abilities, talents and contributions to the psychiatric profession.

Jason Addison, M.D.
Virginia Ashley, M.D.
Fernando Goes, M.D.
Kim Jones-Fearing, M.D.
Ronald Means, M.D.
Eileen Nudelman, M.D.

New APA Fellows

Uche Achebe, M.D.
Ravikumar Bhalavat, MBBS, M.D.
Patricia Carlson, M.D.
Michelle Horner, D.O.
Renz Juaneza, M.D.
Lawrence Kaplan, D.O.
Lisa Kebejian, M.D.
Christine Liszewski, M.D., MA
Anthony Massey, M.D.
Angela Nduaguba-Ezumba, D.O.
Marina Nikhinson, M.D.
Elizabeth Stuller, M.D.

January Member Spotlight

Kimberly Gordon-Achebe, MD, FAPA "Involvement in organized medicine has profoundly shaped my life and passion for advocacy in the treatment of underserved populations experiencing mental health illness. I am currently President of the APA Caucus of Black Psychiatrists, Chair of the MPS Membership Committee and Vice-Chair of the APA Council for Children, Adolescents and Their Families. My clinical time is spent as the Medical Director of Intensive Services at Hope Health Systems, Inc., directing both their mobile treatment services and juvenile justice services. Working in New Orleans and Baltimore as a dually trained and board-certified child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist has cultivated my interest in social equity, structural competency and cultural competency in mental health treatment settings of minority and underrepresented groups." [Click here](#) to view the entire post and photo.

Have you recently worked on an exciting research project? Reached a milestone in your career and want to share it with other MPS members? Have some good advice for younger psychiatrists who are just starting their careers? Submit a short article and photo through this [Google Form](#) to showcase your experiences with the MPS community.

FREE Residents & Fellow Trivia Night/Happy Hour

Calling all residents and fellows! Join us on **Wednesday January 30th from 6-9 PM** at HomeSlyce Pizza Bar for a fun evening featuring music, great food and open bar. Teams of residents and fellows will vie for cash prizes. For fun we will even throw in a team from the MPS leadership to find out who comes out on top! The trivia portion of the evening will be run by Charm City Trivia. This event is open to members, non-members and their guests. You can reserve up to 2 tickets per person. [Click here to reserve your tickets now!](#) For more information, including prizes, rules, etc. [please click here.](#)

Poster and Paper Contests Deadline January 31!

The MPS Academic Psychiatry Committee wishes to recognize outstanding scholarship by young psychiatrists in Maryland and is currently soliciting nominations for three awards.

The **Poster Competition for Resident-Fellow Members** will be bigger and better this year, with all entries displayed at the annual meeting in April!

The Paper of the Year Award has also returned, with prizes in two categories:

- **Best Paper by an Early Career Psychiatrist Member**
- **Best Paper by a Resident-Fellow Member**

Thanks to generous funding from the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry, winners will receive **cash prizes** as well as a complimentary ticket to the MPS annual meeting in Downtown Baltimore on April 25, 2019.

The deadline is January 31. For more information and submission details [please click here.](#)

Refer a Colleague and Support the MFP

The "**Refer a Colleague**" initiative through Professional Risk Management Services, Inc. (PRMS) has generated another \$25 donation to the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry! For each referral to its medical professional liability insurance program, PRMS donates \$25 to the referring physician's district branch or foundation (regardless of whether insurance is purchased or not!). This is an easy way for MPS members to generate extra financial support for public awareness activities in Maryland. To learn more about this program and to refer your colleagues, visit PsychProgram.com/Refer.

Maryland Laws Related to Psychiatrists' Role in Reducing Risk

Erik Roskes, M.D. has written a comprehensive article clarifying the new Maryland Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) statute, which allows a court to order law enforcement to temporarily seize firearms from an individual determined to present a risk. There has been much confusion about the ERPO process, in part related to the patchwork nature of the statutory schemes related to mental health risk management. He summarizes the various statutory mechanisms that allow clinicians to take actions to mitigate risk posed by patients, including specific considerations resulting from the new ERPO law. Dr. Roskes begins with the statutes related to emergency evaluations and civil commitment, and also discusses "duty to protect" provisions of Maryland law. The Public Safety article's provisions related to gun restrictions are included as well.

The article is a useful framework for addressing questions about risk in psychiatric practice; however, please note that it cannot substitute for legal advice. Specific questions about how to proceed legally should be addressed by an attorney.

[Click here to read the article.](#)

New AMA CME: The Physician's Role in Promoting Firearm Safety

More than 38,000 persons die from firearm-related injuries each year in the US and an estimated 80,000 people survive non-fatal firearm injuries. Even though it is clinically accepted that there is a need for firearm injury prevention among high-risk populations, screening and counseling to increase safety is performed by a minority of physicians. [Click here](#) for more info on this .75 credit activity.

