2018 COLA Minutes

Committee on Legislative Affairs (COLA)

April 9, 2018 Minutes

7:00-9:00 PM

NJPAS Central Office

Present: Davis, Debra, PhD (2020); DeMarco. Sarah, PsyD (2020); Hanbury, Raymond, PhD, (2018); Katz, Barry A, PhD COLA Chair-Elect (2021); Lee, Alan, PsyD (2019); Madore, Drew, NJPAGS Representative (2018); Murray, Morgan, PhD (2018) NJPA President-Elect; Pievsky, Michelle (2021); Singer, Mark, EdD (2018) COLA Past Chair; Sofair-Fisch, Tamara, PhD (2019); Waters, Virginia, PhD (2021) Secretary; Weiss, Frank PhD (2021) COLA Chair; Zullow, Harold, PhD (2020)

NJPA Staff: Boertzel-Smith, Keira Executive Director; Bombardieri, Jon Government Affairs Agent

2018 COLA Guests-Buchanan, Suzanne, PsyD; Shivers, Stacie D, PsyD; Gianni Pirelli, PhD

I. Welcome- Dr. Weiss
The Roster of Members 2018-2019 Session was made available to COLA.
http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/printable_roster.pdf

II. 2018 Bill Report- As directed by COLA, Jon Bombardieri eliminated 14 Bills from the list of Bills tracked. He will continue to cull the list of bills tracked by COLA eliminating those which we no longer need to follow.

III. 2018 Bill Review (Bombardieri)
Review of Bill A-1181- Special Guest Gianni Pirelli, an expert on Mental Health and fire arms advised COLA on the ramifications of this bill which amends NJ 2A:62A-16, and would require mental health practitioners to call the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality in which the patient resides or the Superintendent of State Police with non-clinical identifying information for each time their duty to warn and duty to protect has been incurred. Gianni Pirelli recommends that we need to train clinicians to be culturally competent regarding firearms and firearm-related subcultures, become more comfortable contacting and reporting at risk patients, and expand their consent procedures and risk assessment to better navigate across forensic and therapeutic roles.

COLA requested that Jon Bombardieri speak to Assemblywoman Jones, and request modifications to this Bill which would include, (1 determining that the specific threat involved a firearm, and (2) reporting to the police department rather than the chief of police. COLA formed a sub-committee that was going to work in conjunction with Gianni Pirelli to make more changes to the bill.

COLA discussed a request from Office of Assemblyman Roy Freiman (District 16) regarding a potential bill that would raise the minimum age to purchase rifles and shotguns in New Jersey to 21. COLA will determine if we can make any suggestions to enhance the bill. COLA created a sub-committee that was going to look into Assemblyman Roy Freiman's request.
Review of Bill-S497- Allows certain prior statements by children to be admitted into evidence in child abuse and termination of parental rights cases. COLA voted to support this Bill.

IV. 2018-2019- Legislative Priorities (Weiss & Bombardieri)
- Medical Necessity- Look for new sponsors
  - RxP Task Force- Boertzel-Smith will check with the Executive Board and report back on an update and timeline.

V. Grassroots Efforts/Legislative Events (Bombardieri)
- Dates of Training Day and Lobby visits will be provided
- Bombardieri is exploring the possibility of a reception at his firm’s headquarters for supporters and psychologists.

VI. ECP and COLA Relationship- this will be continued to be monitored as the ECP committee reorganizes itself.

VII. Public Relations/ May is Mental Health Month- Continued planning, including a possible round table discussion on Mental Health Services on Campuses.

VIII. Other Business (Weiss)
- Maiden Names- approach the Department of Consumer affairs for Clarification
- Medicaid – Boertzel-Smith will follow up with Medicaid about including graduate doctoral-level interns and post-doctoral temporary permit holders and fellows in the New Jersey Medicaid program. No update on Medicaid Children’s Rates.
- DOBI Regulations – Not discussed at this meeting. (Note - DOBI Regulations/Network Adequacy to be discussed at the next meeting)
- Board Request- Refer consideration of the issues addressed in the report submitted by Dr. William Frankenstein to the Forensics and Ethics committees for further study with specific recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Board.

