

APA Assembly Notes

November 2020

This digest of events during the November virtual Assembly meetings held via Zoom summarizes the business conducted by the Assembly. Many other reports presented in written form can be found in the Assembly Packet. It is best to download or read these notes online, but they may also be printed and distributed in hardcopy (without access to the web links). You may use it as is, or edit and modify the content to suit your particular needs. Any errors or omissions should be considered unintentional. Corrections and suggestions may be sent to [James A. Polo, M.D.](mailto:James.A.Polo.M.D.)



Speaker/Speaker-Elect's Welcome — Mary Jo Fitz-Gerald, MD



Dr. Mary Jo Fitz-Gerald, MD welcomed everyone to the 93rd Meeting of the APA Assembly. She highlighted that the Speaker, Dr. Joseph C. Napoli, MD, was doing well but unable to attend this meeting. She also acknowledged the help that was provided by numerous individuals from the APA Staff to ensure that this second virtual

Assembly Meeting was a success. In light of the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic, she mentioned that the Assembly Meetings for 2021 were already scheduled to be virtual. New Assembly Members were welcomed and given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Report of the Nominating Committee — Paul O'Leary, MD



Paul O'Leary, MD joined the Assembly Meeting from Japan. He presented the slate of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee for the 2020-2021 April election. For Speaker-elect, Dr. Adam Nelson, MD (Northern California Psychiatric Society, Area 6) will be running unopposed. Candidates for Recorder include: Dr. Phillip L. Scurria (Mississippi Psychiatric Association, Area 5) and Dr. Vasilis K. Pozios, MD (Michigan Psychiatric Society, Area 4). No additional nominations

were submitted from the Assembly.

APA Position Statements

The following Position Statements were approved by the Assembly: (by consent)

Proposed Position Statement: Suicide Among Black Youth in the United States

Proposed Position Statement: Sexual Abuse of Migrants in ICE Custody

Proposed Position Statement: Growing Fear Over Coronavirus Spread and Mental Health Impact in ICE Detention Centers

Proposed Position Statement: Impact of Cannabis on Children and Adolescents

Proposed Position Statement: Screening and Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders During Pregnancy and Postpartum

Proposed Position Statement: Reducing the Burden of Treatment Plan Documentation

Retained Position Statement: Involuntary Commitment and Related Programs of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (2015)

Revised Position Statement: Medical Necessity

Proposed Position Statement: Abortion and Women's Reproductive Health Care Rights

Retired Position Statement: Abortion and Women's Reproductive Health Care Rights (2014)

Proposed Position Statement: Use of the Terms Client and Provider

Proposed Position Statement: Medicaid Coverage for Maternal Postpartum Care

Revised Position Statement: Ensuring Access to Psychiatric Services for the Elderly

Assembly Action Papers

Action Papers approved during this meeting included:

- ✓ 12A – To create a resource document that will help guide the choice and use of seclusion versus restraints in clinical settings.
- ✓ 12B – To develop and promote a position statement in alignment with the AMA’s policy, “Independent Practice of Medicine by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses” (H-35.988)
- ✓ 12C – To create a resource document that will address personal item access/restriction for psychiatrically hospitalized patients.
- ✓ 12D – To eliminate barriers and expand use of telehealth.
- ✓ 12I – To explore the process of sub-specialty accreditation to determine the feasibility of granting Emergency Psychiatry certification applying a similar pathway as is done for Addiction Medicine certification by the American Board of Preventive Medicine.
- ✓ 12K – To clarify that the “Principles” document does not currently represent the official position of the APA, and that a position statement be drafted that addresses the “Principles” document.
- ✓ 12L – To develop a Position Statement that will address the need for housing and employment opportunities for persons with psychiatric illness to include those with history of criminal activity.
- ✓ 12M – To have the APA expeditiously approve a Position Statement on The Adverse Effects of Misogyny and Gender Bias on the Health of Women.
- ✓ 12N – To fund ACROSS members to attend 2020-2021 Area Council meetings in equitable fashion as all other Assembly members, and treat equally with respect to budgeting support for participation in all Assembly activities moving forward.
- ✓ 12Q – To support joint meetings of the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities and the Assembly Committee of Representatives on Minority/Underrepresented Groups.
- ✓ 12T – To create a Task Force to explore member interest, as well as the financial, organizational, and public relations implications of changing the name of our organization from the American Psychiatric Association (APA) to the American Psychiatric Physician Association (APPA).
- ✓ 12U – To enhance APA transparency and accountability regarding human and financial resource allocation across all APA components.

