

# e-NEWS

June / July 2015

June 2015

**CE Connections:**  
**Upcoming KPA CE Events**
**Sept 17th**

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[EVIDENCE-BASED  
DEVELOPMENTALLY  
SOUND TREATMENT OF  
ANXIETY DISORDERS IN  
CHILDREN AND  
ADOLESCENTS](#)

Anne Marie Albano, Ph.D.,  
ABPP  
3-6 CEs (9am-12pm; 1:30pm-  
4:30pm)

**Sept 18th**

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[THE CHALLENGES OF  
ANXIETY FOR  
ADOLESCENTS AND  
ADULTS](#)

Anne Marie Albano, Ph.D.,  
ABPP  
3 CEs (9am-12pm)

**Thursday, Oct 1st**

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[STRATEGIES TO REDUCE  
SUSPENSIONS,  
DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS  
AMONG DIVERSE  
STUDENTS](#)

Ivory Toldson, Ph.D.  
3 CEs ((9:30am-12:30pm)

Complete details and  
registration information can be  
found on the [KPA Event  
Calendar](#).

**Next KPA Board of Directors  
Meeting**
**Sept 11th**
[Listing of the KPA Board of  
Directors](#)
**KPA Book Corner**

## Exciting News from KPA in June

Here's the June edition of the KPA e-NEWS, a regular e-newsletter, to enhance about psychology across the state. What follows is a sampling of communication psychology-related news and opportunities across the Commonwealth. Check out the column on the left for upcoming CE events, meetings, Kentucky Currents (member news items), and more. For more updates, visit the KPA website and like KPA on Facebook.

## Update from KPA Executive Director

by Lisa Willner, Ph.D., KPA Executive Director

The KPA office has been busy since the last edition of the KPA eNews. With an eye to the future of our profession and keeping members current, we presented the last installments of the 2015 Webinar series, Integrating Psychology and Primary Health Care\*, offered two live workshops in our "Best Practices" series (assessment/assessment report writing; monitoring treatment outcomes), and a future-of-practice workshop on expanding opportunities for psychologists in the changing healthcare environment. This spring KPA also offered three required workshops: ethics/risk management (co-sponsored by The Trust), basic supervision, and advanced supervision. To round out our spring programming, the Kentucky Psychological Foundation was pleased to partner with the UofL Center for Mental Health Disparities to host a full day Diversity Mini-Conference. The KPA 2015 Webinar series is now available on the KPA website as [home studies](#). KPA members may listen for free! (If registering for CE credit, there will be a discounted fee.)

In late May, the KPA Board held its quarterly meeting and leadership retreat. At the meeting, the board approved updates to the KPA Strategic Plan (with Membership, Advocacy, and Leadership Development remaining as our strategic priorities), approved recommending a bylaws change that would add a permanent seat to the board for a Diversity Interest Section representative, received an update on progress toward establishing a KPA political action committee (PAC) to strengthen our advocacy voice, and opened the [nominations for the 2016 KPA Board of Directors](#).

KPA President David Olson, in consultation with other KPA leaders, set the theme for this year's KPA Leadership Retreat - The Future of Psychology: Challenges & Opportunities. The retreat kicked off with a presentation by KPA lobbyist John McCarthy on the challenges and realities of launching major legislative initiatives, and a discussion of Kentucky's political landscape. The weekend also included presentations by several board members including Steve Katsikas, Ph.D., Eric Russ, Ph.D., Sarah

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## KPA Book Corner

The KPA Book Corner highlights books written by KPA Members and those recommended by KPA speakers, including those from the 2013 Convention. [Click here to take a look at our current listings.](#)

If you have presented for KPA or are a KPA Member author, please send your suggested items to [kpa@kpa.org](mailto:kpa@kpa.org). (If you order Book Corner recommendations or other items through Amazon, remember to access the Amazon site by clicking on the Amazon link on the KPA home page - Amazon donates a small percentage of these purchases back to KPA!)

Shelton, Ph.D., and Laurie Grimes, Ph.D. While some presentations examined prescriptive authority for psychologists (RxP) as a national issue, the discussion took place within the much broader context of expanding opportunities for professional practice. Special thanks to organizational psychologist Dr. Rick Cartor for volunteering as our retreat facilitator, and to RxP task force chair Dr. Katsikas for his considerable research on the topic. (Watch for a member survey on RxP to be distributed later this summer – it has been over ten years since KPA's last survey on this topic.)