IX. Integrated Care- Pievsky presented the information gathered from further study on this topic. This information was sent via email and disseminated during the meeting about legislative barriers to integrating medical and behavioral healthcare. Pievsky also reported that the group of lawyers that compiled this information do not know of any active legislative action or groups that are currently working on these issues. Pievsky requested permission for further study on this topic and will report back to COLA in the future.

X. Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM by Dr. Weiss

Upcoming 2018 COLA Meetings- May 9, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM (changed from May 16); June 6, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM; October 17, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM; November 14, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Virginia Waters, PhD, COLA Secretary

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Committee on Legislative Affairs (COLA)
May 9, 2018 Minutes
7:00-9:00 PM
NJPA Central Office

Present: Axelbank, Jeffrey H PsyD (2019); Davis, Debra, PhD (2020); DeMarco, Sarah, PsyD (2020); Hanbury, Raymond, PhD, (2018); Ismael-Lennon, Aida PsyD (2021) (Via Zoom); Katz, Barry A, PhD COLA Chair-Elect; Lee, Alan, PsyD (2019) (Via Zoom); Madore, Drew, NJPAGS Representative (2018); Murray, Morgan, PhD (2018) NJPA President-Elect (Via Zoom); Pievsky, Michelle (2021); Singer, Mark, EdD (2018) COLA Past-Chair; Sofair-Fisch, Tamara, PhD (2019); Waters, Virginia, PhD (2021) Secretary; Weiss, Frank PhD (2021) COLA Chair; Zullow, Harold, PhD (2020) (Via Zoom)

Absent: Resource Guest Shivers, Stacie D PsyD

NJPA Staff: Boertzel-Smith, Keira Executive Director; Bombardieri, Jon Government Affairs Agent

2018 COLA Guests-Buchanan, Suzanne, PsyD (Via Zoom); Stephanie Coyne, PhD (NJPA President) (Via Zoom)

Printable Roster of Members 2018-2019 Session-
http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/printable_roster.pdf

XI. Welcome- (Weiss)

XII. Stephanie Coyne, PhD, NJPA President joined us to give updates on Executive Board initiatives.

1. Ask for members of COLA to volunteer to join a work group to study a proposed change in our licensing law, based on changes to Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists. The change would allow the experience requirements necessary to receive a license to practice psychology, to occur during the pre-doctorate time frame. This is a priority of the Executive Board and the #1 priority of ECP’s.

2. Announced the formation of a task force to study reimbursement issues associated with the Integrated Care Model.

3. Coyne also announced the formation of a task force to study the continued viability of pursuing RxP legislation. The task force will be assembled in June after the Executive Board Meeting and include a representative sample of those in support and those against this initiative, as well as early, mid and late career members. It is expected that the work of this group will be concluded by the end of 2018.

XIII. Governor Phil Murphy’s Initiatives of Interest (Bombardieri)

- Psychology Graduate Students Loans- Access to Care-This initiative would help forgive Graduate Student loans. Bombardieri will go to the Legislature and ask for data on the economic impact.

- Legalizing Marijuana- Bombardieri will ask for clarification. This is seen as a complex, multi-leveled issue.

- Funding for Opioid Treatment- We will wait for the proposal to come out and ask to be a part of the process of developing guidelines.
XIV. 2018 Gun Bills Update (Bombardieri)
- Update on A1181- Requires firearms seizure when certain healthcare professionals determine patient poses threat of harm to self or others. Both of our suggested changes were rejected. Bombardieri will seek support for our modifications from other Mental Health groups.
- Update- A3815 Increases from 18 to 21 the age at which a person is eligible to receive firearm purchaser identification. Bombardieri will ask for further clarification on this bill and report back to us.

XV. Outreach to NJPA- Request for continued support for Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill ACT (A1504/S1072) Compassion and Choices, a nationwide nonprofit group approached NJPA asking for support for their current bill which concerns medical aid in dying for the terminally ill. The bill has recently passed out of the Assembly Committee in March. NJPA supported this bill in the past (2013).

COLA voted to support this bill, and Bombardieri will ask for clarification with the possibility of NJPA moving to a position of actively supporting this bill in the future.

XVI. Outreach to NJPA- How will Medical Marijuana Expansion Impact Mental Health Services in New Jersey- a request was made by the South Jersey Developmental Alliance to supply a speaker to a panel discussion presentation presented at the annual South Jersey Health Care Forum.