NDAFW is January 22-27

[National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week](#)® links students with scientists and other experts to counteract the myths about drugs and alcohol that teens get from the internet, social media, TV, movies, music, or from friends. It was launched in 2010 by scientists at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to stimulate educational events in communities so teens can learn what science has taught us about drug use and addiction. The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism became a partner in 2016, and alcohol has been added as a topic area for the week. [Resources](#) are available for those who may want to host an event. [Click here](#) for events that are scheduled in Maryland. Free materials on drugs and drug abuse are available [here](#).

Nominations for Anti-Stigma Advocacy Award

The Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry presents an annual award to recognize a worthy piece published in a major newspaper that accomplishes one or more of the following:

- Shares with the public their experience with mental illness in themselves, a family member, or simply in the community.
- Helps others to overcome their inability to talk about mental illness or their own mental illness.
- Imparts particularly insightful observations on the general subject of mental illness.

A Maryland author and/or newspaper is preferred. [Click here](#) for past winners and published articles.

The award carries a \$500 prize, which will be presented at the Maryland Psychiatric Society annual meeting on April 25, 2019. Please send nominations to mfp@mdpsych.org by **January 15, 2019**.

The MFP is organized for educational and charitable purposes. For more information, please visit the MFP [website](#).

Save The Date

[MPS Dinner & Movie](#)

March 30, 2019

5:30-9:30PM

Conference Center at Sheppard Pratt

"Suicide: The Ripple Effect" is a feature length documentary film focusing on the devastating effects of suicide. The film highlights the journey of Kevin Hines who, at age 19, attempted to take his life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. The film chronicles Kevin's personal journey and the ripple effect it has had on those who have been impacted by his suicide attempt and his life's work since.

Following a screening of the film, Janel Cubbage, Director of Suicide Prevention at the Behavioral Health Administration, will give a presentation entitled, "Suicide Prevention is Everybody's Business: The Role We Play as Providers."

Please watch your mailbox and email for registration materials later this month.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of American Psychiatric Association (APA) and Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS). The APA is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The APA designates this live activity for a maximum of **2.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)**™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Maryland News

MedChi's 2019 Legislative Agenda

As the statewide professional association for licensed physicians, MedChi will work on a wide range of legislative and regulatory objectives in 2019.

Protect access to physician services:

- Advocate for parity of E&M reimbursement rates in the Fiscal Year 2020 Medicaid budget with those in the Medicare program [MPS [signed on](#) to this effort.];
- Oppose policies that would adversely affect patient care by inappropriately expanding the scope of practice of non-physician providers beyond their education and training;
- Fight the weakening of Maryland's medical liability environment; and
- Protect physicians' right to dispense medications to patients.

Ensure timely delivery of health care services:

- Advocate for health insurance transparency that reduces administrative burdens on patients and physicians;
- Streamline prior authorization processes;
- Improve Maryland's payment climate;
- Support drug price transparency initiatives; and
- Support network adequacy initiatives.

Protect the practice of medicine:

- Monitor the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians; and
- Ensure fairness in credentialing requirements.

Address behavioral health treatment and recovery needs:

- Push for expansion of Maryland's crisis treatment centers and address access to care barriers for behavioral health treatment;
- Protect and enhance the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program; and
- Support innovative approaches to the opioid crisis.

Strengthen public health initiatives:

- Address health disparities and the social determinants of health; and
- Advocate for initiatives focused on child health and safety.

[Click here](#) for the complete 2019 Legislative Agenda.

Legislative Review: Assignment of Benefits

MedChi worked legislatively several years ago to protect physicians and patients and their right to assign benefits. The Maryland law applies to PPO insurance policies issued, delivered, or renewed, on or after July 1, 2011. Maryland law requires an insurer to recognize an Assignment of Benefits (AOB) and to send the insurance payment directly to the physician who accepts AOB. Physicians are not required to accept AOB but, if they do, there are certain [stipulations and requirements](#) that we want to make sure you know. To see a full summary of the Maryland law click [here](#).

From November 26 *MedChi News*

New Telemedicine Regulations for ACT

On September 14, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) released a notice of [proposed new regulations](#) resulting from 2018 Behavioral Health Coalition priority legislation related to Medicaid reimbursement of psychiatrists' remote participation on Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams via telehealth. The MPS had serious concerns with section 10.09.59.04 (B)(4)(c) of the proposed regulations. Namely, this would have required psychiatrists to prescribe in person, NOT via telemedicine. The MPS voiced concerns to MDH's Office of Regulation and Policy Coordination. Ultimately section (B)(4)(c) was removed from the final regulations. No formal hearing will be held, and the regulations were scheduled to be submitted as the final version by the end of 2018.

