As my presidency is coming to a close, I struggle with a topic to write about. My interests span from residency education, abuse and trauma, community education, and providing quality of care to children in foster care and families with minimal resources.

Today I hope to increase the number of voices that stand for children, their families, and psychiatrists in the state of Texas. The Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (TSCAP) provides this voice. For I would be but a lone voice without organizations dedicated to child and adolescent psychiatry. TSCAP is not just a professional organization it is a family. Family can mean many things to different people. TSCAP was created in October 1966 and incorporated in 1967 as a nonprofit organization. It is a professional family that has dedicated 50 years to the care and treatment of mental illness in children and adolescents.

In this time of healthcare uncertainty, it is important to raise our voices in unity. United voices add power. Power to speak for a vulnerable population that is crying out in need but often unheard. TSCAP provides a forum for people to come together who share a common goal of strengthening mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents and their families.

Children and their families face many challenges that can impact their mental health and wellbeing. They struggle with bullying, cyberbullying, trauma in all its various forms – military deployments, sexual trafficking of minors, family violence and abuse, community violence, and school violence – loss and bereavement, developmental issues such as gender dysphoria, parental mental illness and substance use, and economic hardships to name a few. Children and families are resilient but sometimes they need help. When they need help how easy is it to obtain and maintain quality assistance?

As I mentioned in my previous letter to members, we as child and adolescent psychiatrists are faced with professional challenges in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. We are striving to be successful while maintaining wellness and preventing burnout.

Children, their families, and physicians share in the challenges presented today's healthcare environment. TSCAP is an organization and family unit that has and will continue to step to the forefront and advocate for the needs of children and psychiatric physicians. It will also continue to provide a forum for education, collaboration, and networking to Texas psychiatric physicians.

I am encouraging all child and adolescent psychiatrists, fellows, residents, and medical students to become a member of TSCAP. We are 50 years strong but need your support to shape the landscape of child and adolescent psychiatric care for the future.

The benefits of membership include legislative representation, continuing medical education programs targeted specifically for Child Psychiatry, and the ability to suggest/request medical education topics at future meetings via the online Activity Development Workgroup.

I am grateful for the opportunity to thank our Executive Director Debbie Giarratano, formerly Sundberg, and her staff who continually push for administrative excellence. She and her staff are instrumental in the success of our organization and meetings. I also would like to thank Eric Wommer our Public Policy Consultant who represents our voices in the Texas Legislature.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as the 2016-2017 President of TSCAP.
Annual Convention & Scientific Program

“What’s on the Horizon”

JULY 14-16, 2017 • Hyatt Regency Hotel, Austin, Texas

GENERAL INFORMATION

Friday, July 14
12:00 pm - 8:30 pm Registration .................................................. Texas Ballroom Foyer
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm Exhibit Set-Up .................................................. Texas Ballroom IV-VII
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm TSCAP Executive Committee Meeting ....................... Exhibit Hall, 11th-Floor
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Fiesta Welcome Reception with Exhibitors .................. Texas Ballroom Foyer

Saturday, July 15
7:00 am - 4:30 pm Registration .................................................... Texas Ballroom Foyer
7:30 am - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors ..................... Texas Ballroom IV-VII
8:00 am - 3:45 pm Scientific Program ............................................. Texas Ballroom IV-VIII

Note: For Saturday’s Program, to reduce expenses, refreshments will be set in one location, in the Exhibit Hall, Texas Ballroom IV-VIII

10:30 am - 10:50 am Refreshment Break and Door Prize Drawings .............. Texas Ballroom Foyer
11:50 am - 12:10 pm Refreshment Break and Door Prize Drawings .............. Texas Ballroom Foyer
1:10 pm - 1:30 pm Refreshment Break and Door Prize Drawings .............. Texas Ballroom Foyer
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Exhibits Teardown / Depart .................................... Texas Ballroom Foyer

Sunday, July 16
7:00 am - 1:00 pm Registration .................................................... Texas Ballroom Foyer
7:45 am - 8:45 am TSCAP Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast Open to All Attendees (see registration form) Texas Ballroom Foyer
8:45 am - 12:30 pm Scientific Program ............................................ Texas Ballroom Foyer
10:15 am - 10:30 am Refreshment Break ......................................... Texas Ballroom Foyer

REGISTRATION

Registration Information

JULY 14-16, 2017 • Hyatt Regency Hotel, Austin, Texas

PAYMENT INFORMATION

For questions or concerns, please call 1-888-421-1442 or visit www.txpsych.org

CANCELLATIONS – Deadline for cancellation is June 28, 2017. In the event of cancellation, a full refund will be made if written notice is received in the TSCAP office by June 28, 2017, less a 25% handling charge. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER June 28, 2017.

