MARYLAND SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

PROTOCOL

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President's Pen—LSPO Edition!

Welcome to the blustery month of March! Do we think it came in like a lion or a lamb? It is amazing to think that two-thirds of the school year is over. I know that we are in the thick of things in our schools, but this is also a good time for reflection and recalibration. Much of this edition of the Protocol will be focusing on the works of our Local School Psychology Organizations (LSPOs), so my President's Pen will focus on the work that is done locally and how that local work can inform on and support the work of MSPA.

What is an LSPO?

LSPOs are the local school psychology associations correlated with (but separate from) the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Maryland. There are 24 LEAs in Maryland - 23 counties and the city of Baltimore. MSPA has eight (8) LSPOs representing the school psychologists in 22 of Maryland's LEAs. There are five (5) LSPOs that represent individual LEAs. These include:

Baltimore County School Psychologists' Association (BCSPA)
Prince George's County School Psychologists' Association (PGCSPA)
Baltimore City Association of School Psychologists (BCASP)
School Psychologists Association of Anne Arundel County (SPAAC)
Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association (MCSPA)

These LSPOs have enough membership, based on the number of school psychologists in their LEAs, to allow for enough people to support the internal structures typically required for any organization to function adequately.

Three (3) LSPOs represent the psychologists in multiple counties:

Western Maryland School Psychologists' Association (WMSPA)
Allegany County Carroll County Frederick County Garrett County Washington County
Southern Maryland School Psychologists' Association (SMSPA)
Calvert County Charles County St. Mary's County
Eastern Shore School Psychologists' Association (ESSPA)
Caroline County Cecil County Dorchester County Kent County Queen Anne's County Somerset County Talbot County Wicomico County Worchester County

The combined membership of these area LSPOs makes it easier for the groups to work together on issues that are geographically important to them, and set common goals and aspirations for school psychology. Two LEAs - Harford and Howard Counties - do not have local guilds or LSPOs.

What do LSPO's do?

Many of you may be more aware of what your LSPO does than you are of what MSPA does. In case you aren't, LSPOs do whatever the members want/need it to do - just at the local level. They advocate for the needs of the profession and the students the LEA serves. They may provide professional development by applying for MSPA or other grants. Though LSPOs are guild-related organizations, some work with and participate in their local union activities. Many LSPOs also provide social and networking activities for their members.

Each LSPO has a representative to attend and participate in MSPA Executive Board meetings. This allows MSPA to stay abreast of what is going on locally, as well as provide LSPOs with an opportunity to give input on actions MSPA may take on its members behalf. These representatives vote on issues brought before MSPA. They are your voice and the voice of your LSPO at the Executive Board meetings and, as President, I rely on their input and guidance on what is important to our members and other stakeholders. Additionally, LSPO representatives bring news back to you, so that you are better informed about what is going on around the state.

MSPA

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Presidents Pen *(Continued From Page 1)*

Why are LSPOs so important?

Every LEA is unique, with its own culture, rules (both written and unwritten), and way of operating. LSPOs provide an opportunity for school psychologists within a given LEA to share experiences, discuss issues and current events, and promote the profession of school psychology locally. NASP is able to promote school psychology on the national stage, and MSPA attempts to do the same on the state level, but the people best able to respond to local needs are those who work locally. In other words - you!



Read up on what the school psychologists are doing locally. Perhaps one or more of these articles will spark an idea that you can use in your own LSPO or within your own schools. Perhaps knowing what interesting things others are doing will light a fire in you to participate in your LSPO's activities, committees, and executive boards… or even join an MSPA committee or the Executive Board!

Take care & happy reading,

Michelle

Michelle L. Palmer, Psy.S., NCSP
President, MSPA

GET INVOLVED WITH MSPA:
JOIN A COMMITTEE

Contact a committee chairperson for more information on the committee's purpose and ways to get involved.

We are always looking for new committee members and enthusiastically welcome interested graduate students.

Diversity, Information Management, Legacy, Legislative, Membership, Nominations, Professional Development, Professional Standards, Program, Public Affairs, Newsletter, Standards and Certification, Strategic Planning (Ad Hoc)

Anne Arundel County Updates



Author: Juan Villalta, M.A., C.A.S. N.C.S.P.

Current Role: *School Psychologist, Anne Arundel County Public Schools*

Professional Interests: *advocating for students and parents, psycho-educational assessments, working with EL students, and working with students with low incidence disabilities*

Email: *jvillalta@aacps.org*

This school year the School Psychologists Association of Anne Arundel County (SPAAAC) elected all new officers: Juan Villalta (President), Brittany Robey (Vice-President), Claudia Lopez (Treasurer), and Laura Sass (Secretary). SPAAAC has a total of 37 members. In September, SPAAAC participated in the Out of the Darkness Walk and raised $1320.00.



In January, SPAAAC held our 6th Annual Charity Event. It was held after the MSPA Executive Board Meeting in Annapolis at Blackwall Hitch. We raised $471.66 which was donated to The Blue Ribbon Project of Annapolis, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to both the prevention of child abuse and neglect and as a support network for survivors of child abuse, foster care, and child sexual assault.

In April, SPAAAC is planning their 2nd Annual Day of Service! We want to go back to The Blue Ribbon Project of Annapolis to help fill backpacks for kids. This is a family-friendly event where we sort donations, check donated backpacks, and take the donations to build "backpacks of love" for students.

During Anne Arundel County Public Schools' Office of Psychological Services meetings, SPAAAC also has bake sales. All proceeds from the bake sales are donated to The National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI). If interested in more information about SPAAAC and future events please contact Juan Villalta at jvillalta@aacps.org.