Medical Marijuana Update

Following up on the November MPS CME on Medical Cannabis and Cannabis Use Disorders, here are some facts according to the *Baltimore Business Journal*. The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission has awarded final licensure to 71 medical cannabis dispensaries, out of the 102 pre-approvals given over two years ago. During the first full year, more than 10,800 pounds of flower and 729,309 cannabis-infused products were sold generating \$96.3 million for cannabis retailers. There are currently 14 fully-licensed growers and 16 processors operating in Maryland, providing all of the products sold. The number of registered medical cannabis patients has grown from under 20,000 at the start of 2018, to about 75,000 as of December. Commission officials said between 250 and 350 new registrations arrive per day. [Click here](#) for the complete article, including an interactive map.

Maryland News

MOC - Call for Comment

The [Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission](#) (Commission) has posted a [draft report](#) for public comment. The draft outlines a vision for maintenance of certification (MOC) programs that is intended to be responsive to needs of users and relevant to physicians. In drafting the report, the Commission considered stakeholder testimony as well as results of a survey posted on its website. The "Call for Comment" closes on January 15, after which there will be a meeting to review and discuss the comments and make revisions before the final report is submitted to the Board of Directors of the American Board of Medical Specialties in February 2019.

The comment period will close on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 11 p.m. CST. [Click here](#) to review and/ or comment on the draft.

MPS Supports Increase in Medicaid Rates

The MPS joined a coalition led by MedChi in signing on to a [letter](#) to Governor Hogan requesting reinstatement of Medicare parity for E&M code reimbursement under Medicaid. The letter strongly urges the Hogan Administration to include funding in the FY 2020 budget that would restore Medicaid E&M codes billed by all physicians and other health care practitioners to 100% of Medicare. Restoration of rates to 100% of Medicare will improve efforts to overcome access to care challenges through increased practitioner participation and will preserve the cost benefits attained through a greatly expanded practitioner network.

New Hospital Psychiatric Units at UMMC Midtown

New adult inpatient behavioral health units open at the University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus this month. Doubling in square footage, the new Psychiatry units will have 37 private rooms, each with private bath and an original, hand-painted mural by a local artist. [Click here](#) for additional highlights of the new clinical space and services offered. A partial hospitalization program will also be available on the Midtown Campus. This "day hospital" program is currently located on the downtown campus on Greene Street, and will be relocated to Midtown in the Spring of 2019. Please call **410-225-8155** or **410-328-6231** with questions.

Maryland Health Care Commission Findings on MOC

On November 7, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) issued [findings](#) in response to a request by the House Health and Government Operations Committee Chair, Delegate Shane Pendergrass. Del. Pendergrass requested recommendations for legislation that might be proposed in the 2019 session related to the topic of physician maintenance of certification (MOC). The MHCC work group was unable to reach consensus on recommendations, although they did agree on facts and identified non-legislative approaches that might help.

The MHCC findings letter outlines physician objections with MOC as fairness, time burden and access, relevance and expense. It lists a few paths to change in this area that do not require statutory changes:

- Specialty boards are reevaluating recertification requirements and processes [see article above.]
- A new board certifying entity is competing with ABMS and AOA: NBPAS
- Hospitals can change their credentialing requirements via a change in medical staff bylaws. Frederick Memorial and Sibley in DC have done so.
- The Maryland Board of Physicians has the authority to recognize alternative board certification entities.

The letter goes on to review legislative approaches in other states that have attempted prohibit the requirement of board recertification by state licensing boards, hospitals, insurers, etc. Texas and Tennessee have amended their state code related to insurance and hospitals to prevent differentiation among physicians based on their certification status, which MHCC judged as most likely enforceable. However, the hospitals and physicians in the MHCC workgroup were unable to agree on an approach "as achieving one group's goal requires limiting the other group."

MHCC also points out that most insurers in Maryland are not currently requiring board recertification, except for Kaiser. However, insurers in Maryland often delegate credentialing to hospitals for their affiliated physicians so the hospital's requirement on MOC would carry through.

MHCC concludes, "Maryland should continue to monitor implementation in the states that have adopted legislative changes." Work group resources, minutes, presentations, reports, and state statutes that reference board certification are available [here](#). For feedback and questions, email [Megan Renfrew](#), MHCC Chief of Government Affairs and Special Projects or call 443-615-1338.

Maryland News

Gambling with Your Life Workshop

Problem gambling – or gambling addiction (GA) – is the addiction with the highest rate of suicide. According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, GA includes all gambling behavior patterns that compromise, disrupt, or damage personal, family or vocational pursuits. Maryland's Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Network will host a lunch and learn workshop from noon to 1 PM **Thursday, January 17** to highlight how GA places all those impacted by the addiction at greater risk for suicide ideation, thoughts, and attempts. Attendees will:

- Learn the risk factors and warning signs for suicide
- Learn the risk factors and warning signs for GA
- Gain an understanding of how suicide is a greater risk for individuals and/or their family members dealing with GA.

