

APA Council Meeting August 5-7, 2024

Town Halls

Both AP-LS Council representatives virtually attended several Council town halls during the summer. Town halls include presentations about new business items with Q&A.

Caucuses

Both AP-LS Council representatives virtually attended numerous Council caucuses on Thursday August 18 and Friday August 19. Each caucus focused on a specific area of interest. Margaret Bull Kovera serves as Chair of the General Applied Psychology and Psychologists (GAPP) Caucus, and Jen Groscup rotated in as Secretary of GAPP. Margaret Bull Kovera also serves as Chair of Coalition for Academic, Scientific, and Applied-Research Psychology. Jen Groscup will be rotating in as Chair of the GAPP Caucus.

Day 1

The Plenary Session was Monday August 5th. Plenary presentations included an update on new business items. At the Plenary, the new business item APA Resolution on Protecting Psychological Test Security, Test Validity, and Public Safety was removed from the agenda.

Day 2

APA President Dr. Cynthia de las Fuentes provided welcome remarks, and roll call was taken by Dr. Kathleen Brown. Dr. de las Fuentes showed a video highlighting APA accomplishments based on Council resolutions passed in February.

After opening remarks by Dr. de las Fuentes, new business proposals were addressed.

- No new business items were added to the agenda, and there was no change of order.

Consent agenda: It was moved to remove the “Council Policy Manual: 5 Year Review” from the consent agenda and add it as an item for discussion to the main agenda. The item will be added to the agenda for Saturday.

Council passed the consent agenda, which contained the following items:

- Approval of the minutes from the February 23 and 24, 2024 Council Meeting
- Election of Fellows (Note: Four Fellows were elected from Division 41: Sarah DesMarais, Lora Levett, Jennifer Robbennolt, and Miko Wilford – Congratulations to our Fellows!)
- Amendments to Association Rule 110-14: Rules Governing Simultaneous Service
- Council Policy Manual: Extension of Guidelines

- APA Presidential Task Force on Immigration and Health
- Request to Withdraw: NBI #11C/Feb 2024 Association of Jewish Psychologists' Affiliation with APA and Seat on Council as an Ethnic Group
- Renewal of Recognition of Geropsychology as a Specialty in Professional Psychology
- Extension of Recognition of Addiction Psychology as a Proficiency in Professional Psychology

Parliamentary reminders from Parliamentarian Dr. Melba Vasquez and an update from APA CEO Dr. Arthur C. Evans Jr. were presented. The open agenda followed.

Council considered adopting "Guidelines for the Practice of Telepsychology." These guidelines update previous guidelines approved in 2013, respond to increases in the use of telepsychology since Covid, and incorporate research conducted since 2013. Council members thanked the authors, and comments included that applied psychology representatives should be involved in work groups on practice guidelines (this concern about the lack of inclusion of applied psychologists in the drafting of these guidelines was a lively topic of discussion during the caucus meetings as well). The guidelines were adopted. 97.5% yes; 0.6% no; 1.9% abstain.

Council considered adopting a statement entitled "APA Statement on Psychology's Impact on Artificial Intelligence." The statement was developed by a work group after a discussion about the impact of AI on psychology at the February 2024 Council meeting. The statement describes various ways psychology and psychological science could be used to inform the use of AI in the future. Some friendly amendments for language were suggested and accepted. The statement was adopted. 98.1% yes; 1.32% no; 0.6% abstain.

Council considered adopting "Guidelines for Psychological Evaluations in Child Protection Matters." with a December 31, 2024 expiration date. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide a resource for psychologists conducting evaluations that respond to legal obligations and multicultural issues. There were no comments from Council members. The guidelines were adopted. 97.5% yes; .6% no; 1.9% abstain.

Remembrances of deceased members were made, including Division 41 member and former APLS and APA President Dr. Donald Bersoff.

Council considered a resolution entitled "Individual, Collective, and Intergenerational Trauma Recovery: Considering the Restorative Roles of Restitution and Reparations." Per the movers, "the resolution seeks to serve as a call to action for APA and psychologists to (1) recognize the consequences of individual, collective, and intergenerational trauma, (2) advocate for restitution and reparations without discrimination, and (3) engage in further research, education, training, and advocacy for wraparound trauma response policies and programs." Some Council members praised the resolution. Other Council members questioned the lack of scientific bases for the resolution and questioned the language used in the resolved section as being different from typical APA resolutions because it demands APA action instead of suggesting APA support. Difficulties in the discussion included confusion over newly introduced

language to the document that had not been provided in time for review by Council members and confusion over “wordsmithing” on the Council floor without access to a redlined version of the document. Throughout the discussion, there were many parliamentary questions raised, and there were many side motions. When the vote was taken on the main motion, the resolution passed. 66.9% yes; 30.8% no; 2.4% abstain.