CONTACTS:

Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists
481 West 15th Street, Suite 675, Austin, TX 78701

Email: tscapofc@aol.com
Phone: 512-478-0605

To reach payment online, complete this form and return to tscapofc@aol.com via email. An email invoice will be sent to you via Quickbooks for payment.
• Identify two psychosocial issues related to gender dysphoria

• Name two characteristics of gender dysphoria that are different in children vs. clinicians

10:30 - 10:50 am 
Cafeteria Break

10:50 - 11:50 am
• "Trauma and Bereavement: Informed Interventions for Youth: The Essential Role of Evidence-Based Assessment"  
  Julie B. Kaplow, PhD, ABPP

11:50 - 12:10 pm
Sylvia A. Ide, MD, FAAP

12:10 - 1:10 pm
• "The Foster Care System: An Introduction to the Foster Care System"  
  Carole Barron, MD, FACulty, Faculty Discussant  
  and Resident TBD

1:10 - 2:30 pm
• "Gender Dysphoria Issues"  
  Patricia Kapunan, MD, MPH

2:30 - 3:30 pm
The Ethics of Gender Dysphoria

3:30 - 3:45 pm
Closing Remarks

JULY 16-17, 2017 • Hyatt Regency Hotel, Austin, Texas

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) through the joint providership of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians and the Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians is accredited by TMA to provide continuing education for physicians.

CREDIT STATEMENT
The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians designates this Live Activity for a maximum of nine (9) AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

ETHICS DESIGNATION STATEMENT
The ethics presentations "Not Ready for Prime Time? Not "No" but "Not Yet" and "What's on the Horizon with the Texas Legislature?" have been designated by the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians for a total of two (2) credits of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

TARGET AUDIENCE/PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
This live activity has been designed with didactic lectures supplemented with clinical vignettes, video/audio presentations, direct discussion and case presentation and discussion in multiple educational sessions. The program is designed to provide its target audience of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, Adult Psychiatrists, Pediatricians and Primary Care Physicians with clinically relevant information to advance the physicians’ competence and provide them with effective use of targeted skills so that they may develop strategies to apply the knowledge, skills and judgement of the information presented in the educational activity into their practice.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT
TSCP has incorporated into this CME activity the relevant educational needs concerning competence that the professional practice gaps of the participants.

FACULTY AND PLANNERS DISCLOSURE POLICY
In compliance with the ACME/AMA Standards for Commercial Support of CME, to assure balance, independence, objectivity and scientific rigor in all of its CME activities, prior to the education activity being delivered at the learners, the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians implemented a mechanism to identify and resolve personal conflicts of interest from everyone who was in a position to control the context of the educational activity.

TSPP will disclose to learners the existence (or non-existence) of all relevant financial relationships that the faculty and planners did (or did not) have with any commercial interest concerned with the content of the educational presentation.

Disclosure will occur prior to the presentation through written communication in the syllabus/handout materials.

About the Speakers

Carrie Barron, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychiatry
Director of Creativity for Resilience Program
Faucy Affiliate: Center for Health Communication
Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

Paul E. Croarkin, DO, MS
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Department of Psychiatry & Psychology
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN

Amy S. Garrett, PhD
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Director, Neuroimaging Core
University of Texas Health Science Center
San Antonio, TX

Adam Goldberg, MD
1st Year Adult Psychiatry Resident
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Anne Huben-Kearney, RN, BSN, MPN, CPHQ, CPIBM, CPPS
Assistant Vice President, Healthcare & Psychiatry Risk Management
AWAC Services Company
Member Company of Allied World Assurance Company
Farmington, CT

Julie B. Kaplow, PhD, ABPP
Associate Professor
Director, Trauma and Grief Center for Youth
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Houston, TX

Patricia Kapunan, MD, MPH
MAJ, MC, USA
Chief, Adolescent Medicine
Brooke Army Medical Center
San Antonio, TX

Rene L. Olvera, MD, MPH
START Center Genetic Research Professor
Division Chief, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics
University of Texas Health Science Center
San Antonio, TX

Edore Onigu-Otite, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

Steven R. Pliszka, MD
Dielmann Distinguished Professor and Chair
Department of Psychiatry
University of Texas Health Science Center
San Antonio, TX

Sarah M. Wakefield, MD
Assistant Professor
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
School of Medicine
Lubbock, TX

Disclosure will occur prior to the presentation through written communication in the syllabus/handout materials.