For more information and to register for this free workshop, [click here](#).

Keats, Shelley, Moods & Mind

On **January 23** in Hurd Hall, Johns Hopkins Hospital at 5:30 PM, acclaimed British actor Julian Sands - A Room with a View, Gothic, The Killing Fields - explores his favorite poems of Keats and Shelley. [Click](#) for more about this free event.

Updated Thresholds for 2019 Open Payments Reporting

Open Payments key (de minimis) thresholds for reporting have been adjusted based on the consumer price index. Small payments or transfers of value of less than \$10.79 do not need to be reported, except when the total annual value of payments or other transfers of value to a covered recipient exceeds \$107.91 for 2019. **These amounts should only be used for data collected from January 1 through December 31, 2019.** For more information, visit the [Open Payments website](#).

MPS Social Media Offerings

The MPS launched several **social media accounts** to help members stay connected with MPS and with each other. Join the new MPS members-only [Facebook group](#) to keep your colleagues in the loop. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to learn about events and stay updated on Maryland news.



MPS Diversity Committee Resource

The MPS Diversity Committee has developed a webpage of resources with links to information on cultural competency and diversity. Members are encouraged to [visit the page](#). Suggested additions are welcome - please [email Heidi Bunes](#) a link and a brief description.

Use of Voluntary Placement Agreements

Last month, the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submitted a report to the Joint Chairmen of the Senate Budget and Taxation and the House Appropriations Committees on the Use of Voluntary Placement Agreements (VPAs). The report gives data on the number of VPAs requested, approved and denied from FY2016 to FY2018. While the number requested rose from 152 to 167 over the period, the number approved fell from 85 to 64 and the number denied went from 67 to 103. The most frequent reasons for denial were "Parents withdrew/Did not follow through" and "Need to exhaust community resources/Referred to community resources." Denials due to lack of adequate documentation by a psychologist, psychiatrist or physician doubled over the period. In FY2018, 95% of discharged youth were reunified with family or a relative, up from 81% in FY2016. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the report. For more information please contact the Office of Government Affairs at 410-767-8966.

Last month, the Children's Behavioral Health Coalition sent a letter to the Governor's Office and heads of DHR and SSA regarding the ongoing VPA issue. Please [email Meagan Floyd](#) for a copy of the letter.

WE NEED YOU!
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

The MPS Legislative Committee is looking for members to help screen bills, write testimony and give input on bills of interest during the 2019 General Assembly. The committee meets once a week, via phone, during the duration of session, which runs until April. This is a great way to get involved and provide feedback on the laws that impact how psychiatry is practiced in Maryland! Interested? Please [email Meagan Floyd](#) for more information.

APA News & Information

December APA Board of Trustees Highlights

The APA Board of Trustees met on December 15 and 16 in Washington and the summary of actions fills 17 pages. Some unofficial highlights include:

There will not be an Institute of Psychiatric Services in 2020. This is to give us a chance to rethink how a second APA meeting, besides the Annual in May, be conceptualized. Maryland psychiatrists might want to make proposals, e.g., a meeting for psychiatrists in public settings.

The following were among the motions approved:

- Position Statement on *Legislative Intrusion and Reproductive Choice*.
- Position Statement on *Screening and Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders During Pregnancy and Postpartum*.
- Position Statement on *Utilization of Measured Based Care*.
- Position Statement on *Human Trafficking*.
- Position Statement on *Conversion Therapy and LGBTQ Patients*.
- Position Statement on *Role of Psychiatrists in Palliative Care*.
- Position Statement on *Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation*.
- Position Statement on *Reactive attachment Disorder*.
- Position Statement *Use of the Principles of Recovery*.

These Positions Papers are being added to the APA's online policy finder, which is available [here](#).

Roger Peele, M.D.
Area 3 Trustee

Free Members' Course of the Month

The January Course of the Month is ***Levels of Care in Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders***. The transition from childhood to adolescence and subsequently adulthood are unique developmental periods with significant changes in social networks and interactions. Adolescence and early adulthood are the peak times for initiation of substance use disorders, particularly tobacco, marijuana, prescription drugs, and alcohol. Learn the considerations for determining the level of care and the use of behavioral approaches for treatment. [Click here to access the course](#).

Congressional Briefing on Parity

APA President-elect Dr. Bruce Schwartz moderated an APA-led congressional briefing on the need for full implementation of the federal parity law considering the national opioid and suicide public health crises. Sen. William Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) joined the discussion, which consisted of experts in mental health and addiction practice and policy, and spoke about the need for prompt access to behavioral health services, specifically highlighting his concerns for individuals in the criminal justice system. The event was attended by congressional staff and mental health stakeholder organizations. APA hosted the briefing as a part of its new initiative to ensure full compliance with the federal parity law.