XVII. Outreach to NJPA- NJPA Member Barbara Lauer-Listhaus, PsyD
This request asked NJPA to explore regulations that govern day program services for adults with disabilities. Buchanan volunteered to reach out and gather information necessary to provide information and guidance on this issue and report her findings back to COLA.

XVIII. 2018-2019 Legislative priorities (Weiss & Bombardieri)
- Medical Necessity- We will need a new sponsor if we continue to pursue this initiative. Other Mental Health supports have pulled back from supporting this initiative. Our GAA will look for a new sponsor and then ask other groups if they will join us in supporting this issue. He will report back to COLA with his findings and recommendations at the next COLA meeting on June 6.
- Medicaid Children’s Rates - We are still waiting for this to happen, continue to monitor. Medicaid Provider Expansion – To include graduate doctoral-level interns and post-doctoral temporary permit holders and fellows in the New Jersey Medicaid program. Boertzel-Smith has been reaching out to Director Davey to follow up from last year’s meeting.
- Issues of Integrated Care and RxP were addressed by Stephanie Coyne earlier in the meeting. Task Forces/ Work Groups are being formed to study each of these issues.
- Discussion- DOBI regulations- GAA will find out what the DOBI regulations are governing insurance and network adequacy.
XIX. Other Business (Weiss & Bombardieri)

- Legislator of the Year - GAA will present names at the next COLA meeting for a vote. The names will be presented to the NJPA Executive Board at their June 8, 2018 meeting.

The following topics were not discussed due to a shortage of time -

1. Maiden Names Update

2. Summary of the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy & Heldrich Center for Workplace Development/Robert Wood Johnson/200 Stakeholders April 30, 2018 Webinar - Policy options to Promote a culture of Health within NJ.

3. Board Request - Refer consideration of the issues addressed in the report submitted by Dr. William Frankenstein to COLA, CORA the Forensics Committee, and the Ethics Committee, for further study with specific recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Board

4. Grassroots Efforts / Legislative Events

XX. Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM (Weiss)

Upcoming 2018 COLA Meetings: June 6, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM; October 17, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM; November 14, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Virginia Waters, PhD, COLA Secretary

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Committee on Legislative Affairs (COLA)

June 6, 2018 Minutes

7:00-9:00 PM

NJPA Central Office

Present: Axelbank, Jeffrey H PsyD (2019); Davis, Debra, PhD (2020); DeMarco, Sarah, PsyD (2020); Hanbury, Raymond, PhD, (2018) (Via ZOOM); Katz, Barry A, PhD COLA Chair-Elect; Lee, Alan, PsyD (2019) (Via ZOOM); Madore, Drew, NJPAGS Representative; Pievsky, Michelle 2017 (Via ZOOM); Sofair-Fisch, Tamara, PhD (2019); Waters, Virginia, PhD (2021) Secretary; Weiss, Frank PhD (2021) COLA Chair

Absent: Singer, Mark, EdD (2018) COLA Past-Chair; Zullow, Harold, PhD (2020); Murray, Morgan, PhD (2018) NJPA President-Elect; Shivers, Stacie, PsyD (Guest)

NJPA Staff: Boertzel-Smith, Keira Executive Director; Bombardieri, Jon Government Affairs Agent