TXPsychiatryJunJul17.qxp_TXPsychiatry JunJul17  6/7/17  1:11 PM  Page 3
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians
61st Annual Convention and Continuing Medical Education Program

“New Innovations in Psychiatry”

November 3-5, 2017 • Hyatt Hill Country Resort • 9800 Hyatt Resort Drive • San Antonio

HOTEL RESERVATION: $169 DISCOUNTED ROOM BLOCK
NOW OPEN
RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY ONLINE at www.tbspych.org and click on the HOTEL RESERVATION LINK for the November 3-5 TSPP meeting.
https://aws.passkey.com/go/ TSP2017 or telephone 800-233-1234

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

At the conclusion of the TSPP/TASP Spring Meeting in Austin during the weekend of April 28-29, four organizations of the Federation installed new officers for fiscal year 2017-18. Congratulations!

Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians President – Dr. Maria Lomeli, MD, Houston President-Elect – Dr. Joseph Actor, MD, Austin Immediate Past President – Dr. Steven D. Silver, MD, Houston Texas Academy of Psychiatry President – Dr. Paul Wisoff, MD, Austin President-Elect – Dr. Karen N. McCollum, MD, Houston Immediate Past President – Dr. Bruce A. Green, MD, Austin Texas Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry President – Dr. Rebecca D. McElveen, MD, Austin President-Elect – Dr. Larry G. Wren, MD, Houston

New Officers Installed

At the conclusion of the TSPP/TASP Spring Meeting in Austin during the weekend of April 28-29, four organizations of the Federation installed new officers for fiscal year 2017-18. Congratulations!

Federation of Texas Psychiatrists Chairman – Debra Akkoino, MD, Fort Worth Vice Chairman for Education – Timothy Wolf, MD, Dallas Vice Chairman for Public Policy – J. Clay Sawyer, MD, Waco Secretary-Treasurer – Lynda M. Parker, MD, Georgetown Immediate Past Chairman – Royko B. Vaughn, MD, Temple At Large Member – Dr. Eric J. Freeman, MD, Dallas At Large Member – Dr. Leslie L. Ramond, MD, Dallas Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians President – Terry C. McManus, MD, Lubbock President-Elect – Dr. Joseph Actor, MD, Austin Secretary-Treasurer – Dr. Joseph Actor, MD, Austin Immediate Past President – Dr. Daryl K. Knox, MD, Houston Texas Academy of Psychiatry President – Dr. Paul Wisoff, MD, Austin President-Elect – Dr. Karen N. McCollum, MD, Houston Immediate Past President – Dr. Bruce A. Green, MD, Houston Texas Foundation for Psychiatric Education and Research Chairman – J. Clay Sawyer, MD, Waco Vice Chairman – Dr. Daryl K. Knox, MD, Houston Treasurer – Dr. Laila E. Etter, MD, Fort Worth Secretary – Lorra K. Stetler, MD, Houston Immediate Past Chairman – Linda L. Rhoden, MD, San Antonio Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry TASP will install three new officers during the Annual Convention, July 14-16 in Austin.