FDA Downgrades Risk Category for Certain Uses of ECT

Late last month, the FDA issued a [final order](#) to downgrade the risk category for certain uses of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT). First, the order reclassified ECT devices from Class III (higher risk) to Class II (moderate risk) for treatment of catatonia or a severe major depressive episode associated with major depressive or bipolar disorder. The order applies to ECT use in patients who are treatment-resistant or who require a rapid response due to the severity of their condition. In addition, the FDA lowered the minimum age for whom these ECT devices are considered Class II products to 13 years, from its originally proposed 18 years of age.

The APA has [strongly supported](#) reclassifying ECT devices as Class II. APA submitted [formal comments](#) after the FDA proposed an administrative order for the reclassification in late 2015. APA cited numerous studies demonstrating evidence to support the safety and effectiveness of ECT for patients with treatment-resistant major depression. A similar effort was initiated years earlier when the FDA invited public comments on the topic. APA had also recommended the FDA designate ECT as Class II for use in mania in bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and schizoaffective disorder, as well as for use in children and adolescents who meet the criteria for treatment resistance and who are in need of a potentially lifesaving intervention.

Vote in APA Elections

Voting in the 2019 APA Election is now open! Electronic ballots are scheduled to arrive by email between January 2–4 from the approved sender noreply@directvote.net. Members can also vote at www.psychiatry.org/elections with a psychiatry.org username and password. Learn more about the slate of candidates, their bios and individual websites at the [APA Elections Homepage](#).

APA News & Information

APA Policy Issues Update

Medicare Fee Schedule and QPP Final Rule

In November, CMS released their final rule for the 2019 Medicare Fee Schedule. Several of APA's policy recommendations, including delaying the implementation of proposed changes to the fees associated with outpatient E/M services, were adopted by CMS for its finalized policies on next year's Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Quality Payment Program. Specific provisions of the final rule are highlighted in this [summary](#) from APA.

APA Opposes Proposed Changes on the Apprehension of Immigrant Children

APA submitted [comments](#) in response to the Administration's proposal to change the provisions established by the Flores Settlement Agreement, a policy that outlines how immigrant children are treated by the federal government. Our comments focused on the Administration's proposal to eliminate the 20-day detention limit and loosen facility requirements, as well as the lack of adequate health staff to meet the mental health needs of immigrant families. APA recommended that the Department of Homeland Security not adopt this regulation and instead work to deliver trauma-informed and culturally competent care to immigrants in detention.

APA Opposes Changes to Public Charge

APA submitted comments in response to the Administration's proposed regulation that changes long-standing rules governing how and whether immigrants can be determined to be a "public charge;" and would make it much more likely that lawfully present immigrants could be denied green cards or U.S. visas, or even be deported, merely on the basis of seeking needed health services for them and their family, including those for which they are eligible. Our [comments](#) call on the Administration to rescind the proposal and focus on the mental health needs of immigrant children and their families.

APA's Policy, Programs, and Partnerships Division and Department of Government Relations provide monthly updates on our Federal legislative and regulatory activities. If you would like to receive these updates please click [HERE](#) to sign up.

*Saul Levin, MD, MPA, FRCP-E
APA CEO and Medical Director*

APA Calls for Appeal of Ruling Striking Down ACA

The APA sent a [press release](#) urging a vigorous appeal of Federal Judge Reed O'Connor's ruling striking down the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Dr. Stewart stated in the release, "This ruling has an unconscionable result. Should this ruling stand, millions of our patients will lose their health care. We cannot afford to go back to the days when Americans were denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions or when insurance companies would not cover mental health and substance use disorders." The APA also signed on to a [joint statement](#) against the ruling issued by organizations representing more than 560,000 physicians and medical students, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and American Osteopathic Association.

PsychPRO Registry Update

The APA's [PsychPRO](#) registry continues to onboard new participants, with 266 participants (in 71 practices) added since January 2018. The registry anticipates reporting for over 600 clinicians in the 2018 MIPS program, which occurs from January to March 2019 based on 2018 performance. Successful reporting will avert a 5% payment penalty, up from 4% in 2017. Many registry participants will also be eligible for bonuses, as the majority received small bonuses (up to 2%) for the 2017 MIPS reporting period. MIPS program penalties will increase to 7% in 2019. The APA continues to promote the registry to help psychiatrists avert these growing penalties and achieve potential bonuses.

CMS certification as a 2019 Qualified Clinical Data Registry has been granted, PsychPRO's third year with this designation. Having PsychPRO contributed to APA's success in obtaining a \$5.4M CMS grant to develop and test new quality measures in high priority areas for CMS' Quality Payment Program. These include measures to support: measurement-based care; closing performance gaps in the management of early psychosis, opiate use disorder, as well as suicide risk; and patient care experiences. The APA is recruiting psychiatrists and other mental health clinicians into a Learning Collaborative to test measures, and PsychPRO will be used to collect the necessary data. [See [page 9](#) for details.]