Baltimore City Updates

Author: Kerri-Jean Wheeler, MA, CAS

Current Role: *School Psychologist, Baltimore City Public Schools, President, Baltimore City Association of School Psychologists (BCASP)*

Professional Interests: *Trauma Informed Care, Behavioral Intervention and Supports, and Mindfulness*

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It is a very exciting time to be a school psychologist in Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)! I am proud to continue the work of our past president of the Baltimore City Association of School Psychologists (BCASP), Dr. April Turner, including increasing our membership and community outreach, as well as updating policies and procedures to help our organization run smoothly. Since the founding of this organization, BCASP has been led by amazing school psychologists with the same vision: to give a voice and a face to our district's school psychologists. Since it's creation, a slow but steady transition has started to move from our local advocacy and work at the district level to a greater involvement across the state and the nation.

BCASP has much to be celebrated this school year! Today we have BCASP members serving in each tier of leadership from board members for MSPA to committee chairs and presenters for NASP. This is impressive work and I am so proud to stand beside my colleagues in their efforts to make a greater impact for the profession while representing Baltimore City Schools. This year at the NASP 2018 Annual Convention, Baltimore City will have seven school psychologists presenting posters, mini-skills sessions, and papers on research from our district. Additionally, I am personally honored to have been nominated by MSPA for The NASP 2018 Government and Professional Relations (GPR) Certificate of Appreciation for my work as a school psychologist in Baltimore City. I will be accepting this award at the NASP 2018 Annual Convention in February.



As a district, BCPS is making great strides to increase capacity among clinicians and school staff to support students' mental and emotional health needs. Over the past few years, the innovative leaders at our district office have been working hard to support students and schools who have experienced significant trauma. One initiative in place to support students is a 2.4 million-dollar grant to establish Trauma-Informed Care in City Schools. Since the birth of this project, school psychologist involvement has been headed by Mrs. Rebecca Milburn- Lee, Coordinator of Psychological Services. Having school psychologists on the steering committee has allowed us to be actively involved in the process of creating a plan to support students. This year, the grant has allowed for specific training in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) for clinicians. During the 2017-2018 school year, the grant covered 13 schools with the expectation that this will grow in upcoming years.

We continue to expand our Prevention and Intervention for Early Learners (PIEL) project that started in six schools and now is in approximately 33 schools and has been expanding into upper elementary grades. We continue to work integrally with our speech pathologists and occupational therapists. The PIEL team also has been involved in training all related services staff in the Collaborative Problem Solving Model over the course of this school year through professional development days. Additionally, the district is moving toward using a Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and our PIEL team has worked with district staff in helping to move that process along.

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Baltimore City Updates *(Continued from Page 4)*

In other exciting news, BCPS has created a leadership team aimed at the recruitment of culturally diverse school psychologists in urban areas. This team is known as the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse School Psychologist Recruitment Team (CLD-SP) which includes Dr. April Turner, Dr. Ericka Levy, Mrs. Courtnay Oatts, Ms. Sachele Edwards, and Dr. Rivka Olley. The CLD-SP team has already started reaching out to middle school, high school, and Maryland college students and educating them about the field of school psychology. The team held its first event in December 2017 at one of our all-girls charter schools; it was a great success. As an outgrowth of this process, the team has decided to look at year-long professional development in the 2018-19 school year to increase the knowledge and emotional awareness for all school psychology staff members regarding cultural and linguistic differences and to gain a better understanding of ourselves and the children we serve.

Our FBA-BIP team continues to provide excellent professional development for all school psychologists and social workers on response strategies and interventions to supporting behavioral challenges. They also continue to help school teams with particularly challenging student needs, perform quality functional behavior assessments (FBA) and write supportive and meaningful behavior intervention plans (BIP). Baltimore City Schools is lucky to have a team of school psychologists dedicated to building capacity for prevention supports and the decrease in suspensions of students with disabilities.

We are also pleased to announce that Dr. John Begeny of North Carolina State University will present to staff on the The Helping Early Literacy with Practice Strategies (HELPS) Programs which integrates easy-to-use instructional strategies that are specifically designed to improve students' reading fluency. In addition to this professional development opportunity for school psychologists, several Achievement Unit (AU) courses have been available for staff to teach the key components of the HELPS programs in an effort to bring the reading intervention to more schools across the district to increase literacy supports.

Baltimore City Public Schools continues to make great strides to support its students, staff, and clinicians. We are currently staffed with 154 school psychologists and eight interns all doing great work across the district. BCASP continues to advocate for its members, be present in the community and appreciates working alongside MSPA each school year.

Calling All Graduate Student Writers!

Did you know that as a graduate student you have the opportunity to be published in the Maryland School Psychologists' Association's (MSPA) newsletter, the Protocol? Submitting an article to the Protocol will give you a chance to share knowledge, ideas, and opinions with fellow graduate students, and future colleagues. What a great way to enter into the world of school psychology!
Also, writing an article for the Protocol is a great addition to your resume or curriculum vitae.

One way to submit an article is to utilize ideas and findings from research papers written for graduate school classes.
You can also write about current topics or issues in school psychology or education that interest you. Practitioners are always interested in learning about the research focus or topics of interest for up-and-coming school psychologists!

Submitting an article is easy! Please see the new rubric so you will know our expectations. Should you be asked to edit or revise any part of your article, you will be eligible to work with our Content Manager, Juralee Miranda, for mentorship through the revision process.
To submit for the last issue of the 2017-2018 school year, please follow the three steps below before April 15, 2018.

