

Psychology Call  
May 28, 2009

1. VACO

- a. Psychology National PSB self nominations status- Dr. Zeiss received a large number of nominations for the board, due date was May 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Burk, Dr. Zeiss and Loren Wilkenfeld have been in discussions; decisions will be made with in a week or so.
- b. Thinking ahead to APA – government passport, approval for foreign travel-a government passport is needed for foreign travel, your personal passport is not acceptable-please start this process as soon as possible, if you have not already. Dr. Kussman’s policy was that only one person from a facility could attend a conference in a foreign country and be reimbursed, however, Dr. Zeiss will be discussing this issue with Dr. Cross if this would be his policy concerning foreign travel. You can receive tuition reimbursement from 813, locally, information will be sent out to the group
- c. Work Group on Qual Standard modifications
  - i. Canadian Psychological Assoc. accreditation - starting in 2015, those programs will not be co-accredited by APA; standards will add attendance at a program or internship with CPA accreditation as valid for eligibility, if the applicant is a US citizen.
  - ii. Respecialization clarification – changes will clarify eligibility of those who complete full respecialization
  - iii. ABPP as exception to APA accredited training - work in progress
  - iv. GS and step levels – experience that should count - to modify (example-providing psychological services, but their title did not reflect this)
- d. The National Board is working on revision of the guidance to the field concerning applying SAAs. There is not a specific psychology professional standard board policy concerning SAAs. Please contact Jeff Burk if you have any questions regarding this issue.
- e. Jeff Burk: Behavioral Health Leadership Training Program will take place June 15-19 in Arlington, Virginia. Approximately 160 applications were received. If you are in an acting leadership position, you were not eligible to be selected for the program, but you can reapply once in a permanent leadership position.
- f. Dave Carroll: Plans for upcoming MH conference, July 2009 and the registration and hotel link information have been sent out. The brochure will be sent out once complete. There will be forty separate breakout sessions and four informatics labs. This conference is on the pre-approved list for funding using MH lag funds.

2. Training

- a. Bob Zeiss – OAA: He is attending the APA Accreditation Assembly, which is geared toward responding to questions and concerns from the training community about accreditation issues and to offer an opportunity to learn more about the accreditation process.

Numerous training directors are developing the National Affiliation Agreements for the internship programs. The agreements will be between the VA and the accredited graduate programs in psychology. The agreements will last indefinitely. A master list will be developed of the entire graduate programs in which we have these agreements with and will be posted on the website once completed. The National Affiliations Agreement is solely for internships.

Training directors, please look at your program descriptions, specifically the description of benefits for your interns and post-doctorate fellows. VA (along with all government agencies) is not allowed by law to provide insurance benefits for same-sex spouses of interns/post-doctorate fellows. Ensure this is clear in your program descriptions.

3. VA Psychology Leadership meeting – Lisa Kearney: This year's Dallas conference was very well attended and organized.

4. Questions/Comments/Issues?

Question: How will the accreditation be affected or what is their position on post-docs not finishing and leaving for employment.

Answer: Failure to complete the program is a concern; it can have negative ramifications for accreditation. However, the COA does understand VA's situation. This issue will be discussed at the Training Council pre-meeting to be held the day before the mental health conference in July.

The Training Council is recruiting for candidates to run for positions on the Executive Board. There are openings for Chair Elect, Member at Large, and Clinical Sub-committee Chair. Please contact Jeff Burk of Wayne Siegel if you have any questions.