For me, the main takeaway from the retreat – and I heard this from several of our long-time KPA leaders – was the prominence of many of our younger board members, the strength of their voices and leadership, the depth of their engagement in KPA, and their commitment to the future of psychology. Our profession is in good hands!

Wherever you are in your career – early, mid, late – there is room for all and for diverse experiences and perspectives within KPA's leadership. Please consider finding new ways to increase your engagement in KPA. This is a great time to [nominate yourself or a colleague for the board](#), or to [apply for committee participation](#).

My write-up would be incomplete without a special shout-out to KPA's Central Office staff for their outstanding work during this busy time! Joy Kaplan, KPA's new Director of Operations is proving herself to be a quick study, with a strong focus on responsive member service and streamlining operations. Alexandra Kempf recently celebrated her one year KPA Anniversary – her efficiency and high standards are keeping the trains running and on time during this time of transition in the Central Office.

I look forward to seeing you at a KPA event soon!

## Community Bulletin Board

A forum is available to any KPA member who would like to post information that the psychology community may find interesting or helpful or for which psychology input is requested. Visit the [Community Bulletin Board](#) to view current messages or to post a new message.

## KPA Advocacy Victory! SB 51: Duty to Warn Legislation!

On June 16, 2015, KPA representatives were pleased to join Governor Beshear in his signing and enactment of SB 51, the "Duty to Warn" legislation, which allows psychologists to break confidentiality when a patient makes a violent threat or expresses homicidal intent. The previous law only made "duty to warn" legal for patients in an inpatient setting; now, patients in outpatient settings are included in the definition. Dr. Sheila Schuster reminds us to celebrate every advocacy victory. Thanks to all of you who made calls and visits on behalf of this bill, for the tireless work of Dr. Sheila Schuster, the KPA Advocacy Committee, McCarthy Strategic Solutions, and our past and present bill sponsors: State Senator Morgan Mcgarvey, Senator Whitney H. Westerfield, and Representative Robert Benvenut

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## KPA Currents

A Snapshot of Events in the Lives of KPA Members



Congratulations to KPA member [Monnica Williams, PhD](#), on her selection as the winner of this year's Samuel M. Turner Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Diversity in Clinical Psychology by the Society of Clinical Psychology (APA Division 12). Her award will be presented during the 2015 APA Convention in Toronto this August

### Advertisement:



## Kentucky Psychological Foundation News

### Successful KPF Diversity Mini-Conference

The Diversity Mini-Conference was sponsored by the Kentucky Psychological Foundation and the UofL Center for Mental Health Disparities and featured speaker Monnica Williams, Ph.D., CMHD Director.

The Diversity Mini-Conference featured two workshops that provided clinicians with the tools needed to successfully incorporate cultural factors into therapy. The morning workshop provided essential information about the ethnic minority experience and mental health risks. The afternoon workshop focused on the proficient application of therapeutic strategies into the ethnic minority experience. As part of the afternoon session, the KPF Diversity Committee introduced a new, cultural consultation resource.

### Research Colloquium Travel Award

The Kentucky Psychological Foundation has created an initiative to support the presentation of research colloquia by psychologists in academic or research settings within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The purpose of this initiative is to foster inter-institutional networking between Kentucky academic or research institutions, promote the exchange of ideas, and provide career-development opportunities for academic and research psychologists within the Commonwealth.

[Click here for details.](#)

[Help support the Kentucky Psychological Foundation by making a donation today!](#)

### 2015 Convention Update

by Marianne McClure, Chair 2015 Convention

The 2015 annual convention, Creating Psychology's Future in a Changing Landscape, will be held November 5 – 7 at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort

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## Members in the Media

Congratulations to KPA member **Monnica Williams, PhD**, for a New York Times Magazine article featuring her and her important research on Racism's Psychological Toll. Dr. Williams is also being featured in an NPR interview on this same topic.