1. Please have a professor in your program review your article to provide you with feedback, and add their name and email address to the article when they have done so.
2. Please add the following information to the body of the article for all authors of the article:
   - Headshot (a clear, professional picture using a smartphone or equivalent camera with good resolution)
   - Name, Title, Current Role, Place of Work (i.e. District, University, Private Practice, etc.)
   - Professional Interests (limit 5; list)
   - Contact Email
3. Finally, send your article attached as a Microsoft Word Document to protocol@mspaonline.org

If you have any questions about the submission process, or for a copy of our new scoring rubric, please email Liz Niemiec at protocol@mspaonline.org. Thank you and happy writing!

Things are Changing, Expanding, and Growing in Baltimore County!



Author: D'Andrea Jacobs, Ph.D., NCSP

Current Role: *School Psychologist, Baltimore County Public Schools*

Professional Interests: *systems-level change, home-school partnerships, supervision, culturally responsive practices*

Email: *Djacobs3@bcps.org*

School psychologists in Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) had the honor of celebrating Dr. Margaret Kidder, who retired as the Coordinator of the Office of Psychological Services in December. Staff from within and outside of BCPS came together to celebrate the many contributions of Dr. Kidder as she transitions to a new stage in her life. Dr. M. Alicia Bennett (previously the Supervisor of the Office of Psychological Services) officially transitioned into the Coordinator position and we look forward to her vision and leadership.

Under this new administration, various workgroups within OPS are working to further support and enhance the professional development (PD) for school psychologists within Baltimore County. For example, the Racial Equity Workgroup is exploring issues related to disproportionality and special education services. The workgroup's current area of focus is the school psychologist's role in identifying students as eligible for special education services under the category of Intellectual Disability (ID). Upon completion of data analysis (which consisted of qualitative and quantitative analyses of psychological reports for students that were found eligible under the ID category), the Racial Equity Workgroup developed practical suggestions and resources to guide the selection of data collection, analysis, and eligibility determination. These resources will be shared throughout the 2017-2018 school year within OPS staff meetings.

Along with the Racial Equity Workgroup, the Professional Learning Workgroup was developed over the summer to further meet the professional development needs of the school psychologists at staff meetings. Using survey data completed by OPS staff, the Professional Development Workgroup identifies topical areas and speakers that can provide resources and learning opportunities for school psychologists in Baltimore County. For example, our January staff meeting will include a presentation from Dr. Karen (Clinical Director, Johns Hopkins Mood Disorders Center) on "Depressive Disorders, Suicide Assessment/Prevention, Pharmaceuticals for Depressive Disorders." Additionally, our January staff meeting will include a presentation from a panel of BCPS school psychologists on varied assessment tools that can be incorporated within a social emotional assessment. The Professional Learning Workgroup will play a key role in the planning of professional development experiences that meet the needs of our staff moving forward.

In November, we hosted a workshop sponsored by the MSPA Professional Learning Grant. Dr. Joan Kaufman (Director of Research for the Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Professor of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine) delivered an informative and engaging presentation entitled "Trauma and the Brain: The Impact of Poverty on Learning and Behavior in the Schools." The presentation was well-received and staff walked away with a plethora of resources and information regarding the varied ways that trauma can impact students that we may encounter within school and community settings.

Along with the many changes within the district, Baltimore County School Psychologists' Association (BCSPA) has been increasingly active this year in several ways. This summer, BCSPA coordinated its first "Assessment Review Workshop" series. The goal of this initiative was to review cognitive assessments available within BCPS in an effort to increase exposure to available materials and promote the use of an expanded battery of assessments/tools. Several school psychologists attended one of the four available workshops (on the Stanford Binet–Fifth Edition, Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing-Second Edition, Differential Ability Scales–Second Edition, Cognitive Assessment System–Second Edition, and Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System) that provided an overview of the assessment, circumstances that may warrant its use, and opportunities to practice administering and scoring the assessment with their colleagues. The workshops were well-received and many of our staff are excited about the workshops that will take place next year.

Additionally, BCSPA collaborated with BCPS social workers to provide gift cards to families in need during the holiday season. Overall, $1150 was donated to this effort, which is a wonderful achievement. BCSPA hopes to continue such efforts as we identify additional ways to support our communities within Baltimore County. BCSPA members also participated in School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW) by sharing flyers, sample presentations, and activities that could take place at the primary and secondary levels to promote our field. These resources uplifted and encouraged others to share their individual ideas and activities for SPAW week. BCSPA is looking forward to increasing our presence as we continue to support school psychologists and the communities that we serve.



Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association Hosts the First Annual "School Psychologist Mental Health Fair"

Author: Jessica Stein, M.A., CAS, NCSP

Current Role: *School Psychologist , Montgomery County Public Schools & Montgomery County LSPO Representative*

Professional Interests: *mental health awareness, positive behavior intervention supports, yoga/ mindfulness*

Contact Email: *Jessica_D_Stein@mcpsmd.org*

What's Happening in Montgomery County



For the 2017-2018 school year, the Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association (MCSPA) began the year at full force. In their second year as co-presidents, Alli Jacobus and Jeanne McCormack, and the association's committees have been busy planning community engagement and social events. School psychologists participated in Montgomery County's Out of the Darkness walk to raise money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on October 22nd. MCSPA raised over $3700! The social committee hosted their annual kickball game in September, a pie swap in November, and other gatherings where psychologists had the opportunity to socialize with colleagues and friends. In addition, the association awarded Montgomery County's School Psychologist of the Year (SPOTY) award to Jodi Ward who has served in MCPS for the last 14 years. Besides providing a comprehensive range of services to her schools, Jodi has spearheaded the rollout of Q-Interactive and online cognitive assessments for the county and has continued to provide support through any and all revisions and technical glitches that may arise as a result of this type of transition in a county as large as MCPS. This award is well deserved! Congratulations Jodi! For additional information about MCSPA including upcoming events and resources, be sure to check out http://www.mcspaonline.com/!