Terry C. McManus, MD, of Lubbock, left, is installed as TSPP President and receives the Presidential Gavel from outgoing President (right) Daryl K. Knox, MD, Houston. 2017-18 President, Terry C. McManus, MD, of Lubbock and 2017-18 Secretary-Treasurer, Melissa Esthelman, MD of Austin were installed as TSPP Officers April 28-29 in Austin.
Call for Proposals for CME Activity for the 2018 TSPP Spring or Annual Meeting

TSPP wants your input! The TSPP CME Committee will be selecting topics for the 2018 TSPP Spring Meeting and Annual Convention. Deadline to submit proposals for the 2018 TSPP CME activity is November 1, 2017. Only proposals that are complete and submitted on the CME Activity Worksheet will be considered by the TSPP CME Committee for presentation. You should have the following information ready before submitting the proposal:

- **Topic/Title for Presentation**
- **Needs Assessment/Gap Analysis**
- **Gap Analysis References**
- **Proposed Objectives**
- **Proposed Speakers**
- **Teaching Method**

To download the CME Activity Worksheet, visit www.txpsych.org

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The Texas Legislative Session has adjourned sine die for the 85th Regular Session. Mental health spending and programs were among the top priorities for lawmakers, and the Federation played a leadership role in securing the passage (and defeat!) of key bills dealing with behavioral health. Here is a summary of the top legislation set aside $3.5 billion in Medicaid funds and $47.7 million in CHIP funds for estimated behavioral health related reimbursements over the 2018-19 biennium, and $4 billion in funds for all non-Medicaid behavioral health services. This amount includes funding for inpatient client services at state and community hospitals, outpatient services provided through Local Mental Health Authorities, substance abuse treatment services, and more at agencies across the state. The $4 billion set aside includes funding for several special projects related to mental and behavioral health, including:

- $66.3 million for immediate maintenance for several special projects related to mental and behavioral health, including:
- $24.8 million to maintain current inpatient bed and state hospital bed capacities; and
- $10.3 million to increase bed capacity at state hospitals.

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- $66.3 million for immediate maintenance for several special projects related to mental and behavioral health, including:
- $24.8 million to maintain current inpatient bed and state hospital bed capacities; and
- $10.3 million to increase bed capacity at state hospitals.

The bill would amend the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to authorize a state hospital to prohibit handgun license holders from carrying a handgun on the state hospital property upon the public posting of a written notice prohibiting the prohibition. The bill would also create civil penalties for a handgun license holder who carries a handgun on the property of a state hospital at which written notice of the prohibition is provided. The bill died in the Senate – however, the provisions of the bill were amended to HB 435 by Rep. Ken King (Sen. Perry) which passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor for further action. This legislation was a top priority for the Federation.

HB 301 by Rep. Majette and SB 179 by Sen. Menendez are identical companion bills that eventually came to be known as “David’s Law,” in memory of the 16-year-old David Hanger who committed suicide after an Instagram taunt escalated into a series of profane messages and threats. The story was heartbreaking, and it lit a fire under lawmakers who strive to protect children from similar instances of cyber bullying in the future. The bill places criminal sanctions on electronically harassing or cyberbullying children under the age of eighteen with the intent of causing the victim to self-harm. The bill is comprehensive in its approach: it instructs schools on how to handle incidents, gives victims the option of relief through temporary restraining orders, and outlines proper criminal punishments. The bill passed both chambers with wide bipartisan support and its passage was tearfully celebrated. SB 179, the final version of the bill that the two chambers agreed on, has been sent to the Governor.

HB 337 by Rep. Collier (Sen. Menendez) relates to the continuation of certain public benefits, including medical assistance benefits, for individuals after release from confinement in a county jail. The bill closes a loophole in eligibility for Medicaid while a person is confined in a county jail; will reduce recidivism; potentially save taxpayers approximately $400m annually due to uncompensated care; and most importantly, provide continuity of care. The bill would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHS) to reinstate Medicaid eligibility within 48 hours after being notified that the individual’s eligibility certification period is still active. The bill would permit an individual to remain eligible until the expiration of the period for which the written notification has been certified. The bill directs HHS to implement the bill to the extent provided under federal law. The bill will be sent to the Governor for further action. This legislation was a top priority for the Federation.

HB 1093 by Rep. Burrows and SB 1240 by Sen. Rodriguez would have granted prescriptive authority to psychologists who met certain specifications. Defeating this legislation was the top priority for the Federation. The authors of the bill had a personal connection to the issue – Rep. Burrows’ neighbor is very active in the Texas Psychological Association, while Sen. Rodriguez’ district borders New Mexico (where prescribing by psychologists is already legal) and he had several constituents who are psychologists and had practiced in both states. Our team met with both authors, House and Senate leadership, and key committee offices to ensure that the bill was not given a hearing. However, this legislation is part of a national effort on the part of the psychologists, and they were successful in passing it in other states. The Federation will need to remain vigilant and responsive to this topic in the future.

