

Brian's Bulletin continued

We are now seeking interest from members who would consider chairing the LGBTQ Interest Group. Please contact me at Doherty@masspsych.org with "LGBTQ Interest Group" in the subject line if you are interested in serving in this role. There was significant interest in our recent workshop, presented by Amy Tishelman, Ph.D, so we are optimistic that the LGBT Interest Group will help to create more MPA actions in that domain.

Interested in joining a committee but not sure how to do it or which one most appeals to you? Just view our [committee list](#) and email any of the chairs to express interest or learn more about it.

Advocating for Parity Enforcement and Access to Care with the Attorney General's Staff

MPA has maintained a very positive relationship with Attorney General Maura Healey's Health Care Division. In this context, we were instrumental in providing data that served as the basis for the AGO's 2015 [Health Care Trends Analysis Report](#) that concluded that "historically low reimbursement rates" have negatively impacted consumer health and overall health care costs. That report has given us a legal way to talk with health plans about how low rates negatively impact consumers. In February 2017 we met with the AGO again and asked them to investigate how the process of setting behavioral health rates may violate parity laws and negatively impact access to appropriate services.

We look forward to continuing to inform and assist Attorney General Healey and her staff and we appreciate their demonstrated interest and follow-up on issues important to consumers and psychologists.

Helping Veterans to Live Happy and Successful Lives After Deployment, and Helping Them Get the Services and Care They Need

MPA's legislative advocacy promotes health care policies that benefit consumers and psychologists. This is not only true in the case of helping to pass favorable legislation and oppose unfavorable legislation. MPA's influence on Beacon Hill also manifests itself occasionally in appointments to positions on state task forces and councils.

We are pleased to announce that Governor Charlie Baker has appointed MPA Director At-Large Bradley Brummett, Ph.D. and I to the MA Servicemember Post-Deployment Council. The Council will "make recommendations regarding the implementation of a program in the commonwealth to support service members transitioning to civilian life after deployment. The council shall submit its findings and recommendations, including a detailed re-entry program plan relative to servicemembers who return to civilian life after deployment, together with recommendations for legislation to carry out those recommendations."

Dr. Brummett and I look forward to helping veterans in this role on behalf of MPA.

Another recent example of an MPA appointment to an influential state body was Past President Abigail Seibert Ph.D.'s service on the search committee on the Office of the Child Advocate, which culminated in the hiring of Maria Z. Mossaides as the MA Child Advocate.

Updates from Committee Chairs

I would like to invite MPA's committee chairs to be guest columnists in a series of articles in the MPA Action newsletter. This will provide an opportunity for chairs to update MPA members on their committee activities, and give members an opportunity to learn about the great work done by MPA in particular areas of interest. Please email me at Doherty@masspsych.org if you are a committee chair or co-chair who would like to submit an article by May 31 for the next newsletter.