School Psychology Awareness Week

To kick off School Psychology Awareness Week, the Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association (MCSPA) hosted the first annual "School Psychologist Mental Health Fair" on November 13th at the Carver Educational Services Center. The Montgomery County Council of PTAs supported the event through advocacy and advertising. During the weeks prior, school psychologists advertised to staff, families, and the community through a variety of methods ranging from posting flyers and school-wide calls to parents to a spot on MCPS-TV!

More than 30 school psychologists volunteered to run the event and many more turned up to see their colleagues in action. The Mental Health Fair had a great turnout from students, parents, staff, and school board members that provided an amazing opportunity to show the breadth of our role. Psychologists presented on a range of topics that were both informative and practical. The Preschool and Headstart psychologists presented on early childhood development which provided useful information to parents and an opportunity for youngsters to play. The Bilingual Assessment Team psychologists both presented on bilingual assessments and provided interpretation support. Harriet Kuhn and her registered emotional support dog, Cozy Girl, discussed the benefits of pet therapy. Other coping strategies were shared via a presentation on Coping Cat and the use of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for anxiety. Participants got to engage directly at the Yoga/Mindfulness table. Great discussions were overheard at the social justice and LGBTQ presentations. Additionally, parents learned the benefits of sleep hygiene and positive discipline! Over eighty people attended and positive feedback was received hinting that a second annual Mental Health Fair could be in the works for next year! For more information about the MCSPA Mental Health Fair, check out the MC Spotlight video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vy4q_EtPcTk&feature=youtu.be.

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Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association Hosts the First Annual "School Psychologist Mental Health Fair" *(Continued from Page 5)*



Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Inc.

MSPA Spring Conference 2018

Combating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) in Schools

Adam Rosenberg, Esq.
Executive Director, Baltimore Child Abuse Center
and
Ericka Leonard
Forensic Interviewer, Baltimore Child Abuse Center (BCAC)
and
Katherine Esser, LGSW
Bilingual clinical social worker, Baltimore Child Abuse Center (BCAC)
and
Eric Rossen, Ph.D.
Director, Professional Development and Standards at National Association of School Psychologists
and
Carrie Freshour, LCSW-C
Director of Prevention and Intervention Education at Araminta Freedom Initiative

Friday, April 20, 2018

The Hotel at Arundel Preserves
7795 Arundel Mills Boulevard
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Western Maryland School Psychologists' Association



Sharon Conley

School Psychologist, Washington County Public Schools

Professional Interests: *early intervention, social-emotional learning, MTSS, classroom management*

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Jennifer Luhrs

School Psychologist, Frederick County Public Schools

Professional Interests: *ADHD in girls, mindfulness training, cross battery assessment*

jennifer.luhrs@fcps.org



Lori Fritts

School Psychologist, Frederick County Public Schools

Professional Interests: *developmental disabilities, early intervention, family-school partnership, trauma*

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Wesley Allen

School Psychologist, Frederick County Public Schools

Professional Interests: *neuropsychology, autism, students with emotional disabilities*

wesley.allen@fcps.org

The Western Maryland School Psychologists' Association (WMSPA) is a local professional organization comprised of school professionals from across the five western counties of Maryland: Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll. WMSPA's vision and goals are to promote the interests of children via provision of school psychology services. WMSPA strives to provide: 1) continuing professional development (PD) that is easily accessible to psychologists practicing in the five western counties of Maryland, 2) opportunities to engage in professional collaboration among members, and 3) representation of the region to the Maryland School Psychologists' Association's (MSPA) executive board.

Founded in 2008, WMSPA is approaching its 10-year anniversary. WMSPA is both relatively small and young in comparison to the local school psychologists' organizations that represent Maryland's larger districts and biggest cities. WMSPA's annual membership enrollment hovers around 60. In addition to school psychologists, WMSPA membership is open to other support professionals such as school counselors, school social workers and behavior specialists. WMSPA recognizes that it often "takes a village to support a struggling student," and cross-discipline collaboration is strengthened in the sharing of professional development opportunities. WMSPA offers a minimum of two professional development events per year, free of charge to members and at a nominal fee for non-members. In the past two years, WMSPA has provided professional development on a variety of topics including Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder, brief solution-focused counseling in schools, understanding trauma's impact on children and youth, and cognitive behavior therapy. Upcoming workshops will focus on drug abuse and addiction in families, traumatic brain injury and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Forty-five to 50 professionals typically attend WMSPA professional development workshops. These high-quality professional development events engage experts from a variety of resources including universities, research hospitals, mental health centers, community agencies and school-based departments of special education services. Members from across the diverse region of western Maryland can easily access the events which occur in either Frederick or Washington County.

WMSPA faces the geographical challenge of uniting psychologists across five counties that, at the greatest span, are approximately 178 miles apart. WMSPA only recently attempted its first charitable, "give-to-the-community" event, an *Out-Of-The-Darkness Walk* in Frederick, Maryland. A small handful of psychologists from two of the counties participated, raising over $1,000 for suicide prevention efforts. WMSPA will continue to strategize on ways to bridge distances and unite the five counties in community activities that support healthy social, emotional and behavioral functioning of children and youth. Geographical challenges are WMSPA's greatest hurdles.

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Western Maryland School Psychologists' Association *(Continued from Page 10)*

WMSPA's executive board members, elected by membership, serve two-year terms. For the current 2016-2018 term, executive board members are President Sharon Conley (Washington County), Vice-President Jennifer Luhrs (Frederick County), Secretary Lori Fritts (Frederick County) and Treasurer Wesley Allen (Frederick County). Although membership is open to a variety of school-based professionals, only MD-certified school psychologists are awarded "active member" status that entails voting privileges. The current executive board has been serving for about 18 months at this point, and has already made significant advances in operating procedures by providing options for electronic membership enrollment, electronic workshop registration and submission of payments via PayPal. Employing efficient methods of e-mail communication with members has been a priority as well. Finally, the current executive board is conducting a comprehensive review of the WMSPA Constitution, and will be proposing changes that active members will vote on in the spring of 2018.