*Please send your announcements to [kpa@kpa.org](mailto:kpa@kpa.org) so that your news may be shared with the KPA membership.*

## KPA Interest Sections

Joining KPA Interest Sections is free and participation on the listservs is an exclusive member benefit. Many ideas, resources, and requests for treatment recommendations and other opportunities flow through the KPA listservs daily. Here is an excerpt from a post on the KPA Clinical listserv: "Thank you to everyone who shared their experiences with me. I was quite surprised at the variability of your responses.....Nice to have a community to call on for advice when such situations arise!" If you want to expand your resources and deepen your own sense of community within KPA, visit the KPA Interest Section webpage for instructions on how to join a KPA Interest Section.

[Interest Section Details](#)  
[Listserv Details](#)

in Lexington. A national speaker will be featured each day. On November 5th, M. David Rudd, PhD - back by popular demand! - will provide a 6 hour workshop designed to meet the new licensing requirement for all mental health professionals on suicide assessment, treatment and management. On November 6th, John Norcross, PhD will present A New Therapy for Each Patient: Treatment Adaptations that Work. Additionally, Dr. Norcross will be our luncheon speaker that day. On November 7th, Mark Epstein, MD, will present Everyday Trauma: Perspectives from Buddhism and Psychoanalysis. We are also delighted to offer a wide array of workshops designed to appeal to clinicians working with children, adolescents, and adults throughout all three days of the Convention. A complete list of [presenters](#) is on the KPA website.

## KPA Membership to be Surveyed Regarding RxP

Following the Annual Board Retreat over the weekend of May 29-30th, the KPA Board recommended that a survey be developed and deployed to assess the attitudes that the KPA membership has towards prescription authority (RxP) for psychologists. KPA has occasionally surveyed the membership in the past regarding the issue. Given that there are three states that have passed laws granting prescription privileges, the KPA leadership constituted a Psychopharmacology Task Force (chaired by Steve Katsikas, Ph.D., Spalding University) to explore RxP. Member participation will be solicited via email by mid-July.

## Psychotropic Medications in Kids, Advocacy, and Integrated Care

*by Laurie Grimes, PhD, KPA Director of Professional Affairs*

Integrated care is the buzz right now. And KPA members are hearing more and more about the need for advocacy. In an effort to make these issues more tangible to the day-to-day practice of psychology, I am starting a series of articles about psychology, advocacy, and integrated care. If you have an idea for an article, please contact me!

In recent months, media reports have highlighted some disturbing trends in children's mental health care in our state. Here in the Bluegrass, 19% of our children age 4-17 are diagnosed with ADHD compared to 11%

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Join KPA and KPAGS on Facebook!

KPA has always been an organization that works to be inclusive of all psychologists in the state. Kentucky Psychological Association is officially on the popular social networking site, Facebook.com, and currently has 378 "friends". All you need to do to join the Kentucky Psychological Association on Facebook is to select the "Like" button after finding our group on Facebook. Please be sure to search for "Kentucky Psychological Association" and review the KPA Social Media/Forum Policy. The KPA Graduate Students (KPAGS) are also on Facebook! Stay up to date with the latest KPAGS news and communicate with other psychology graduate students from around the state! Click here to join KPAGS on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MyKPGS>

nationally, and children are prescribed psychotropic medications at a rate nearly double the national average. As licensed psychologists, the primary professionals providing assessment and non-medication treatment for ADHD and other psycho-social-emotional concerns, we need to advocate and educate health care colleagues and the public on the role, merit, and value of our therapeutic services. We need to urge caution in relying solely on symptom-based diagnoses where careful and comprehensive assessment is needed to differentiate pervasive underlying deficits from other emotional, behavioral, medical, environmental, or learning issues that may share or prompt similar symptoms. In the case of ADHD, common signs and symptoms such as fidgetiness and short attention span are well-known and easily observed, but teasing out the presentation of this disorder from other conditions that may share symptoms such as anxiety or learning disabilities requires assessment across a range of domains of functioning. In cases involving out of control behavior, unmanaged anger, or labile moods, children may be prescribed SSRIs or antipsychotic medications to manage symptoms without a full assessment to determine behavioral etiology, environmental contributions, and treatment options that address the core issues of the symptoms. Children are not being well-served with these practices, and better integrated medical and psychological care is needed as part of the efforts to curb these troubling trends.