2018 COLA Guest - Buchanan, Suzanne, PsyD;

Printable Roster of Members 2018-2019 Session-
http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/printable_roster.pdf
XXI. Welcome- (Weiss) COLA Chair Frank Weiss opened the meeting at 7:10 PM
XXII. Bill Review- Our GAA Jon Bombardieri will continue to review and monitor the list of bills we are monitoring and give us updates as needed.
XXIII. Governor Phil Murphy’s Initiatives of Interest (Bombardieri)
   Since the Budget has not yet passed, some of the following initiatives have to wait until the Fall to be determined.
   - Psychology Graduate Students Loans- Access to Care-This initiative would help forgive Graduate Student loans. Bombardieri will go to the Legislature with our questions in the Fall.
   - Legalizing Marijuana- Bombardieri will ask for clarification. This is seen as a complex, multi-leveled issue, which is also budget contingent.
   - Funding for Opioid Treatment- Our GAA provided the following information regarding funding for opioid treatment
     1. The Governor’s proposed state budget includes $100 million to combat the state’s opioid epidemic.
     2. $56 million would help fund drug prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.
     3. $31 million would be devoted to dealing with social risk factors that can lead to relapse.
     4. The remaining $13 million would fund an integrated data system to ensure the patient’s needs are addressed
XXIV. Reviewed Bills Update Bills Update (Bombardieri)
   A. Update on A1181- Requires firearms seizure when certain healthcare professionals determine patient poses threat of harm to self or others. Both of our suggested changes were rejected. It was suggested that Bombardieri seek support for our modifications from other Mental Health groups. This bill will move quickly.
   B. Update- A3815 Increases from 18 to 21 the age at which a person is eligible to receive firearm purchaser identification. Bombardieri stated this this bill focuses on psychiatrists and we will not be added to the bill.
XXV. Outreach to NJPA- Request for continued support for Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill ACT (A1504/S1072) Compassion and Choices, a nationwide nonprofit group approached NJPA asking for support for their current bill which concerns medical aid in dying for the terminally ill. The bill has recently passed out of the Assembly Committee in March. NJPA supported this bill in the past (2013). NJPA will write a letter of support.
   Position - COLA voted to SUPPORT this bill.
XXVI. New Bills Review (Weiss/Bombardieri)
   - S1032/A2389 Concerns expansion of services provided by DOH mental health screening services. Position - Support with Amendments.
   S2250/ A1904 Clarifies the definition of mental illness in laws governing involuntary commitment to treatment, including substance use disorder if dangerous standard met.
   Position - COLA supports this bill.
- A3263 Establishes certain requirements and conditions concerning changes to DHS reimbursement system for mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment services. Bombardieri will ask for clarification on this bill.
- A3866/S2467 Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners. 
  **Position - Bombardieri will ask for clarification from the sponsors of this bill.**
- S957A3035 Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for certain evidence based behavioral health services; designated as the Mental Health Access Act. 
  **Position - Support with Amendments**

  S-957 amending the definition of “Evidence Based” and delete the following language: an intervention that is included in the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices published by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Amending A-3035’s definition of “Evidence-Based” as a treatment provided by licensed mental health professionals that meets criteria established by the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Children and Families, for evidence-based treatment and replace it with (in both A-3035 and S-957): a treatment provided by licensed mental health professionals.

XXVII. Action item for September 7, 2018 NJPA Board Meeting Recommendation to NJPA Executive Board. This request asked NJPA to explore regulations that govern day program services for adults with disabilities. Dr. Buchanan spoke with the NJPA member. Buchanan reported to COLA that there were three main issues: 1) limiting programs’ ability to discharge individuals, 2) improving abuse and neglect reporting, and 3) mandating the use of video cameras in residential and day programs. All of these concerns stem from issues that she has experienced with her son over the years in various day and residential programs. She did not voice concerns about the role of psychologists during this call. It was reported that the underlying issues seemed to be the enforcement of existing rules (not their absence) and the competing and interdependent difficulties inherent in day-to-day service delivery for this population. It was suggested that she contact Wendy Yosco who is the Director of Provider Performance and Monitoring for the state Division of Developmental Disabilities and request a meeting to discuss her recommendations. COLA will forward Dr. Buchanan’s recommendations to the NJPA Executive Board.

XXVIII. 2018-2019 Legislative priorities (Weiss & Bombardieri)
- Medical Necessity- We will need a new sponsor if we continue to pursue this initiative. Bombardieri will look for a new sponsor and has determined that other groups they will join us in supporting this issue. Interested groups will meet in September to continue the pursuit of this issue.
- Medicaid Expansion of providers to include doctoral-level interns and post-doctoral temporary permit holders and Fellows in the NJ Medicaid program. Boertzel-Smith, Dr. Judith Glassgold, NJPA DPA, and APA Legal and Regulatory staff members have a phone call with Medicaid on June 12, 2018.
- Issues of Integrated Care was addressed by Stephanie Coyne during our May meeting. Task Forces/Work Groups are being formed to study this issue and volunteers are being sought.
Discussion- DOBI regulations- Bombardieri will find out what the DOBI regulations are
governing insurance and network adequacy.
Volunteers are also being sought for NJPA workgroup to study a proposed change in our
licensing law, based on changes to APA’s Model Licensing Act.

XXIX. Grassroots Efforts/Legislative Events (Bombardieri)- due to schedule changes in the
legislature former Trenton day dates presented will be updated.

