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[www.ripsych.org](http://www.ripsych.org)



### President's Message

Dear RIPA members,

I hope you are well and are having a relaxing summer. It was great to see so many of you at our Insurance Forum last week and at our Spring Meet and Greet. We will be having another Meet and Greet in the Fall, and also plan to schedule another Insurance Forum so that we can continue talking about the changes happening in the insurance and legislative landscape, and the actions we are taking in response. We are very concerned that the recent reduction in BC reimbursement rates could adversely affect access to quality mental health services for Blue Cross subscribers and are currently drafting a letter to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner requesting that he evaluate whether or not BC is in compliance with parity laws. In addition, we are consulting regularly with APA/APAPO legal staff and advisors for guidance. BC also plans to initiate a quality improvement plan beginning January, 2013, and we welcome member Dr. Abbe Garcia as our liaison to the BCBS advisory panel on quality improvement. The chair of our PEC, Dr. Ben Johnson, has also been selected to serve on that advisory committee, and we will keep you informed of developments as they arise.



### Disaster Response Network Committee

*Submitted by Mary Moore Ph.D.  
DRN Committee Chair*

We continue to work on increasing the number of Red Cross trained volunteers. Please note that obtaining the Red Cross training does not carry any obligation to volunteer for a national or statewide disaster. There are many other volunteer roles, such as being available by phone as a MH consultant during a local disaster, being available to provide support to volunteers returning from disaster assignments, serving as a subject matter expert on the DRN committee, e.g. on children's needs during disasters, disasters and the elderly, or even the needs of pets during disaster. We are also exploring volunteer opportunities outside of the APA/Red Cross affiliation.

The APA is also working with ARC to develop a brief workshop to assist returning veteran's to adjust to civilian life. APA/ARC training will be offered to obtain certification to facilitate this workshop.

To obtain the Red Cross certification, there are three requirements: Foundations of Disaster Mental Health webinar (online), Introduction to Disaster Services (online), and Disaster Services Overview, three hours in person at our local Red Cross headquarters on Gano Street, usually offered once a month in the evening. The instructions for accessing the online Introduction to Disaster Services course are confusing. I will spell them out again in the next webinar announcement.

### Colleague Assistance Update

*Submitted by Megan Spencer, Ph.D.  
Colleague Assistance Committee Chair*

The Colleague Assistance Committee is establishing a database for RIPA members who are seeking psychotherapy, case consultation, or business consultation. The spirit of this database is to provide psychologists with a resource where they can find professionals in the community who self identify as having experience (or an interest in) treating other mental health professionals. In addition to providing a resource for one's own well being, the database will also contain listings of providers who treat children and adolescents for psychologists who are seeking services for a child. In a state like RI where everyone knows one another, this database will provide a valuable resource where a psychologist can find a provider who they don't know! The database will also include listings of area psychologists who provide case consultation or business consultation for a fee. We are currently working to make this database available via the RIPA website. In the interim, for those seeking a referral for services or referral, they are encouraged to contact the CAC.

If you are interested in being listed as a provider on our CAC database, please contact CAC chair, Megan Spencer, Ph.D. at: [megans80@hotmail.com](mailto:megans80@hotmail.com).



### Upcoming Continuing Education

Friday, October 19, 2012  
**Adventures on the Electronic Frontier: Ethics and Risk Management in the Digital Era**  
Presented by Eric A. Harris, Ed.D., J.D.  
(6 CE Credits)

This workshop will address the above issues starting with a point in time review of the current status of digital mental health and make predictions based on the current state of affairs as well as review the potential professional and economic advantages of using telepsychology. It will provide guidance to mental health professionals who wish to take full advantage of this technology before the rules are established, a circumstance that will likely expose them to some risk.

December 7, 2012  
**Psychopharmacology Update: Adults and Children**  
Presented by Sarah Xavier, D.O.  
(3 CE Credits)

1. Basics of psychopharmacology: What are the basic medication classes and what are they used for?
2. Updates in psychopharmacology: What are the medications most recently released by the FDA?
3. Essentials: Medical Causes of Mental Illness and Medical Side Effects of Medications: Which medical illnesses masquerade as mental illness?