Final version of all Action Papers can be found [here](#).

You can view all current and previous Action Papers and track their current status on AITS [here](#).

Additional Items

The following items were voted on and approved:

- ✓ 7.B.1 – The application of the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology to become an Allied Organization. (Assembly Committee on Procedures)
- ✓ 7.B.2 – The application of the Clinical Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) Society to become an Allied Organization. (Assembly Committee on Procedures)
- ✓ 10.B – The addition of **Prolonged Grief Disorder** to the DSM. (DSM Steering Committee)
- ✓ 14.A – The Proposed Position Statement on *Concerns About Use of the Term “Excited Delirium” and Appropriate Medical Management in Out-of-Hospital Contexts*. (New Business)
- ✓ 14.B – The request that the Board of Trustees provide the Assembly a copy of the consultant report completed by Dr. Marc Nivet, Ed.D. (New Business)

Reports and Next Steps from the Assembly Committees/Work Groups

Reports from Assembly Committees on **Public and Community Psychiatry** (Dionne Hart, MD – chair), **Access to Care** (Consuelo Cagande, MD – chair), and **Procedures** (Dr. A. David Axelrad, MD – chair), as well as all Councils can be found in your Assembly Reports packet.

President's Comments – Dr. Jeffrey Geller, MD



Dr. Jeffrey Geller, MD was provided with very little time to address the Assembly, as the schedule was running late. He chose not to present any slides, and instead addressed a single topic – Racism. He highlighted that this is the fundamental issue that we must address as an organization to ensure that structural systemic racism is eliminated within the APA. He explained that a consultant team will be selected to assess the entire organization. From that assessment, a strategic plan with key recommendations will be developed that will likely take some time to fully implement. He noted that this consultant will have a much broader scope than Dr. Marc Nivet, Ed.D who was asked only to review functions and operational efficiency of the Board of Trustees.

President-elect's Comments – Dr. Vivian B. Pender, MD



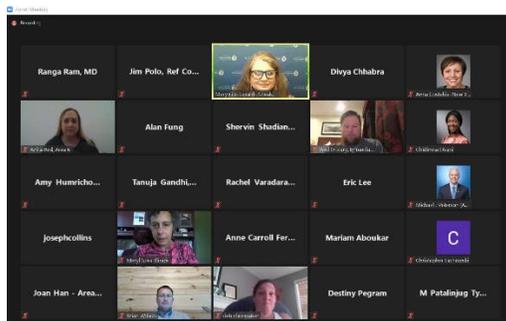
Dr. Vivian B. Pender, MD was also provided with very limited time to address the Assembly. She also chose not to present any slides but did provide an overview of the primary issue that she would like to address during the tenure of her presidency. Dr. Pender will focus on the Social Determinants of Mental Health, as many of these (e.g. racism, ageism, sexism, etc.) often contribute to mental illness and negatively impact diversity, inclusion, and equity. She noted that divisiveness and social unrest leading into and continuing through the recent national election creates both the urgency and opportunity for the APA to lead on this important issue.

Commendations



Commendations to both Dr. Mary Jo Fitz-Gerald, MD (Speaker-elect) and Dr. Adam Nelson, MD (Recorder) who both stepped up these past several months as Acting Speaker and Acting-Speaker-Elect, respectively while our Speaker, Dr. Joseph C. Napoli received medical treatment.

Virtual Moments



Opening by our Acting Speaker



.....and all the way from Japan !

Next Assembly Meeting

April 30 – May 2, 2021 (previously scheduled for Los Angeles, CA) will be virtual.