As WMSPA moves forward into the next decade of its service, its goals are to increase membership, engage more school psychologists in the management of the organization, expand methods of cross-county collaboration, and continue to provide relevant professional development events that enhance the practice of school psychology in support of children, youth and families of western Maryland. WMSPA is a dynamic, evolving, professional organization. It will continue to serve and support its members as they strive to implement best practices in schools to meet the ever-changing needs of students, families and educational systems.

ARTICLES WELCOME!

Are you doing something unique in your county that you would like to tell others about? Did you read a recently published professional book that you would like to review?

Submit PROTOCOL articles or ideas to:
protocol@mspaonline.org

Please submit all articles as email attachments in Microsoft Word or compatible formats.
Include captions for all pictures.

Please also include the following for all contributors to the article *within the word document:*

- **Headshot (a clear picture using a smart phone or equivalent camera)**
- **Name, Title, Current Role,**
- **Place of Work (District, University, Private Practice),**
- **Professional Interests (list, limit 5)**
- **Contact Email**

Views from the Past



Left: Bill Flook, Ph.D.
Current Role: *Adjunct Faculty, MPA/MSPA Liaison Pro Tem*
Place of Work: *University of Maryland*
Email: *wmflook@gmail.com*



Right: Michael Nuth, NCSP
Current Role: *School Psychologist, MSPA Historian*
Place of Work: *Anne Arundel County Public Schools*
Email: *historian@mspaonline.org*

The Presidential address appearing below is from Don Pumroy at the conclusion of his MSPA Presidential year. Don holds the unique distinction of having been the President of both MSPA and Maryland Psychological Association (MPA) in his career. While it is a long address, it shows both Don's understanding of the profession and the needs of the organization over 40 years ago. There are issues discussed here that have been discussed many times over the last 40 years and the seeds of parts of our organization that have become a standard.

MSPA Presidential Address
MSPA: a look at the past, a look at the future
April 22, 1977
Donald K. Pumroy, University of Maryland

I would like to talk about what has taken place in MSPA over the last year and to take a look at the future for school psychologists. When I became your president last July, I presented to the EC (Executive Council) for their consideration some directions and goals for the organization that I thought were important. Let me review them and report to you what has been accomplished.

1. Certification of school psychologists in the state of Maryland. I would like very much to have MSPA become involved in some way with the certification of school psychologists. At the present time, it appears that a clerk is responsible for determining whether or not a person is qualified to function in our state as a school psychologist. No 'Professional person is involved in the decision. I do not believe that a psychologist is ever employed anywhere in the state without having his or her credentials reviewed by another psychologist except for a school psychologist. This seems to me a most important issue. We have only made a small step in this direction. I met with Mr. Allison, the person in charge of credentials. He agreed that the certification procedure and specifications should be reviewed by a group of school psychologists and suggested that a committee be formed to do that. He asked me to write to him and give him names of individuals that might compose such a committee. Paul Del Nero and I conferred and I sent him such a letter. He later told me that a replacement for Ken Riggs is being sought it seemed appropriate to wait until such a person was hired before we proceed. I concurred.

2. My second area of concern was to collect data from the counties about school psychologists and their functions. I was hoping to establish a bank which would show us where we were and where we might go. Such data would also serve other functions: help in budget discussions, recruiting new members for MSPA, installing new programs, etc. Little success has been achieved in this area so far, but I still have hopes.

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Views from the Past *Continued from Page 12*

3. Revision of our constitution. Bill Gore, our parliamentarian, will tell us about what has been accomplished here later.

4. Supervision of Psychologists. There has been concern about this from several groups, particularly the adequacy of the supervision. Little has been done here except that this was also a concern of Mr. Allison's and hopefully will be explored by the committee concerned with certification.

5. Annual reports from the committee chairpersons and officers. As our organization grows and expands, we should have some written record as to the functions and procedures to pass on from one year to the next. Otherwise, each new committee chairperson must start each year anew. I have asked each officer and chairperson to prepare such a manual and hopefully those will be available in July for the incoming officers and chair people.

6. Responsibility for the workshops. In the past, the president-elect was responsible for the spring workshop and the president for the fall workshop. Because of the many responsibilities of the president and president-elect, I have tried to begin some modifications in the procedures by having a chairperson for the program who works with the president or president-elect. Betty Middleton is serving in that capacity now and the new procedures seem to be working out well.

7. Position statement for school psychologists when teachers strike. During teacher strikes in the past, school psychologists have been asked to teach by the administration. This does not endear school psychologists to teach if teachers don't have a high regard for us we are in trouble. Little was done here, but I still feel it is most important to pursue in the future.

8. Legislation. This is most important. Dennis Duda will say more about this, but I don't feel it can be overly stressed. Not only must we protect the Children of the state and ourselves from bad laws, but we must work toward the future when we are drafting bills for legislators to present.

9. Advisory Committees for the Counties. Some steps were taken in this direction but they were certainly not great. It is most important that communications flow from the school psychologists in the field to the MSPA EC and back.

One of the reasons that some of the goals stated above did not come about was that other problems arose that were felt to be so important that they could not be ignored. These other problems and what we did about them as well as other accomplishments that we did this year are:

1. Newsletter. I have been most pleased with the newsletters that Bob Ashmore and Ann Truitt have produced. I'm sorry to say that Bob has left us and I appreciate Ann for carrying on.

2. Fall workshops. I was most pleased with the response to the three different workshops we held in the fall. As you know from the newsletter, those that attended found them most useful and practical.