*For complete program details and registration go to [www.ripsych.org](http://www.ripsych.org) and navigate to CE Programs*

As far as other RIPA news, we are pleased to introduce our new logo, and are currently redesigning our website to make it more visually appealing and user-friendly. We will also be introducing our new listserv, which we hope will provide more opportunities for our members to connect and communicate with each other. Thank you to Dr. Karen Gieseke, who has recently taken the helm as our new chair of the membership committee. Please remember that our membership drive is well underway, and if you bring a new member to RIPA, you will receive 25% off of your dues for the year. If you bring in four new members, your dues will be waived. I encourage you to reach out to the psychologists and students you know to tell them of the many activities and benefits of RIPA membership. I would also like to extend a congratulations and warm welcome back to former RIPA president Lou Turchetta who will be returning to our board in 2013 as our newly elected representative to the APA Council of Representatives

All of our committees are very active, and we are looking for members who want to be involved with membership, graduate students and early career outreach, and those who have expertise and interest in social networking and web-based communications. If you are interested in becoming more involved, in these areas or with any of our other committees, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As always, I welcome your involvement and feedback and look forward to hearing from you.

Lisa Rocchio, Ph.D.  
RIPA President



## RIPA BOARD

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### - Committee Chairs -

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Continuing Education

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Disaster Response Network

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## Legislative Oversight

The Legislative Committee has been very active this year addressing significant problems with bills that were introduced to update the Autism Spectrum Disorder private insurance mandate law and to create a license for applied behavior analysts. The original bills would have excluded licensed psychologists from providing applied behavioral analysis services and from receiving reimbursement for those services from private insurance companies. The versions of the legislation that are likely to pass (S2559 Sub A and S2560 Sub A) will recognize that behavioral analysis is within the scope of practice of psychologists under our licensing law (RIGL 5-44). Licensed psychologists will be able to provide behavior analysis services to patients without also having to have an ABA license and they will be able to be reimbursed for those services from the private insurance companies. This bill should resolve the very restrictive requirement that is currently law that providers be both psychologists and certified in ABA to receive insurance reimbursement by changing the rule to be that they are either a licensed psychologist or a licensed ABA. We have also been able to refine the ABA licensing bill to make the requirements for licensure more appropriate for Rhode Island standards. There are still issues with both bills with which we are not satisfied including dollar and age caps for mandated benefits which are contrary to the concept of parity. We hope to address these issues in the future. I would like to thank Drs. Mary Moore, Karyn Blane, and Stephen Sheinkopf for their time and expertise.

We are happy to report that the General Assembly has passed and the Governor has signed into law a bill (S2285 & H7228) that will include psychologists in the list of professions that can participate in professional service corporations (RIGL 27-38.2). Now psychologists can be part owners of business enterprises in groups that include physicians and most other health professions.

Finally, our bill that would update Rhode Island's Mental Health Parity Law (RIGL

27-38.2) to include a requirement that mental health services be paid for on the same basis as medical services was heard in House Corporations and held for further study. While it is unlikely to go any farther this year, the need for this legislation is evident by the recent actions of Blue Cross.

Submitted by Peter Oppenheimer, Ph.D.  
RIPA Legislative Chair

## Join Us!

As a leading voice of psychology in the State of Rhode Island, the RI Psychological Association is always looking for new voices to add to the message. As members, committed to that voice it is in our collective benefit to ask colleagues to join and add to it!

Please decide to read this newsletter and then **PASS IT ON** to another psychologist to see what the RIPA is committed to on their behalf.

Visit [www.ripsych.org](http://www.ripsych.org)

## Council of Representatives Update

The next Council meeting will be at the beginning of August. The Council will be spending a significant portion of its time working on the future of APA governance. The Good Governance Project will be presenting step two of its process to the Council. The process continues into next year.

In our next newsletter I look forward to telling you about the Good Governance Project. Finally, I would like to welcome Lou Turchetta back to the Council as our representative as of January.