HB 1415 by Rep. Klick and its Senate companion SB 681 by Sen. Hancock would have significantly expanded the scope of practice of advanced practice registered nurses, allowing them to practice as licensed independent practitioners. The bill would have eliminated prescriptive authority agreements between nurse practitioners and physicians, that are currently in place to protect patient safety. The bill also opened the door for prescriptive laws having been regulations by ensuring that nurse practitioners are only overseeing by the Texas Board of Nursing. Currently, they are overseen by both the Texas Board of Nursing and the Texas Medical Board. Both bills died quickly, SB 681 never even received a hearing and HB 1415 died in committee. Organized medicine opposed both these bills and other similar measures, which are proposed every year as a means to increase access to health care. However, legislators responded to the concerns that the bills diluted the quality of care received.

HB 1600 by Rep. Thompson (Sen. Watson) allows physicians to perform mental health screenings more than once per child (but no more than once per year) to help catch and treat mental health issues early. This helps address an issue with Medicaid that only reimbursed doctors for one screening every six years, between the ages of twelve and eighteen. The bill received initial opposition from the Scientists and other fringe groups, but legislators saw the value of mental health screening for this population. The bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor.

HB 1917 by Rep. Raymond (Sen. Schwertner) relates to contract requirements for prescription drug benefits provided by Medicaid managed care organizations. The bill delays the carve in for pharmacy benefits into Medicaid Managed Care until September 1, 2023. Furthermore, the bill looks to the Health and Human Services Commission to improve efficiencies in the Preferred Drug List program and reduce cost. The bill was sent to the Governor. This bill was a priority for many in the health care community – while these plans were secretive about planning to carve in Medicaid prescription medications and the physician community was officially neutral, many consumer groups and pharmaceutical interests were strongly supportive of keeping the PDL carved out. This was a priority bill during the session for my team, but it remains to be seen what action the governor will take. Stay tuned.

HB 2478 by Rep. Davis would have required the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish and administer a Statewide Psychiatric Specialty Innovation Grant Program. This program would have awarded incentive payments to medical schools that administer innovative residency training programs designed to increase the number of physicians who would one day specialize in psychiatric care. The bill was reported favorably out of House Higher Education but it never got to receive a vote on the local calendar.

HB 2818 by Rep. Romero (Sen. Taylor) is a response to a Texas Supreme Court ruling that allowed marriage and family therapists to ‘make diagnostic assessments of emotional, mental, and behavioral problems as part of their efforts to evaluate and remediate mental dysfunctions within the marriage and family setting.” HB 2818 works that language into existing Texas law. It explicitly states that giving marriage and family therapists the power to “diagnose” under this definition does not expand their scope of practice because they are still forbidden from prescribing any form of medical treatment. After the court’s affirming this approach, the bill was uncontroversial among lawmakers, passing on local calendars in both chambers before being signed by the Governor.

HB 2895 by Rep. Price (Sen. Seliger) aims to promote awareness of mental health

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Eric Woomer
Federation of Texas Psychiatry Public Policy Consultant

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continued on page 6
services on college campuses by requiring higher education institutions to place a conspicuous link on their website that directs students to mental health services. The bill was recently signed by the Governor and will go into effect on September 1, 2017.

SB 3080 by Rep. Rose prohibits the imposition of the death penalty on a defendant who, at the time of the capital offense, had severe mental illness. The bill died on the House Floor. The original title of the bill and antithetical terms was very troubling to the forensic psychiatric community, and our team worked with NAMI Texas and legal interests to resolve its most problematic provisions. The Federation has offered to Rep. Rose our help in crafting legislation for 2019 that would resolve our remaining concerns.

HB 3060 by Rep. Price (Sen. Huisinga) allows certain chemical dependency counselors to be eligible to participate in the Texas Mental Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program. It also includes provisions to align legislative efforts with the National Health Service Corps program to draw down federal matching funds. This bill could potentially help lure individuals to the mental health department of counseling, which would prove helpful in the ongoing county-wide battle against opioid addiction. The bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor. The inclusion of a provision making LCDCs eligible only for surplus funding after other programs are funded, should surplus funds are available.