XXX. Other Business
1. 2018 Legislator of the Year- November 2, 2018 Fall Conference Award Ceremony,
   Bombardieri suggested Assembly woman Valerie Vainieri Huttle, and Senator Vin Gopal.
   COLA members approved one name and requested a second name. The names will be
   presented to COLA via email.
2. Maiden Names update- COLA is interested creating legislation for this issue. It will be
   presented to leadership.
3. Board Request- review the issues addressed by Dr. William Frankenstein for further
   study with specific recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Board.

XXXI. Suzanne Buchanan, Psy.D. made a presentation to the COLA Board concerning licensure of
Applied Behavioral Analysts. She presented information and the rationale for this proposed
legislation, as a way of informing us prior to the Bill being dropped into the legislative pool
of bills. There was not a current ask, at this time.

XXXII. The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Weiss at 8:50 PM

Upcoming 2018 COLA Meetings: October 17, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM; November 14, 2018 7:00-
9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Virginia Waters, PhD, COLA Secretary

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COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (COLA)
October 17, 2018 Minutes
7:00-9:00 pm
NJPA Central Office

Present - Davis, Debra, PhD (2020); Hanbury, Raymond, PhD (2018); Ismael-Lennon, Aida PsyD (2021);
Katz, Barry A PhD (2021) COLA Chair-Elect; Lee, Alan, PsyD (2019); Murray, Morgan PhD (2018) NJPA
President – Elect; Pievsky, Michelle (2021); Singer, Mark, EdD (2018) COLA Past-Chair; Sofair-Fisch, Tamara,
PhD (2019); Waters, Virginia, PhD (2021) Secretary; Weiss, Frank PhD (2021) COLA Chair; Zullow, Harold,
PhD (2020)
NJPA Staff Boertzel-Smith, Keira Executive Director; Bombardieri, Jon Government Affairs Agent
2018 COLA Guests - Shivers, Stacie D PsyD Absent - Axelbank, Jeffrey H PsyD (2019); DeMarco, Sarah,
PsyD (2020); Madore, Drew; Buchanan, Suzanne, PsyD; Resource Guest

I. Opening
Boertzel-Smith and Dr. Katz presented the agenda for this meeting.
II. Review and Approval of June COLA Minutes
Bombardieri will present to COLA the amendments for S1032/A2389 from the June meeting. This will be included in the June minutes for approval by COLA via e-vote.

III. Discussion of NJPA Legislative Priorities from the October 12, 2018 Board Meeting –
COLA reviewed the Advocacy Update 10-16-18 document. COLA members shall independently review the following items at the November 14 COLA meeting and be prepared to vote on recommendations and next steps -

Network Adequacy – ACTION ITEM - COLA shall review the regulations to determine if NJPA should host a discussion with DOBI: N.J.A.C. 1:30 - in particular sections N.J.A.C. 11:24-6.1 et seq. and 11:24A-4.10

Duty to Warn Law Amendment – The Attorney General will be putting out clarifications for this new law amendment. NJPA submitted comments, based on NJPA members’ concerns, to the Attorney General for the clarifications drafting. ACTION ITEM - Bombardieri will create a summary of this matter for distribution to our members. The results of the clarification process will also be reported to NJPA membership when we hear back from the Attorney General. It was not recommended that individual members contact the Attorney General’s Office at this point in time.

Parity -
ACTION ITEM - COLA will review the below two existing parity coalitions, or the option of starting our own coalition, for consideration by NJPA. COLA shall also review the accompanying statements from the NJPA attorney and APA’s Connie Galietti, JD, Director, Legal & Professional Affairs found on the Advocacy Update 10-16-18 document. COLA’s recommendations will be passed along to the NJPA Executive Board. There was a suggestion that COLA consider combining the Network Adequacy and Parity issues for the potential DOBI meeting. CORA will also be reviewing the parity coalition issue. Dr. Axelbank submitted to COLA comments for consideration on the DOBI regulations.
Coalition for Psychotherapy Parity https://www.coalitionforpsychotherapyparity.org/
ParityTrack – Patrick Kennedy https://www.paritytrack.org/

Marijuana in NJ -
COLA will consider talking points on this subject matter. COLA will also consider reaching out to other state psychological associations (where MJ is legalized) as to how they are dealing with the questions/talking points.
IV. Review of COLA’s Purpose

Tabled until the November 14, 2018 meeting.