Council considered adopting “Clinical Practice Guideline for Nonpharmacological Treatment of Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain in Adults.” Council members questioned the use of certain terminology, and the movers responded that some of the language in the resolution uses generally accepted terms from the medical field and are meant to be consistent with that language. Council members also objected to the inclusion of suggestions for the use of chiropractic, acupuncture, and other remedies such as meditation and yoga. A motion to postpone was made to reconsider the inclusion of these non-psychological treatments, which was defeated. The guidelines were adopted. 76.7% yes; 17% no; 6.30% abstain.

Day 3

In the opening session, the APA Council Choir sang “Music Alone Shall Live” in remembrance of Joanne Murphy, a beloved APA staff member who recently passed. APA President Dr. Cynthia de las Fuertes commented on the Council meeting climate survey. APA Treasurer Dr. Michael Hendricks reported on APA finances.

Council considered adopting an “APA Global Ceasefire Statement.” This statement was previously presented to Council for consideration in February but was not voted onto the agenda. Since February, the movers edited the document to narrow the focus from a general global ceasefire statement to one specific to the Israel-Gaza conflict in response to suggestions from Council members. Council members who spoke in favor of the motion expressed concern that APA is considering such a policy statement later than other professional organizations and praised the statement for being focused and for not taking a side in the conflict. Council members who spoke against the motion raised concerns that APA should not make statements of this kind that are political and raised concerns about the lack of science underlying the statement. During the discussion, there was confusion about what version of the document was under consideration because a redlined, correct version was not on screen, and there was procedural confusion about what motions were being considered. After a lengthy discussion, the question was called and passed: 69.9% yes; 29.5% no; .6% abstain. The main motion passed. 63.9% yes; 31.3% no; 4.8% abstain.

The Council considered adopting “Guidelines for Interventions in Professional Practice with Adults with Complex Trauma Histories.” These guidelines were designed to provide guidance on practice with individuals who have experienced traumatic life events, broadly defined. Council members expressed concern over the inclusion of EMDR as an example of a possible treatment when others were not mentioned because of the lack of science underlying it, and the movers accepted deleting it as an example. The guidelines were adopted. 90.8% yes; 6.7% no; 2.5% abstain.

The Council considered adopting “Guidelines on Key Considerations for Working with Adults with PTSD and Traumatic Stress Disorders.” These guidelines consider how trauma, and its aftereffects, are compounded by other stressful factors and life events, including inequities related to race, ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic status, sexual identity, immigration, and disability. They will add to the guidelines APA will be able to provide. The guidelines were adopted. 90.8% yes; 6.7% no; 2.5% abstain.

The Council considered a resolution entitled “Resolution on Supporting Psychologists’ Education and Research about, and Activism against Violations of Girls’ and Women’s Human Rights Globally.” Council members who spoke were generally in support and praised the movers for incorporating suggestions to make the language more inclusive. The resolution passed. 95.7% yes; 2.4% no; 1.8% abstain.

After lunch, Dr. de las Fuentes gave some awards. The first award was the Raymond D. Fowler Award, which was given to Dr. Jennifer F. Kelly. A posthumous Presidential Citation was given to former APA CEO Dr. Norman B. Anderson.

The Council considered the resolution entitled “APA Policy Statement on Immigrant Health.” This resolution was developed from the APA Council approved Presidential Task Force report on Immigration and Health. The resolution highlights policy themes and encourages areas of research and graduate training. The resolution was passed: 95.7% yes; .6% no; 3.7% abstain.

After being pulled from the consent agenda, the Council considered “Council Policy Manual: 5 Year Review.” The Council Policy Manual is periodically reviewed, and its contents archived. One Council member (the mover of its removal from the consent agenda) proposed several modernizing language updates to several of the resolutions previously passed by APA. All language changes were accepted. The document was adopted: 92.7% yes; 1.8% no; 5.5% abstain.

To end the meeting, Dr. de las Fuentes awarded a Presidential Citation to Dr. James Bray, representative from the state of Texas and former APA President who was rotating off Council and will no longer be able to serve after many, many years on Council because of the recently enacted term limits. The Council Choir sang “We Shall Overcome.” The meeting was adjourned.

The next APA Council meeting will be held in February 2024 in Washington, DC.