Submitted by Peter Oppenheimer, Ph.D.  
RIPA Council Representative



## Ethics Corner: Resources for Psychologists

Psychologists working in clinical practice, research, and academic settings face ethical issues on a daily basis. While addressing many factors may come as second-nature, having become integrated into the standards of practice each of us have established (i.e., obtaining informed consent, storing records securely), inevitably new challenges are bound to arise (i.e., breaching confidentiality to preserve patient safety, managing electronic records). As society, technology, science, and our caseloads evolve, remaining abreast of changes within the field becomes increasingly important. The following resources are recommended for readers interested in reading more about ethics in psychology.

Bersoff, D.N. (2008). Ethical conflicts in psychology: Fourth edition. American Psychological Association: Washington, DC.

A well-known and highly praised classic, Bersoff's "Ethical Conflicts in Psychology" includes a comprehensive summary of the formal standards of professional conduct for psychologists in clinical, scientific, and academic settings. Beyond this goal, however, the book also incorporates vignettes pertaining to a range of ethical dilemmas. Now in its fourth edition, content within the current volume includes topics such as duty-to-protect, child custody, multiple relationships, treatment of minors, internet research, cultural diversity, and managed care.

Knapp, S.J., Gottlieb, M.C., Handelsman, M.M., & VandeCreek, L.D. (2011). APA handbook of ethics in psychology. American Psychological Association: Washington, DC.

This two volume set, edited by Knapp and colleagues, addresses ethics using an "aspirational" framework, introducing concepts of "positive ethics" or "active ethics." Specifically,

psychologists are encouraged to consider the true values underlying principles within the APA Ethics Code rather than applying a prescriptive approach to the code. An expansive number of topics are addressed. Volume one, "Moral Foundations and Common Themes," includes chapters about issues including competence, religion and spirituality, high risk clients, risk for treatment failure, business issues, and risk management. Volume two, "Practice, Teaching, and Research," addresses topic areas such as children and adolescents, older adults, multiperson therapy, health care, school, and forensic settings, life coaching, media, the internet, and telehealth. APA offers this handbook to members at a reduced rate. An electronic version is also available for institutions.

Reamer, F.G. (2001). Tangled relationships: Managing boundary issues in the human services. Columbia University Press: New York.

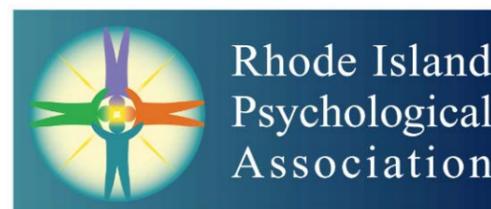
"Tangled Relationships," a seminal work by Reamer, offers an in depth analysis of boundary issues within psychology. The book provides a conceptual framework as well as discussion surrounding a number of case vignettes. Challenges discussed within the book include topics such as self-disclosure, favors and gifts, friendships and sexual relationships, bartering, social encounters, conflicts of interest, and physical contact.

Finally, for those interested in obtaining resources electronically, Ken Pope maintains an excellent website (<http://kspope.com/>) about "Therapy, Ethics, Malpractice, Forensics, Critical Thinking (and a few other topics)." This website contains links to recent ethics articles (including free access to several journals) as well as a number of additional resources.

Submitted by Heather L. Hunter Ph.D.  
RIPA Committee Committee

## Change is a GOOD thing - The New RIPA Logo

Our new logo represents diversity with the emotional impact of color. Each of the four figures in the logo is rendered in a primary color having its own unique psychological implications: i.e....BLUE may suggest dependability, consistency, RED/ORANGE might suggest vitality, anger, GREEN may represent growth, regeneration and PURPLE, power, loyalty and etc. In addition, the grouping of the figures suggests our collaborative effort of "getting our heads together" in our mission. Also, notice that the logo visually suggests the form of a compass. This adds additional meaning to our new image as a directional guide in ensuring the health and well-being of individuals, families, groups, and society as a whole.



Rhode Island  
Psychological  
Association

Logo designed by Michael V. Phillips, For logo design information contact:  
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