APA News & Information

APA DDHE CME Modules

The APA Division of Diversity and Health Equity has recently published CME modules on the following three topics:

Central Appalachia and the Opioid Epidemic

Attempts to understand the opioid epidemic have repeatedly engaged with constructions of multiple "cultures" such as the Appalachian culture, substance use culture, psychiatric/health care culture, and political policy culture. This CME module will explore and critique these cultures which are considered integral to the opiate epidemic in Appalachia and the way these cultures impact Appalachian mental health. Access the course [here](#).

Cultural Formulation Interview

The Cultural Formulation Interview (CFI) increases awareness of the impact of culture on the practice of psychiatry, integrating current research in cultural psychiatry. Presented in pulse-learning activity (PLA) form, this module provides information on the CFI's development, utility, and implementation into regular clinical practice. Access the course [here](#).

Transgender Mental Health Pulsed Learning

Evaluates the current literature on various health and clinical aspects of the transgender populations. Using a pulsed learning format via email, participants will be provided with a series of multiple-choice questions to be completed over time. The questions are also designed to evaluate central features of social determinants of health in transgender youths and adults. Access the course [here](#).

Help APA Test New Quality Measures

Earlier this year, CMS awarded APA funding to lead the effort to develop meaningful mental health and substance use quality measures for physicians intended to eliminate redundancies and low-value quality measurements from the Quality Payment Program. APA seeks input from psychiatrists and other mental health providers through its learning collaborative. Participation and feedback in this initiative will help to ensure quality measures that are meaningful and reflect high-quality care. Interested clinicians should email registration@psych.org to join! [Learn more about the benefits of participation.](#)

APA DDHE Resources

Mental Health Facts for Gay Populations

This APA Division of Diversity and Health Equity (DDHE) fact sheet includes information on mental health status and disparities, epidemiology, stigma and discrimination and barriers to accessing mental health services. Access this and other APA fact sheets for diverse populations [here](#).

Guide to Navigating Psychiatry Residency in the US for IMGs

APA's DDHE has published a guide to Navigating Psychiatry Residency in the United States for International Medical Graduates (IMGs). This resource includes information on the U.S. medical education and training system, languages and communication, cultural factors, and immigration. Access this resource [here](#).

APA Seeks Fellowship Applicants

The APA Division of Diversity and Health Equity is accepting 2019 APA/APAF Fellowship applications through the end of the month. APA/APAF Fellowships provide psychiatry residents the experiential learning, training and professional development they need to be leaders in the field. Go to www.psychiatry.org/fellowships to learn about the following eight programs, their requirements and how to apply: APA/APAF Leadership, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Diversity Leadership, Jeanne Spurlock Congressional, Public Psychiatry, Psychiatric Research, SAMHSA Minority and SAMHSA Substance Abuse Minority Fellowships. **The deadline for all applications is January 31, 2019.**

Psychologists Writing Progress Notes?

APA responded to a CMS initiative to make changes to the documentation of patient care in psychiatric hospitals. APA supported CMS's proposal to have some medical professionals (NPs, PAs, CNSs) work collaboratively with psychiatrists to write daily progress notes, noting that the attending psychiatrist is always responsible for the overall care of the patient. However, APA opposed giving this authority to psychologists, as they do not have the appropriate medical training and are not licensed to evaluate and manage medical conditions. The Medicare final rule may be expected in early 2019. [Read the full letter here.](#)



Medicare Updates

Physician Compare Preview Period Extended to January 7

CMS will hold the [Physician Compare](#) preview period open until **Monday, January 7, 2019 at 8 PM**. The preview period allows clinicians and groups to review their 2017 Quality Payment Program (QPP) performance information before it is publicly reported on Physician Compare. The secured measure preview is accessible through the [Quality Payment Program](#) website. For resources on how to preview data, see the [Physician Compare Preview Period User Guide](#) or the [Physician Compare National Provider Call](#). For assistance with accessing the QPP website, or obtaining your EIDM user role, contact the QPP service center at QPP@cms.hhs.gov.

To learn more about the 2017 QPP performance information and 2016 clinician utilization data available for preview, download the following documents from the [Physician Compare Initiative](#) page:

[Clinician Performance Information: 2017 Preview Period](#)
[Group Performance Information: 2017 Preview Period](#)

For questions about Physician Compare, public reporting, or the 30-day preview period, please contact PhysicianCompare@Westat.com.