3. Problems in Montgomery County As some of you know, there was a move underfoot in Montgomery county to replace the title "School Psychologist "with "Student Service Worker." We wrote letters to the superintendent of schools and "the Board of Education and I attended and presented at a Board of Education meeting. We like to take some of the credit for them putting the title "school psychologist" back in their plans of reorganization. Now they are trying to do away with the position of "supervisor of school psychologists" and again, I have written a letter and have asked to testify.

4. As stated earlier, your EC was concerned that Ken Riggs's job was not being refilled. The importance of having someone to speak for school psychologists at that level is obvious. I wrote letters to the President of the Board of Education and was told that all positions were frozen until the new Superintendent, Mr. Hornbeck took over. As you know, they are recruiting for that position now. I knew about the recruiting and talked to several individuals at NASP. One name has been forwarded for that position: Leonard Pennington who is currently serving in the same role in Wisconsin.

5. Close relationship with MPA. At times in the past, there have been strained relationships between the two organizations. I believe that our relationship is much better now and I think it has improved to a large extent because of the increase in communication between the two organizations. I also serve as the Representative-at-Large for MPA and attend their EC meetings.

Continued on Page 14

Views from the Past *Continued from Page 13*

Other MSPA members, Raphael Minsky and Gene Andrejczak, hold MPA offices. Thus, misunderstandings by MPA or MSPA are quickly worked out. Bob Brown, the President of MPA has been most supportive of school psychologists and has written letters as we have regarding the problems cited earlier.

6. The firing of 12 school psychologists in Baltimore was another issue that occupied our time and we felt very important. A letter was written to the Board of Education and to the Superintendent of schools John Crew. MPA also wrote. Again our letter writing was reinforced, money was found to rehire those let go.

7. Presentation at NASP. I am pleased to have increased the visibility of MSPA on a national level by organizing meetings of the presidents of organizations at the March meeting of NASP. The symposium was well received and I felt that much information was shared.

8. Representative to NASP. As you know, we are affiliated with NASP and we were asked to elect a representative. We did, and Bob Snyder is our representative for two more years.

9. By-Law revision. As you know, the Special Education By-Laws are being rewritten and much time was spent in seeing to it that school psychologists and their functions were appropriately cited

What of the future? Certainly, I would hope that Paul and the future presidents would feel that at least some of the directions I have pointed would be followed. Some areas for the future that I believe are very important and we should all be aware of are:

1. NCATE has turned over to NASP the function of accrediting school psychology programs. It appears that NASP will be more stringent than NCATE was which will mean that school psychologists will be better and better trained as time goes on.

2. P.L. 94-142. This will have a profound effect on school psychologists as we have heard in our meeting today.

3. Public relations. Not only do people out there not know who school psychologists are and what they do, it sometimes seems that school superintendents and principals don't either. The NASP public relations committee is working hard to generate public relation material. I hope we can move in this direction in the future.

4. Accountability. This ties in with research that I mentioned before. It would be so good if we had some data showing what good things we are doing. Good data makes for good jobs.

5. School suspension. School suspension is a consequence to in-appropriate behavior in school. We should be in the forefront of generating other alternatives to suspension.

6. Continuing education. Somewhere, not to far over the horizon, is the requirement that school psychologists maintain their proficiency by attending workshops, conferences and classes.

These are some of my observations and comments regarding my year as president of MSPA. Thank you all for allowing me to serve and thanks to those that served as officers and committee chairpersons and members. Ever onward.

Note to Our Senior Readers:

Do you have very early issues of the MSPA Newsletter?
While we are fortunate enough to have the very earliest, and many from the 1970s and 1980s, we are also missing many issues from those decades.

Please contact Historian Michael Nuth if you would like to share your copies of these historic documents – thanks!

Professional Training Grant Helped Fund PREPaRE Workshop 1

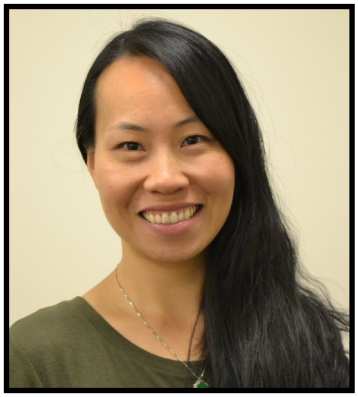
Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association



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The Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association (MCSPA) was the grateful recipient of a Professional Training Grant from the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA) to help fund the *PREPaRE Workshop 1* crisis preparedness training for Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) psychologists. As a school system of approximately 160,000 students, MCPS covers many crises each year, including but not limited to unexpected deaths in schools and the community, suicides, acts of violence, and disasters. Each year, Montgomery County's school psychologists sign up for multiple-day shifts on crisis response teams that can be deployed across the county. It is critical for staff to use a consistent approach so that crises can be dealt with efficiently and effectively.

PREPaRE Workshop 1

PREPaRE is a school crisis prevention and intervention training curriculum developed by NASP for school crisis professionals. Workshop 1, *Crisis Prevention and Preparedness: Comprehensive School Safety Planning*, furnished participants with the Second Edition workbook for this one-day training that provided an overview of the evidence-based crisis prevention and intervention curriculum. Participants learned the six key principles of the PREPaRE curriculum: *Prevent* (and prepare for psychological trauma), *Reaffirm* (physical health and perceptions of security and safety), *Evaluate* (psychological trauma risk), *Provide* (interventions) and *Respond* (to psychological needs), and *Examine* (the effectiveness of crisis prevention and intervention). By the end of the training session, participants were expected to identify eleven objectives, including different levels of crises and responses, the purpose and principle components of a comprehensive safety plan and crisis response plans, the function of the Incident Command System, and strategies for examining the effectiveness of preparation prevention and interventions.