HB 3081 by Rep. Clardy (Sen. Menendez) allows licensed marriage and family therapists to participate in a program that provides funding for the training of certain mental health professionals who agree to practice in underserved areas. Like HB 3083, this assistance is contingent on the availability of surplus funding. A floor amendment added to the bill gives funding priority to psychiatrists, psychologists, advance practice registered nurses, licensed counselors, and licensed clinical social workers. The bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor. HB 3083 by Rep. Coleman relates to employment opportunities and the unique environment of the county hospital. The bill addresses the Board’s oversight and change in the practice of that medical practice with its impact on medicine, one of the biggest wins of the session. The bill was signed by the Governor on May 27, 2017. This was a high-priority bill for organized medicine, and the final language reflected a compromise between the Federation, the Texas Medical Association, and the Medical Board (TMB), Texas Board of Occupations, Insurance, Health and Safety, and Government Codes relating to telemedicine and telehealth services. The legislation sought to improve patient outcomes; improve access to care; and the unique treatment of that medical practice in current law. The bill was signed by the Governor on May 27, 2017. This was a high-priority bill for organized medicine, and the final language reflected a compromise between the Federation, the Texas Medical Association. SB 1148 by Sen. Binghamton (Rep. Greg Bonnen) relates to the expansion in our Texas Markets and we are growing! We are currently seeking Geriatric Professionals to participate in a program that provides for stopping and searching vehicles and it would have banned armed officers. Fortunately, a number of amendments stripped the bill and it died on the House Floor in a final product that Bland’s family members believe “painfully misses the mark.” Nonetheless, the bill that was ultimately passed and sent to the Governor has some very good mental health language, despite its lack of greater criminal justice reform. The Federation actively supported the bill and appreciates Rep. Coleman & Sen. Whitmer for their leadership.

SB 2001 by Sen. Watson (Rep. Coleman) redefined the “practice of psychology” as the observation, description, diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of human behavior or treatment of intervention in human behavior through the application of education, training, methods, and procedures aimed at addressing mental health. The bill passed the Senate and was reported favorably out of House Public Health but it never received a House vote. The bill was then reintroduced in the Senate and passed HB 3888, which passed both chambers. The failure of the Texas Mental Health Board reauthorization legislation could mean that a more robust approach to these and some red-meat issues for the Republican base, such as the “bathroom bill” or property tax relief, could be included as well, as those bills did not pass during the regular session. It remains to be seen if – and when – Gov. Abbott calls a special session, which would last 30 days and permit only to those issues he adds to the special session agenda. The Senate on TMB reauthorization and any other issues that deal with mental health and the practice of medicine. Meanwhile, as always, it is my privilege to work alongside the Federation, the Texas Board of Outsider qualification by a physician or an applicant for continuing medical education, and the Texas Medical Association. The Federation seeks to make the bill more palatable to those who deal with mental health and practice the practice of medicine.

The Federation played a leadership role in securing the passage (and defeat!) of key bills dealing with behavioral health

During the 85th Legislative Session, the Federation worked diligently to secure its passage, alongside all of organized medicine. SB 1236 by Sen. Zaffirini (Rep. Price) is an expansive bill that addresses how to screen and assess defendants for mental health and competency. The bill establishes procedures for the early identification of defendants with mental health and chemical dependency conditions by outlining steps on how to respond to written notices of mental illness and gives other forms of direction to magistrates attempting to perform examinations. SB 1849 by Sen. Whitmire (Rep. Coleman), the “Sandra Bland Act,” was initially supposed to be a sweeping package of police accountability and the criminal justice system's handling of mental health and chemical dependency treatments by outlining steps on how to respond to written notices of mental illness and gives other forms of direction to magistrates attempting to perform examinations.

The Federation actively supported the bill and appreciates Rep. Coleman & Sen. Whitmer for their leadership.