Check Your Final 2018 MIPS Eligibility Status

Use the Quality Payment Program (QPP) [Participation Status Tool](#) to check your final 2018 eligibility status for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). CMS has updated your eligibility status based on a review of Medicare Part B claims and [PECOS](#) data from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. Your status may have changed, so confirm your final 2018 MIPS eligibility. To meet the low-volume threshold and be included in MIPS for 2019, a clinician must bill more than \$90,000 in covered services, see more than 200 patients and provide more than 200 covered professional services. For more information, visit [About MIPS Participation](#), read [Participating in the Quality Payment Program in 2018](#); or contact QPP@cms.hhs.gov or 866-288-8292.

2019 Physician Fee Schedule

An [audio recording](#) and [transcript](#) are available for the [November 19](#) call on the Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule covering streamlined Evaluation and Management (E/M) payment, virtual care and improving the Quality Payment Program to reduce burden and offer flexibilities to help clinicians participate.

Members who have questions should contact the APA Practice Management Helpline at (800) 343-4671. Check the [December 21 issue of *Psychiatric News*](#) for more details.

CLASSIFIEDS

AVAILABLE OFFICE SPACE

BETHESDA: Offices for rent in psychotherapy suite. Furnished space available for flexible blocks of time. Lots of amenities: free WiFi, beverages, color copier. Very friendly and professional clinicians. Contact Keith Miller: 202-360-9996 or keith@keithmillercounseling.com.

Ellicott City: Furnished and unfurnished offices available in mental health suite. Part time/full time. Ample parking. Handicapped accessible. Private staff bathrooms. Kitchen area and workroom with copier and fax. Opportunities for networking and referrals. Located close to Route #40, #29, #70 and 1-695. Contact Dr. Michael Boyle (410)-465-2500.

PART TIME PSYCHIATRIST (11-hr/week position)

Kennedy Krieger School-Fairmount campus

Overview: Located in Baltimore, MD., Kennedy Krieger Institute is an internationally recognized institution dedicated to improving the lives of children and adolescents with pediatric developmental disabilities and disorders of the brain, spinal cord and musculoskeletal system, through patient care, special education, research, and professional training. The Fairmount campus of the Kennedy Krieger School serves students with a variety of psychiatric disorders and disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders. The age range served is grades kindergarten through 8.

Responsibilities: The part-time psychiatrist position is 11 hours per week. The hours chosen are flexible, although must fall within school hours. The position would entail providing direct medication management for a limited number of students, including classroom observation and individual meetings with students, and communication with the school team and senior psychiatrist. Attending team meetings may occur as needed and if they fall within the agreed upon schedule. A senior psychiatrist is on site daily.

Qualifications: BE/BC in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

To apply or inquire, [please visit our website](#). Contact [Tina Schmitt](#), HR Recruitment Manager or (443)923-5800. Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/Disability/ProtectedVet



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Keep reading for more classifieds!

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Psychiatrist Needed: General Psychiatrist and Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist needed to join our outpatient multi-disciplinary practice, no calls, 9-5 work schedule and week-ends off. Spend time with family and friends rather than navigating hospital schedules and finding cross coverage. Competitive salary, student loan assistance, and benefits package or contractual position. Our practice has more than 16 therapist, psychological testing and TMS. We serve upper middle-class community, mostly private insurance and some Medicare. We will work with J1 Visa Waiver candidates. If interested in this rewarding professional opportunity, please email letter of interest with your CV to bluestoneclin@aol.com.

The Johns Hopkins Hospital Community Psychiatry Program is recruiting a board eligible/board certified adult psychiatrist to work full-time in their outpatient program. The program uses a multidisciplinary approach to provide care to those with a wide range of psychiatric disorders. Applicants may be eligible for the Maryland State Loan Repayment Scheme (SLRP) and/or the NHSC loan repayment program. For more details please email Dr. Bernadette Cullen, Director, Community Psychiatry Program at: bcullen@jhmi.edu. Johns Hopkins University is an EO/AA employer committed to recruiting, supporting, and fostering a diverse community

Psychiatrists Needed for Independent Medical Evaluations – The Maryland State Retirement Agency would like to expand our roster of doctors who can perform psychiatric Independent Medical Evaluations (IMEs). The purpose of the evaluation is to assist our Medical Boards in making a determination of a claimant's medical condition in connection with his/her request for disability retirement benefits. IME doctors must be available to testify; however, this is only necessary in the case of a claimant appealing a denied claim. Hearings are held at the Office of Administrative Hearings in Hunt Valley, Maryland. We invite all doctors interested in this opportunity to contact Robin McClelland at 410-625-5500.

Psychiatrist – Full or part-time psychiatrist wanted for a well-established, reputable, growing private practice in Anne Arundel County, MD. Position includes premium office space, attractive compensation, comprehensive administrative support, professional freedom, and collegial interaction with a multi-disciplinary staff in a desirable location. Opportunity to become involved in the TMS program (Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation) if desired. For more information please visit www.spectrum-behavioral.com or call Scott E. Smith, Ph.D. at 410-757-2077 X 7102 or email to director@spectrum-behavioral.com.