Because parents often consult with their primary care physicians first, establishing cooperative and consultative relationships across disciplines is critical to bridging the continuum of services. The screening questionnaires, symptom checklists, and continuous performance tests used in many pediatric office evaluations when ADHD symptoms are reported provide a good initial step to determine clinical severity, though are insufficient for a definitive diagnosis when used in isolation. A referral to a psychologist for a full psychoeducational assessment battery will provide the cross-disciplinary care that accommodates the needs of developing brains and bodies and can be easily accomplished when some form of collaborative, integrated care health care model is in place. These issues of high rates of ADHD diagnoses and psychotropic prescriptions in children provide timely examples of the overlap of physical, behavioral, and emotional symptoms and highlight the need for physicians and psychologists to work together to treat the whole patient-the paradigm that is supported in the integrated care practice models encouraged in today's health care industry. Psychologists can use high-profile issues in the mainstream media such as these to educate and advocate about the integral role of psychology in providing comprehensive and quality health care.

If you have an idea for an article, please contact me at [Laurie@kpa.org](mailto:Laurie@kpa.org).

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## The Frankfort Beat.....

by Sheila A. Schuster, Ph.D., KPA Lobbyist and Federal Advocacy Coordinators

### Advertise in the KPA e-Newsletter!

The bi-monthly editions of the KPA e-Newsletter, are distributed to over 1100 KPA members. The eNewsletter is sent via blast email at the end of Jan, March, May, July, Sept and Nov with submissions accepted at any time. Complete information and pricing details are available on the KPA Advertising webpage.

### Support KPA During in 2015 via Shopping on Amazon.com

You can support KPA when shopping on Amazon by clicking the Amazon link on the main KPA website as a first step in making purchases on Amazon.com. Up to 3% of every purchase made on Amazon when you click their link on the main KPA website benefits KPA.

A snow-shortened General Assembly session ended in the wee hours of March 24th with some significant legislation passed! After two unsuccessful attempts, KPA and others colleagues in the mental health community were successful in passing the revised Duty to Warn legislation (SB 51). The bill clarifies once and for all that the "patient" referred to in the statute includes individuals seen in outpatient settings, not just those already in the hospital. The actions on the part of the therapist who is told a credible threat must still take the four actions that have always been part of the duty. Our thanks to Sen. Whitney Westerfield (R-Hopkinsville) and to Sen. Morgan McGarvey (D-Louisville) for their leadership and perseverance!

Legislators also reached a compromise literally at the close of the session and passed SB 192, a bill that attempts to deal with the heroin epidemic in Kentucky by restructuring criminal penalties, infusing \$10M for treatment, instituting a local option for clean needle exchange, and availability of naloxone along with Good Samaritan protections. The Alcohol and Drug Counselors, who had been certified since the mid-1990's, passed a licensure bill and raised their education requirement to the Master's level. All aspects of psychological practice are protected in the bill language. And after several unsuccessful attempts, advocates were successful in passing HB 8 which makes it possible for unmarried persons to seek a domestic violence protective order, a right previously reserved only for married persons.

The news, however, was not all good. HB 145, legislation to establish a comprehensive indoor smoking ban across Kentucky passed the House, but did not receive a hearing in the Senate...a blow for improving the health of Kentuckians. The KPA bill to clarify the provision of mental health services to minors also passed the House, but was not taken to the Senate floor for a final vote. KPA joined a coalition of providers to back SB 120 which would have established an appeals process within the state's Medicaid program for denied services and lack of payment by the MCOs. Despite the backing of the Senate leadership, the bill failed to move beyond the initial committee hearing.

In many ways, the best news about the session was the increased presence and activity of KPA members! Many calls to the Legislative Message Line were generated in response to our Action Alerts, and twice as many psychologists attended a well-planned and successful KPA Legislative Day in February. Thanks to Dr. Georgeann Brown and to the KPA Advocacy Committee for their hard work. There seems to be more interest, more involvement and more understanding on the part of KPA members that what happens in Frankfort affects them...their practices, their universities, their clients. And with that realization, a growing commitment to do something about it!

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## The Easiest Way to Accept Payments

The Kentucky Psychological Association is pleased to offer member merchant accounts - credit and debit card processing for your practice. A merchant account provides your clients with a convenient and immediate payment option and makes it easy for them to pay you for your services. Accept payment for consultation fees, counseling sessions and insurance copays. With a merchant account, you can:

- Accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover & AMEX.
- Control cash flow & increase business.
- Save up to 25% off standard bank fees.
- No contract or annual fees.
- No cost to transfer services - call to compare!