Workshop Facilitators

MCSPA was especially fortunate that workshop co-facilitator, Christina Conolly, Psy.D., NCSP, MCPS Director of the Division of Psychological Services, is also one of the primary authors of the PREPaRE curriculum. Prior to coming to Montgomery County, Dr. Conolly served as the Director of Crisis Intervention and Safety for the Waukegan Public Schools, where she coordinated and supervised the district suicide prevention programs, mental health response teams, school crisis plan trainings and development, and incident action planning for large-scale school events. Dr. Conolly was also responsible for working closely with the

Continued on Page 17

11th Annual Legislative Breakfast



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Current Role: *School Psychologist, Montgomery County Public Schools*

Professional Interests: *Advocacy and Public Policy*

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The MSPA Legislative Committee hosted the 11th Annual Legislative Breakfast in Annapolis on January 11, 2018 in the House Building. This breakfast is our annual opportunity to educate legislators regarding what school psychologists do and how we might be able to help them respond to both legislative and constituent concerns. While the Legislative Committee actively monitors all bills filed throughout the legislative session and responds to those relating to our scope of practice, we are beginning to see more and more legislators reaching out to us for assistance with specific bills throughout the legislative session.

This year MSPA was represented by over thirty school psychologists, school psychology faculty, and school psychology students. Members attending came from ten LEAs across Maryland as well as faculty and students from Bowie State University. Several attendees were able to make individual appointments with their own legislators to meet in their office, providing us with more opportunities for significant connections.



In addition to school psychologists, we had just under 40 legislative offices in attendance this year. Schedules were very busy as many caucus meetings were occurring in anticipation of a busy second day session in the house, during which time several of the Governor's vetoes from the previous legislative session were debated and overturned. However, we were happy to see that several of the education sub-committee members in the House and Senate made time to attend our event. MSPA members visited the offices of those education sub-committee members who did not attend the breakfast in order to meet with them and/or their staff and leave contact information and an informational folder.

As in past years, we shared valuable information about school psychology, presented posters of information regarding school psychology, and attended the sessions for both the House and Senate. We also gave all attendees light bulb shaped stress balls with MSPA's logo on them in keeping with NASP's School Psychology Awareness Week's theme of *Power Up! Be a Positive Charge*. The posters shared included the NASP Practice Model and information about school psychology throughout the state. This year's folders provided to legislators included a "cheat sheet" on how MSPA might be able to assist legislators throughout the session, the MSPA Brochure, and fact sheets on Specific Learning Disabilities (specifically Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, and Dysgraphia) and Trauma-Sensitive Schools. When session began, a group of school psychologists attended both the House and Senate sessions to be introduced to the floors. In the House, MSPA was introduced by Delegate April Rose and in the Senate, the introduction was made by Senator Gail Bates. Both of these legislators, and Delegate Kathy Afzali, were speakers at our Grassroots Event in November and all are education sub-committee members.



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11th Annual Legislative Breakfast *(Continued from Page 16)*

This year's event was a huge success and a direct result of the tireless support from the Legislative Committee. The committee meets monthly throughout the year and bi-monthly throughout the legislative session in order to organize and prepare this and other events as well as to advocate for all Maryland students and school psychologists. In addition to the committee members, the MSPA Executive Board as well as the general membership are essential participants and deserve many thanks as well.

The 2018 Legislative Session is off to a very busy start with regard to both bills filed and actions taken. Currently, several hundred bills have already been filed in both the Senate and the House and the committee is actively working to monitor each and every one of them to ensure that anything related to our field of practice is discussed and appropriate action is taken. As the session continues for the next three months, the committee will meet twice a month to discuss the bills that require action, and those bills on which action is taken will be reported to the Executive Board and posted on the MSPA website.

If you're interested in joining the Legislative Committee to review and discuss bills or if you are familiar with a bill that you would like the committee to consider, please contact the committee Chair, Audrey Potter at legislative@mspaonline.org. We are looking forward to an exciting session!

MSPA Grant PREPaRE Workshop 1 *(Continued From Page 15)*

community emergency response personnel and local government as part of school safety and emergency response practices. Before she held the director position, she had the following roles: Crisis Intervention Coordinator, Coordinator of Psychological Services, Lead Psychologist, and District Wide Crisis Intervention Team Leader at Waukegan Public Schools.

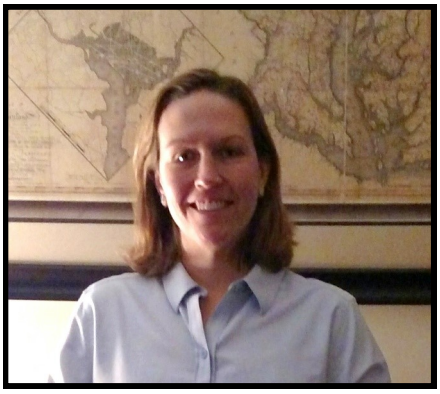
Amy Cannava, Ed.S., NCSP, co-facilitated the PREPaRE workshop with Dr. Conolly. Prior to joining MCPS in 2016, Ms. Cannava served as a Crisis Team Leader and Lead School Psychologist for Loudoun County (Virginia) Public Schools where she assisted in the development of their comprehensive crisis plan revision. The plan focused on psychological triage and psychoeducation groups. Ms. Cannava became involved in crisis intervention in 2007 when high school students from Bossier Parish (Louisiana) witnessed a serious, fatal car accident en route to the state playoffs. Ms. Cannava aims to bring compassion and a sense of calm to crisis intervention, reminding staff that the goal in any crisis situation is *"...to avoid creating one."*

Workshop Attendees

PREPaRE Workshop 1 was attended by all MCPS school psychologists. MCPS school psychologists serve students from ages 3 to 21 in a variety of capacities including comprehensive schools and special programs (such as Head Start and preschool special education programs, Emotional Disabilities and Autism units, Alternative Programs, Bilingual Assessment Team, self contained learning centers, and programs for students with mild to severe intellectual disabilities).