V. New Bills Review

A3926, which requires public schools to administer written screenings for depression for students in certain grades, was passed by committee.

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/A4000/3926_R1.PDF

POSITION - Opposed. COLA discussed the screening positives and liability concerns. Hanbury will write a letter of opposition first and present it to COLA leadership for approval and then Bombardieri can share with the legislators and NJPA can share with our members.

S2974/A4400 Requires police officer to inquire during mental health check whether there is firearm on premises. https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/A4500/4400_I1.PDF

POSITION – No Position. This bill does not impact the profession of psychology or psychologists.

S2898/A4357 Establishes "New Jersey Fire and EMS Crisis Intervention Services" telephone hotline; provides funding for hotline through fire inspection fees and penalties.

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/S3000/2898_I1.PDF

POSITION – Support. Psychologists are included in the New Jersey Fire and EMS Crisis Intervention Services referral service.

S3109/A4611 Requires signs to be posted in emergency rooms regarding Victims of Crime Compensation Office. No text out yet. COLA will discuss on November 14, 2018.

VI. Advocacy/Grassroots Efforts

At the November 14, 2018 COLA meeting, COLA will discuss scheduling a grassroots training day for COLA members and affiliate representatives in each district. We will discuss setting an NJPA Trenton Day at the State House, a social gathering at Bombardieri’s office, and visits to legislators in each district. COLA will consider printing flyers about how to deal with disgruntled or distressed constituents.

VII. Other Business and Updates

Medical Necessity - A2031 Expands health insurance coverage for behavioral health services and autism and enhances enforcement and oversight of mental health parity laws. On Thursday, September 13, 2018, the bill was passed unanimously by the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and now awaits further action by the full Assembly.
Assemblywoman Huttle – Legislator of the Year – A Democratic Retreat will be held the weekend of the NJPA Fall Conference, therefore she is not available. Bombardieri will reach out to Assemblywoman Huttle and indicate that we can present to her the award on a different date. Two proposed ideas are a presentation at a legislative gathering in Trenton or at the NJPA Spring 2019 Conference.

2019 Membership for COLA –
Appointment to COLA is for a four (4) year term, upon recommendation by the steering committee and approval of the NJPA executive board. The term length can be modified by the chair under extenuating circumstances to achieve a wide diversity of representation on COLA. If there are no vacancies on COLA, members rotating off COLA may not run for a second consecutive term and they may run again after 12 months. If there are vacancies on COLA, members rotating off may serve another term. Members appointed to the chair-elect, chair, and past-chair leadership pipeline will stay on for the duration of those yearlong positions. In the event no member currently serving their four year term agrees to serve as secretary or seems appropriate for the position, the chair-elect may ask a member who is rotating off to serve as secretary for a one year term. COLA Resource Guests serve for one year.

At the November 14, 2018 meeting, COLA will review the open member spots and consider diversity of any incoming members, including geographic diversity. The following highlighted members will end their term in 2018.

Axelbank, Jeffrey H PsyD (2019); Murray, Morgan PhD (2018) President-Elect; Davis, Debra, PhD (2020); DeMarco, Sarah, PsyD (2020); Hanbury, Raymond, PhD (2018); Ismael-Lennon, Aida PsyD (2021); Katz, Barry A PhD (2021); Lee, Alan, PsyD (2020); Madore, Drew (2018) NJPAGS; Pievsky, Michelle (2021); Singer, Mark, EdD (2018); Sofair-Fisch, Tamara, PhD (2019); Waters, Virginia PhD (2021); Weiss, Frank PhD (2021); Zullow, Harold, PhD (2020)

VIII. Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting November 14, 2018 7pm-9pm COLA

Committee on Legislative Affairs (COLA)

November 14, 2018 Minutes

7:00-9:00 PM

NJPA Central Office
**PRESENT:** Axelbank, Jeffrey H PsyD (2019); DeMarco, Sarah, PsyD (2020); Katz, Barry A, PhD COLA Chair-Elect; Lee, Alan, PsyD (2019); Madore, Drew, NJPAGS Representative; Murray, Morgan, PhD (2018) NJPA President-Elect; Pievsky, Michelle (2021); Sofair-Fisch, Tamara, PhD (2019); Waters, Virginia, PhD (2021) Secretary; Weiss, Frank PhD (2021) COLA Chair; Zullow, Harold, PhD (2020) NJPA Staff: Boertzel-Smith, Keira Executive Director; Bombardieri, Jon Government Affairs Agent2018 COLA Guests-Buchanan, Suzanne, PsyD; Shivers, Stacie, PsyD