The process is simple. Begin accepting payments today! Call 866-376-0950 or visit [www.affinipay.com/kpa](http://www.affinipay.com/kpa).

Immediately upon adjournment of the session, attention shifted to the May primary, particularly to the Governor's race. For the first time, the hotly-contested and spirited race was not on the Democratic side where Jack Conway was an easy winner, but on the Republican side! And the final margin of 63 votes which made Matt Bevin the primary winner and Jamie Comer one of three losers was a reminder to us all how important it is to "Get out and VOTE!" If just one more person in each of Kentucky's 120 counties had voted for Commissioner Comer, he would have been the winner! The statewide offices to be decided on November 3rd are important, but none more so than the Governor's office...because he will appoint Secretaries for all of the Cabinets and Commissioners for all of the Departments. These Executive Branch policy-makers set policy through administrative regulations...which can sometimes more directly affect every day functioning than do statutes!

Speaking of regulations, KPA has scored an unprecedented victory in getting numerous, significant changes to the regulations around Medicaid and the CMHC manual. For the first time, all psychology titles under KRS 319 are included by name in the all of these regulations! Thanks to Dr. Jane Brake for helping me to "bird-dog" the regulations and get these changes made. And The Washington DC Beat....

Fantastic news to report from DC that Congress has finally acted to repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR), a mechanism which has been in place for years and which annually threatened to cut Medicare reimbursement rates by as much as 20% as a cost-cutting measure. 17 times Congress had to take emergency action to stop the cuts...and now, the threat is gone! Nearly all members of the Kentucky Congressional delegation – Sens. McConnell and Paul; Congressmen Barr, Guthrie, Rogers, Whitfield and Yarmuth – voted for repeal. Only Congressman Massie failed to support us on this measure. APA has outlined an aggressive campaign to make further improvements in Medicare for psychologists. Stay tuned for watch for Action Alerts from me!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 3, 2015! October 5, 2015 – Last day to newly-register to vote or to change your registration.

## Psychologically Healthy Workplace Awards: Now Accepting Applications

*By Courtney Keim, Ph.D., Chairperson Psychology in the Workplace Committee*

The Kentucky Psychological Foundation (KPF) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the 2015 Psychologically Healthy

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<p><b>KPA Home Study Opportunities</b></p> <p>Under revised KRS CE regulations, you can now earn up to 12 credits per licensure cycle for home study courses. See what KPA has to offer...</p> <p><b>2015 WEBINAR SERIES NOW AVAILABLE!</b></p> <p><b>A TRANSFORMING PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH CARE: PSYCHOLOGY AND INTEGRATIVE PRIMARY CARE</b> Susan McDaniel, Ph.D., APA President-elect</p> <p><b>ETHICAL ISSUES PSYCHOLOGISTS FACE IN INTEGRATED PRIMARY CARE: ARE CURRENT APA GUIDELINES SUFFICIENT OR DO THEY FALL SHORT?</b> Christina Runyan, Ph.D., ABPP</p> <p><b>INCREASING VALUE THROUGH PEDIATRIC INTEGRATED CARE</b> William Douglas (Doug) Tynan, Jr., Ph.D.</p> <p><b>PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY IN INTEGRATIVE PRACTICE: ADDRESSING PATIENT NEEDS USING EVIDENCE BASED APPROACHES</b> Timothy Pearman, Ph.D.</p> <p><b>PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOSPICE: AN INTEGRATIVE RESPONSE FOR A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE</b> Julia Kasl-Godley, Ph.D.</p>	<p>Workplace Awards. The awards recognize KY organizations with programs and policies that foster employee health and well-being while enhancing organizational performance.</p> <p>Creating psychologically healthy workplaces can be good for business. Employees feel motivated, respected and valued, which research shows leads to lower turnover and absenteeism and greater job satisfaction and productivity.</p> <p>The awards are completely free for the organizations that apply, as this is a volunteer effort for KPF to educate the public about how psychology can be helpful in people's everyday lives.</p> <p>You can help in this effort by nominating an organization or spreading the word about our awards program! You can share news about the awards through our social media outlets: <a href="https://facebook.com/KentuckyPHWA">facebook.com/KentuckyPHWA</a>, <a href="https://twitter.com/PHWA_KY">twitter.com/PHWA_KY</a>, and <a href="https://linkedin.com/in/KentuckyPHWA">linkedin.com/in/KentuckyPHWA</a>.</p> <p>We offer detailed feedback reports to our finalists, regardless of who wins an award, and organizations have found these reports to be very helpful for strategic planning. Organizations are evaluated on their policies and programs for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employee involvement</li><li>• Health and safety</li><li>• Employee growth and development</li><li>• Work-life balance and</li><li>• Employee recognition</li></ul> <p>There are a few steps to the award process, with varying deadlines for each. We work with every applicant to walk them through the entire process. The award process is mostly online and easy to do. The steps include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Registering the organization in our online system (<a href="https://app.apaexcellence.org/">https://app.apaexcellence.org/</a>)</li><li>2. Completing a Main Application (a checklist of organizational practices)</li><li>3. Completing an Organizational Practices Questionnaire (detailed, essay responses)</li><li>4. Sending out an Employee Questionnaire (about 5-10 minutes to complete)</li><li>5. KPF committee conducting On-Site Visit (meet with executive team, HR, employee focus groups)</li></ol> <p>Awards are given out at KPA's Annual Convention in November. More information can be found at <a href="http://kpa.org/PHWA">kpa.org/PHWA</a>. You can also contact us at (502) 894-0777 or toll free (877) 572-8255.</p>
<p>View the <a href="#">KPA Home Study Page</a></p> <p>for additional options.</p>	<p><b>KPA Member Resources</b></p> <p><b>Technology Resource</b> - Dr. Dan Florell, presenter of the June 21st, 2013 KPA CE Workshop, <a href="#">Advanced Supervision: Influence of Technology</a>, has been gracious enough to share an audio recording of his workshop with KPA members interested in the advancements of technology and their use in the field of psychology.</p>