We are growing! Senior PsychCare is expanding in our Texas Markets and we are currently seeking Geriatric Professionals to join our growing company. Senior PsychCare is a leading provider for geriatric Psychiatric and Psychological services. We believe in taking a multi-disciplinary team care approach while providing quality care and being the referral source for others to provide compassionate care, service, and treatment for the emotional, social, and psychological well-being of seniors and their families, and caregivers. At this time we would like to invite all Geriatric professionals to be part of our team. For more information please contact us at 832-982-3961 or visit us at apchphealth.com.
EXTENDED DEADLINE!! UNTIL JUNE 30

Loan Repayment Program for Mental Health Professionals

**Loan Repayment Award Amounts**

The following maximum aggregate award amounts are applicable over a period of five years if funds are available:

- $160,000 for psychiatrists
- $80,000 for psychologists and licensed clinical social workers and licensed professional counselors who hold doctoral degrees
- $60,000 for advanced practice nurses
- $40,000 for licensed clinical social workers and licensed professional counselors who do not hold doctoral degrees

The following percentages apply to each aggregate award amount for each year of service:

- 10% in year one
- 15% in year two
- 20% in year three
- 25% in year four
- 30% in year five

Therefore, maximum award amounts for the first year of service will be as follows:

- $16,000 for psychiatrists
- $8,000 for psychologists and licensed clinical social workers and licensed professional counselors who hold doctoral degrees
- $6,000 for advanced practice nurses
- $4,000 for licensed clinical social workers and licensed professional counselors

Interested mental health professionals may determine if a particular practice site is currently designated as a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area by entering the address using the following federal search tool: Health Resources and Services Administration Shortage Areas. For more information on the Loan Repayment Program for Mental Health Professionals, please contact Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. More in-depth information is available on the THECB website: https://www.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/forms/aid/info.cfm?Kind=LRP and click on the Loan Repayment Program for Mental Health Professionals link.

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**South Houston / Galveston, Texas**

The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is actively recruiting exceptional psychiatrists. Faculty opportunities are available in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Faculty responsibilities include: direct patient care, telemedicine clinics, resident supervision and medical student teaching. Outpatient clinical opportunities are available in a number of our community based primary care clinics in Galveston and Brazoria counties as well as our Psychiatry Department in Webster and Galveston. All positions offer an exceptional salary based upon experience and academic ranking. An obtainable RVU based bonus program offers additional incentives of up to $25K, exceptional benefits, state retirement program, relocation and more.

The South Houston/Galveston (I-45 corridor) area offers a mild, sub-tropical climate year-round, some of the most affordable and beautiful housing in the nation, excellent educational opportunities, abundant leisure and cultural activities and the advantages of a small town feel within 40 minutes of downtown Houston. For more information on these positions, please contact our faculty recruiter, Skott Harrington at: saharrin@utmb.edu; please be sure to attach an updated CV. Current Residents and Fellows are encouraged to apply!
We’ve got you covered.

For over 40 years, we have provided psychiatrists with exceptional protection and personalized service. We offer comprehensive insurance coverage and superior risk management support through an “A” rated carrier. In addition to superior protection, our clients receive individual attention, underwriting expertise, and, where approved by states, premium discounts.

Endorsed by the American Psychiatric Association, our Professional Liability Program Provides:

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- Insuring Company rated “A” (Excellent) by A.M. Best
- Telepsychiatry, ECT Coverage & Forensic Psychiatric Services are included
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American Professional Agency, Inc.

LEADERS IN PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

The TEXAS PSYCHIATRIST is published 5 times a year in February, April, June, August, and October. Members of Federation member organizations are encouraged to submit articles for possible publication. Deadline for submitting copy to the Federation Executive Office is the first day of the publication month. Copy must be edited, acceptable for publication.

Display advertising is available and publication is determined on a case by case basis by the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board reserves the sole right to accept or reject any submitted advertising copy.

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http://www.txpsych.org (website)

JOB BANK

Whether you are looking for career opportunities or you are recruiting to fill a position in your organization, you will want to check out the Federation’s JOB BANK on its website at www.txpsych.org. The Federation’s JOB BANK could be just what you have been looking for.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

JULY
14-16 Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Annual Meeting and Scientific Program
“What’s on the Horizon”
Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas
Reservations: https://resweb.passkey.com/go/GTSP2017
or telephone (888) 421-1442 and refer to the group’s meeting
For additional information: www.txpsych.org
or email tscapofc@aol.com

NOVEMBER
3-5 Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians
61st Annual Convention and CME Program
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Hotel & Resort
9800 Hyatt Resort Drive, San Antonio, Texas
Reservations: https://aws.passkey.com/go/TSPP2017
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