P/T Psychiatrist for busy practice in Severna Park, Maryland. Providers are 4 Psychiatrists and 10 therapists. We provide all services in this friendly work atmosphere. Please send resume to babh1@verizon.net or fax to 410 421-9135.

PSYCHIATRIST/MEDICAL DIRECTOR – Jewish Community Services is seeking a Part-Time (20 hour/week) Psychiatrist for our outpatient mental health center. Skills/Qualifications: Conduct psychiatric evaluations and medication management, Familiarity with and/or sensitivity to Jewish identity (including its religious, ethical, cultural and social values). Experience: Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Resident or Fellow, Child and adolescent experience a plus. Education: MD; Licensed in Maryland, DEA certification, liability insurance. Qualified Applicants should apply via: <http://bit.ly/PsychiatristJCS> (preferably) or send to: Human Resources, Jewish Community Services, 5750 Park Heights Avenue Baltimore, MD 21215. Or fax resume to 443.200.6108. Cover letters can be sent to recruitment@jcsbaltimore.org Equal Opportunity Employer Jewish Community Services (JCS) is a non-profit human service agency that provides programs and services to support meeting basic needs for economic sufficiency; living independently; achieving mental health and competence; and feeling supported by and connected to the Jewish community in ways that are meaningful. To learn more about Jewish Community Services, visit www.jcsbaltimore.org.

SEEKING RESEARCH PHYSICIANS – Pharmasite Research, Inc., a leading clinical trials facility in suburban northwest Baltimore seeks qualified, licensed physicians for employment in clinical research. Qualified candidates may be trained in psychiatry, neurology or internal medicine, and must be licensed to practice in Maryland. Prior experience as a Principal Investigator and/or Sub-investigator on Phase II-III clinical trials is highly desirable. Independent contractor positions are available with flexible, part-time hours. Additionally, opportunity and space are available for a physician seeking both a research position and private psychiatric practice. To discuss these opportunities, please call Surya Korn, Director of Operations at 410.602.1440, or e-mail surya@pharmasiteresearch.com.

Save the Date

**2019 MPS Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 25th**

**Hotel Monaco
Baltimore, MD**



Psychiatrists... **NOW** is the time to hop on board with MHM Services.

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-Steven Bonner, MD
Chief Psychiatrist, MHM Services/Centurion

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Maryland, over 398,000 adults struggle with dependence or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol
- 157,000 people in Maryland have reported having serious thoughts about suicide
- Over 735,000 people in Maryland suffer from some form of adult mental illness

*Source: Mental Health America "2017 State of Mental Health in America"

We want you to join our team dedicated to making Maryland a happier, safer and healthier place to live.

For more information, contact In-House Physician Recruiter
Jane Dierberger at 844.477.6420 or jane@mhmcareers.com

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Rewarding Opportunities for Psychiatrists Across Maryland



Sheppard Pratt
HEALTH SYSTEM

Sheppard Pratt Health System is seeking psychiatrists to work in multiple Sheppard Pratt programs across Maryland.

Opportunities Include:

Medical director

Outpatient Mental Health Center
Montgomery County

Crisis services psychiatrist

Sheppard Pratt-Towson Campus
Baltimore County

Child & adolescent crisis services psychiatrist

Sheppard Pratt-Towson Campus
Baltimore County

Trauma disorders psychiatrist

Sheppard Pratt-Towson Campus
Baltimore County

School psychiatrist - autism focus

Position serves multiple locations

Child & adolescent psychiatrist

Sheppard Pratt-Towson Campus
Baltimore County

Adult psychiatrist

Sheppard Pratt-Towson Campus
Baltimore County

Outpatient adult psychiatrist

Behavioral Health Partners of Frederick
Frederick County

Outpatient child & adolescent psychiatrists

Behavioral Health Partners of Frederick
Frederick County

Requirements:

- Must be board-certified or board-eligible
- Must have a current license to practice in Maryland at the time of hire
- Individuals hired for inpatient, PHP, and residential school services participate in a call schedule

Why Sheppard Pratt Health System?

- Physician-led organization
- Generous compensation package with comprehensive benefits, including medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; an extensive wellness program; and ample leave
- Relocation assistance
- Sign-on bonus
- A network of the brightest minds in psychiatry
- Grand rounds, CME opportunities, on-site lectures
- State-of-the-art research and technology
- Cross-discipline collaboration

About Sheppard Pratt Health System

Consistently ranked as one of the top ten psychiatric hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*, Sheppard Pratt is the nation's largest private, non-profit provider of mental health, substance use, special education, and social services. We employ more than 95 doctors who all share a passion for providing the best care to those we serve. To learn more about our services, visit sheppardpratt.org. EOE.

For more information, please contact Kathleen Hilzendeger,
Director of Professional Services, at 410.938.3460 or
khilzendeger@sheppardpratt.org.