Effectiveness of the Program and Summary Evaluation

Participants completed an evaluation following the completion of the workshop. All participants were pleased with the trainers and almost all participants reported that they would recommend this workshop to others. The effectiveness of fulfilling workshop objectives was rated on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Participants rated a 4.6 for the following: clear and understandable content; well organized workshop materials; and well organized trainers. Participants averaged a 4.5 rating for: effectiveness of workshop materials for facilitating participation; trainer's facilitation of participation; and increased knowledge of the topic. Participants, on average, provided a 4.3 rating in response to being asked if they would be able to apply the information/skills learned to their professional duties. Overall, Workshop 1 complemented Workshop 2 which was presented to MCPS psychologists in the summer of 2016. Workshop 1 helped consolidate knowledge of the fundamental principles needed for psychologists to support MCPS and community prevention and preparedness endeavors.



MSPA Program Committee

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Current Role: *School Psychologist, Carroll County Public Schools.*

Professional Interests: *Supporting students with significant social, emotional, and behavioral needs; MTSS; ACES; Autism; Systems Level Change*

Email: *program@mspaonline.org*

The Program Committee has been hard at work putting together conferences for our membership. There is a lot that goes into planning beyond finding quality speakers. We scout and secure venues including set up and catering needs, draft and publish conference brochures, set up and maintain online registrations, maintain NASP approved provider status, collect conference evaluation data, and make future decisions based upon results. We also upload conference materials to the 'Members Only' section of the MSPA website (with speakers' consent), explore future professional development options (e.g., webinars, panel discussions), and seek graduate student involvement.

At the 2017 Fall Conference, Dr. Marilyn Monteiro presented "Autism Conversations: A Framework for Assessment and Intervention Across Age and Ability Levels." Dr. Monteiro shared a perspective and way of communicating with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families that is unique and was well received by attendees. MSPA is grateful to Western Psychological Services (WPS) for sponsoring Dr. Monteiro. They will be providing materials for us to upload to the 'Members Only' section of the MSPA website.

Our next conference will be the Spring 2018 Conference at The Hotel at Arundel Preserves on Friday, April 20th. This conference will focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and will include breakout sessions. Our morning speaker Adam C. Rosenberg, Esq. will provide an overview of ACES and the ways school psychologists can support students, families, and faculty. His presentation is titled, "Oh They're Just ADHD: Adverse Childhood Experiences, and How Trauma & Mental Health Impact Learning". Our lunch will include the MSPA General Meeting and 2018 Awards Ceremony. In the afternoon, attendees will attend one of three breakout sessions: 1) Erika Leonard and Katherine Esser "It Takes a Village: Understanding Child Abuse, Its Impact on Learning and Mental Health, and Bringing Trauma Informed Care to School" 2) Eric Rossen "Creating Trauma-Informed Classrooms and Schools" 3) Carrie Freshour "Human Trafficking/ Domestic Child Sex Trafficking: Prevention and Intervention Education for Clinicians."

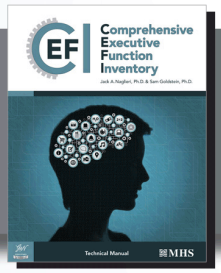
The MSPA Summer Institute 2018 will be held at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center on June 19th-21st. Drs. Wendy Price and Melissa Pearrow will present on "Combating Internalizing Distress Associated with Self-Injurious Behavior and Eating Disorders". Registration will open online this winter but you can book your hotel room now. Call the Atlantic Sands (800-422-0600 or 302-227-2511) and refer to the MSPA-Maryland School Psychologists Association block # 8423 to get the special MSPA room rate ($185.00 single double occupancy, $200 triple, $215 quad occupancy). The rate is good for the Sunday night before the conference through Thursday night of the conference (6/17/18- 6/21/18). We hold a welcome party Tuesday night at the hotel and a happy hour at a restaurant in Rehoboth Beach. If you have never attended a Summer Institute before, this is a great year to come!

The ultimate goal of the Program Committee is to provide quality professional development opportunities to our membership based upon current trends in the field along with requests from our membership and conference attendees through conference evaluation data. We have offered traditional conferences for many years, but for the first time we will be hosting a panel discussion at Howard University in August 2018. Membership was surveyed to determine the topic for the panel. 'School Psychologists as Behavioral and Mental Health Providers' was the winner. We are currently in the process of vetting potential panelists so if you or a colleague would be an excellent addition, please contact me directly so that we can potentially begin vetting your recommendation.

Thank you for your continued support of MSPA and your attendance at our conferences. Please continue to provide your feedback about conference topics and speakers. We use that feedback to make our decisions. The Program Committee is always looking for members interested in participating in the committee as well as recommendations for speakers and panelists. Contact me directly at program@mspaonline.org with any Program Committee related inquiries.

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MSPA Executive Board Meetings

Meetings begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.

Lunch is served at 12:30 p.m.

MSPA Board meetings are open to all MSPA Members.

Members are encouraged to attend and become involved with MSPA at the executive board level.

Please visit www.mspaonline.org
to register to attend a board meeting
and to find out location details.

- May 4—Baltimore County

Membership Update

Welcome to all our new members!

Shannon Gilliard
Makeda Greene
Shannon Mackain
Martin Onley
Jodi Ward
Kaylee Weitz
Sydney Williams

Thank you for reading!

Submit Articles to protocol@mspaonline.org