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**Clinical Psychology** – Overview and Effectiveness PowerPoint courtesy of KPA Member Eric Russ, Ph.D., University of Louisville. Click [here](#) to access the Powerpoint presentation.

**Ethics Resource** - The KPA Ethics Committee has developed a list of resources for KPA members aimed to help psychologists find [resources](#) about self-assessment, self-care and the development of skills, relationships, and personal qualities that will allow them to be less vulnerable to ethical breaches and "slippery slopes" in their professional careers and foster ethical awareness that leads to optimal practice. The posted resources define and discuss the stress—distress—impairment continuum, and the vulnerability at any point along the way to an ethical violation. They touch on topics such as risk factors, prevention of impairment, intervening with an impaired colleague, treatment options and the national movement toward establishing colleague assistance programs.

## **Getting your license, keeping your license, and losing your license.**

### **Part one – what Doctoral degree education is required**

*by guest contributor, Mark R. Brengelman, JD*

This article is the first in a multi-part series covering the basics of licensure as a psychologist in Kentucky. While most readers of this KPA eNewsletter will have already completed the lengthy professional education to qualify for a license to practice psychology, students and those psychologists who teach or supervise students are especially well-informed by this first article about the educational requirements to be a doctoral-licensed psychologist.

A second part of this series will focus on the different Master's degree requirements. The next part will review the nuts and bolts of applying for a license to practice psychology. Another part applicable to all psychologists will review keeping one's license to practice as a psychologist in Kentucky. Finally, a concluding part in this series will be an overview of losing one's license to practice psychology in Kentucky.

Focusing on the educational component, some states, such as Kentucky, credential psychologists at both the Master's degree and the doctoral level. Other states issue a credential only to those applicants who have completed a doctoral degree in psychology, while the Master's degree itself is basically unnoticed in those states as a matter of law as a sufficient education to be a psychologist. Kentucky has the unusual history of having gone from both doctoral and Master's degree, to doctoral only, then back to both doctoral and Master's degree requirements.

In contrast, the Kentucky Applied Behavior Analysis Licensing Board,

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enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2010, issues credentials to be mental health practitioners as Behavior Analysts where applicants may hold only a Bachelor's degree in any of the following approved academic areas, among others: Education; Occupational therapy; Speech/language therapy; Engineering, or; Medicine.