**ABSENT:** Davis, Debra, PhD (2020); Hanbury, Raymond, PhD. (2018); Singer, Mark, EdD (2018) COLA Past-Chair

**XXXIII. Opening**

II. **Approval of Minutes** - October COLA minutes were approved through an e-vote. The June minutes were approved as written with COLA charged with re-reviewing bill S1032.

III. Discussion of NJPA Legislative Priorities

**Network Adequacy-** Jeff Axelbank will craft talking points language for COLA to review that will cover our “asks” for DOBI, after Suzanne Buchanan researches the current regulations to see if they mandate single case agreements. COLA recommends that Jon Bombardieri meet with DOBI, before legislation is written. *Discussed – require a declaration of specialty, degree, and to craft language for what we might specifically require for a single case agreement.*

**Duty to Warn Law Amendment-** Jon Bombardieri has reach out to Senator Gopal to further discuss our clarifications, and will also seek input from the Medical Society, NAMI, and the New Jersey Mental Health Association. The NJ Hospital Association also has issues with the new law.

**Parity-** COLA recommends that NJPA endorse the Coalition for Psychotherapy Parity with an understanding that the coalition must notify NJPA before they take any action. Recommendations go to the December 14, 2018 NJPA Executive Board meeting.

**Marijuana in New Jersey-** Table the discussion - After reviewing the presented talking points, we will also reach out to other states where marijuana is legal to see how they are dealing with the questions/talking points. We are waiting to see what the bill looks like before making recommendations.

**Enhances enforcement and oversight of behavioral health parity laws A-2031 –** COLA Guest Suzanne Buchanan is meeting with a legal specialist to determine if there are any unintended negative consequences to this bill, and report back to us. We might explore an amendment to protect Psychologists in case Federal Mental Health Parity goes away. This bill has moved away from the original intent to cover medical necessity.

Next Steps for **Medical Necessity** will include legislation that addresses closing the loophole that allows insurers to deny and curtail mental health treatment. We would
seek to shift medical necessity decisions to providers and away from insurance companies. Jon Bombardieri will talk to other groups to resurrect the original Medical Necessity bill language, previously drafted.

IV. **REVIEW of COLA’S PURPOSE**- Defer to January Retreat

V. **NEW BILLS REVIEW**

S3109/A4611 Requires signs to be posted in emergency rooms regarding Victims of Crime Compensation Office- No Position

A4664 Establishes program allowing NJ licensed drivers to self-identify as having been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Our GAA will ask the sponsor of the Bill what the intention of the bill is and if there is a way we can help further craft the intention.

A4638 Establishes Overdose Prevention Centers- Deferred to January meeting.

A4608/S3099 Behavior Analyst Licensing Act- We are seeking more information before taking a position on this bill.

S1032/A2389 Concerns expansion of services provided by DOH mental health screening services. Deferred to January meeting.

AJR171 Designates second full week in November each year as “School Psychology Awareness Week.” Deferred to January meeting.

A4688- Establishes Working Group on End-of-Life Care and Palliative Care in DOH. Deferred to January meeting.

VII- **ADVOCACY/GRASSROOTS EFFORTS**- Grassroots training day date will be established at the January retreat.

VIII. **OTHER BUSINESS and UPDATES**

Update- Licensure Legislation talking points created by ECPs and approved by leadership

MANDATORY MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION LAW- Discussion on creating a bill to mandate continuing education training for teachers in NJ deferred to January meeting.

2019 Membership for COLA- We will seek to fill any open seats with consideration to diversity.

**2019 COLA MEETING SCHEDULE**
January 30, 2019 Retreat 5-9pm Central Office
March 20, 2019 Zoom 7-9pm
May 8, 2019 Central Office 7-9pm
June 5, 2019 Zoom 7-9pm
October 16, 2019 Central Office 7-9pm
November 13, 2019 Zoom 7-9pm

IX. Meeting Adjourned – Last meeting of 2018

Respectfully Submitted by Virginia Waters, PhD

COLA Secretary