Doctoral degrees accepted in Kentucky for psychology include the Doctor of Philosophy ("Ph.D.") in psychology, the Doctor of Psychology ("Psy.D."), and the Doctor of Education ("Ed.D.") in psychology. While the Doctor of Philosophy was the general doctoral degree issued in a particular field of study, these other degrees exist that also qualify the person who has obtained the degree to apply for a license to practice psychology.

The Doctor of Psychology degree is the professional doctorate degree intended to prepare graduates for practice in psychology. It is sometimes referred to or considered the degree best intended to prepare the graduate to practice psychology as a health care practitioner and clinician. The Doctor of Education is more of an educational degree, but with wide application for a research and/or professional focus. It prepares the graduate for academic and research opportunities, as well as clinical or professional practice in a wide variety of settings.

Accredited schools in Kentucky issue all three types of doctoral degrees which qualify the holder to meet the educational requirements to apply for a license to practice psychology independently. In contrast to reference the practice of law, all three Kentucky law schools issue but a single degree qualifying the holder to be an attorney – the Juris Doctorate.

Regardless of the exact nature of the degree itself, Kentucky law has a 10-part standard to determine the sufficiency of any doctoral degree. The degree must:

- (1) Be from a recognized institution of higher learning as defined in this administrative regulation;
- (2) Be clearly identified by the granting institution as a psychology program wherever the program may be administratively housed;
- (3) Be specified in pertinent institutional catalogs and brochures as intended to educate and train professional psychologists;
- (4) Require a dissertation for the degree as psychological in method and content and an expected product of doctoral training in psychology;
- (5) Stand as a recognizable, coherent, organized entity within the institution;
- (6) Require within the psychology faculty clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines;
- (7) Be an integrated, organized sequence of study;

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(8) Require an identifiable psychology faculty and a psychologist responsible for the program;

(9) Require an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in that program for a degree, and;

(10) Require in areas of training for psychologists.

Not only are the degree requirements set by law, but the exact “curricular experiences and course work” in psychology are regulated, too. These are the numerous factors considered under law:

(a) The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of three (3) academic years of full-time graduate study.

(b) A minimum of one (1) full academic year shall be spent in residence at the institution.

(c) In addition to instruction in scientific and professional ethics and standards, research design and methodology, statistics and psychometrics, the core program shall require each student to demonstrate competence in each of the following content areas. This shall be met by including a minimum of three (3) or more graduate semester hours (five (5) or more graduate quarter hours) in each of these four (4) areas:

1. Biological bases of behavior, including the subject matters of physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, sensation and perception, and psychopharmacology;

2. Cognitive-affective bases of behavior, including the subject matters of learning, thinking, motivation, and emotion;

3. Social bases of behavior, including the subject matters of social psychology, group process and organizational psychology and systems;

4. Individual differences, including the subject matters of personality theory, human development, and abnormal psychology.

(d) In addition to the core program, the curriculum shall include appropriate course work . . . in the specialty area of training. For candidates who seek to deliver or supervise psychological health services, that training shall include specific training in diagnosis, psychological testing, and assessment of individual differences and the design and implementation of appropriate intervention techniques, such as psychotherapy, counseling, and consultation.

Deficiencies in any of the above course work may be “corrected by appropriate remedial work,” but only “at the discretion of the [Kentucky] Board [of Examiners of Psychology].” Note significantly how one key factor is a minimum of one-year “in residence at the institution,” which effectively eliminates from qualifying many or most on-line doctoral degree programs in psychology.

To summarize, credentials are issued in Kentucky at both the Master's

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degree and doctoral level, and with several doctoral level degrees that qualify the holder to be issued under the many standards set by law, including the one-year resident status. Look for the next article to review aspects of the requirements for the Master's degree in psychology.

Mark R. Brengelman, JD, MA, is a Partner at Hazelrigg & Cox LLP, Frankfort where he has successfully represented psychologists in Kentucky and out-of-state as well as other licensed health care professionals.

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### **Have an Idea or Contribution for the KPA e-newsletter?**

Contact the KPA Central Office or Sean Reilley, Ph.D., KPA e-newsletter Editor at [dr.sean.reilley@gmail.com](mailto:dr.sean.reilley@gmail.com). Deadlines for submission are the 15th of the month the newsletter is scheduled for distribution (Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct and Dec).

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