Ethics 2017 Minutes

NJPA ETHICS EDUCATION AND RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NJPA Central Office
January 10, 2017
10:00am-12:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Ron Silikovitz, Ph.D., Secretary
drroonpsych@gmail.com

Present: Rhonda Allen, Khaya Eisenberg, Donald Franklin, Lisa Greenberg, Jane Hochberg, Arline Shaffer, Ron Silikovitz, Jane Simon, Lucy Takagi, Jayne Walco

Copies to: Danielle Barnes, Keira Boertzel-Smith, Barry Helfmann, for NJPA

- Approval of December 6 minutes

The December 6, 2016 minutes were approved electronically, with corrections. Ron reviewed the minutes approval process. Essentially, those who were present at a meeting review and comment on the draft, within 48 hours. The Secretary considers and makes all appropriate corrections. He then sends final corrected version to NJPA Central Office for posting on the website and distribution.

- Committee membership/ chairmanship, going forward

Lisa Greenberg thanked the members of the Ethics Committee for their work during her absence. The members of the Committee welcomed her back in her role as Chair. She reported that she is prepared to continue as Chair through the end of calendar year 2017. Ron Silikovitz has completed his six years on the Committee and is continuing through June, 2017 on a volunteer basis. Therefore, a new Chair and a new Secretary will need to be in place in the near future.

The recruitment of new Committee members continues to be a priority. Presentations to affiliate organizations and to other professional groups will help with member recruitment. We need to continue to educate our colleagues regarding the functions and priorities of the Committee.

Ron will represent the Ethics Committee at Friday's NJPA Committee of Chairs meeting.

- F/U re fiduciary responsibility, APA and torture, handling colleagues’ ethical questions
We are awaiting the NJPA response to Mary Blakeslee’s letter re fiduciary responsibility.

Lisa will contact Joseph Coyne to seek clarification regarding the new APA resolution on torture, and his concerns regarding the resolution.

Lisa will also follow up regarding Rhonda Allen’s recent consult.

- Review on call schedule, presentations, tips of the month, articles

The on-call schedule is in place through the end of March, as published in the December, 2016 minutes.

Rhonda’s tip of the month will be published in February, and Don Franklin’s in March.

Lisa and the panelists who had presented on Cultural Diversity and Competence at the NJPA Fall Conference will explore the possibility of publishing in the Journal a series of articles or a special issue devoted to this topic. The publication deadline is November 10.

Jane Simon is considering an article on dual relationships for publication at a later date.

The program on cultural diversity and competence is being considered for a podcast.

- Planning for discussion vignette or hypothetical call at future meeting

It was agreed that the final fifteen minutes of each meeting will be devoted to discussion of hypothetical vignettes. Don presented for discussion a vignette about a therapist receiving an expensive automobile based on the will of a former patient who is now deceased. Clinical and ethical issues regarding that vignette were discussed.

The next meeting of the Ethics Committee will take place on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at NJPA Central Office (10 am – noon).

NJPA ETHICS EDUCATION AND RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NJPA Central Office
February 7, 2017
10:00am-12:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Ron Silikovitz, Ph.D., Secretary

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Present: Rhonda Allen, Khaya Eisenberg, Donald Franklin, Lisa Greenberg (via videoconference), Jane Hochberg, Arline Shaffer, Ron Silikovitz, Jane Simon, Lucy Takagi, Jayne Walco

Copies to: Danielle Barnes, Keira Boertzel-Smith, for NJPA

- Report on NJPA Committee of Chairs meeting

Ron Silikovitz attended the January 13, 2017 NJPA Committee of Chairs meeting, on behalf of Committee Chair Lisa Greenberg. He reported that the meeting was interactive. It began with an orientation to NJPA structure and process. A discussion then involved each participant introducing another psychologist, then stating two things not known about that psychologist, and why that psychologist got involved in NJPA. Ron discussed the charge of our committee.

- Updates- Lisa Greenberg reported as follows:

  * With regard to the podcast, it is on hold until there is comprehensive information regarding C E credits.

  * Lisa spoke with the NJPA journal liaison, Herm Huber. He is supportive of dedicating a journal issue to expanded content regarding our committee presentation at the Fall Conference on cultural diversity. Lisa will follow up with Herm and other potential article authors.

  * In light of the recent retirement of Director of Professional Affairs Barry Helfmann, the Ethics Committee is receiving an increased number of consults. Arline Shaffer, who has had three consults in the past week, will continue, along with Lisa Greenberg, to be responsible for responding to consults in the month of February. For March, Jane Hochberg and Jane Simon will be responsible for consults, with Ron Silikovitz and Don Franklin responsible for consults of a forensic nature. We are to return NJPA member calls as soon as possible, to schedule mutually acceptable dates and times to discuss the ethical issues. Any committee member receiving a consult should contact any other member(s) of the committee for assistance as needed.

  * Lisa’s paragraph regarding a proposed procedure for handling informal consults directed to specific members of the committee was approved. On these consults, one is to advise the caller that he/she is speaking as an individual, and not on behalf of the committee.
*Don Franklin has prepared two tips of the month, and they will be submitted as per the feedback he has received from the committee.

*Arline Shaffer distributed articles written by Steven Behnke, Ph.D., J.D. Content in the articles regarding the four bins and regarding positive ethics should be used in many of our presentations.

*Lisa reported that the American Psychological Association is seeking individuals to apply for membership in the APA Ethics Committee. Jane Hochberg explained the workings of the APA Ethics Committee.

- **Discussion of ethical consultations (Arline Shaffer)**

  Arline presented for discussion three recent consults in which she was involved:
  
  A school psychologist concerned about reporting an alleged sexual assault of a minor.
  
  A male college student sharing with his therapist, who consulted the supervisor, details of sexual abuse he had perpetrated in his family as a child.
  
  A therapist asked by a patient to be executor of the patient’s will.

- **Discussion of ethical issue raised by Lucy Takagi**- postponed

- **Presentation of By-Laws issue raised by Lucy Takagi**- postponed

- **Discussion of being politically active in a small community (Rhonda)**

  There was spirited discussion regarding the role of therapists in revealing personal information to patients, political positions, and running for political office. A variety of opinions was expressed.

_The next meeting of the Ethics Committee will take place on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at NJPA Central Office (10 am – noon)._
Respectfully Submitted by Ron Silikovitz, Ph.D., Secretary
dronpsych@gmail.com

**Present:** Rhonda Allen, Khaya Eisenberg, Donald Franklin, Lisa Greenberg, Jane Hochberg, Ron Silikovitz, Jane Simon, Jayne Walco

**Excused:** Arline Shaffer, Lucy Takagi

**Copies to:** Danielle Barnes, Keira Boertzel-Smith, Aaron Welt, for NJPA

- **Membership Update**

  Jane Hochberg has officially been approved as a member of the Ethics Committee. Lisa encourages each of us to announce, at our presentations and at affiliate meetings, our search for new members of the committee.

- **Procedure for handling informal complaints pending**

  Lisa announced that procedure that we have developed for handling informal complaints is pending.

- **Updates- On call schedule—Journal—Tips of the Month -- Presentations**

  *The on-call schedule has been finalized for the next several months, as follows [Note that we have assigned two members per month, going forward]:*

  March- Jane Hochberg, Jane Simon
  April- Ron Silikovitz, Rhonda Allen
  May- Jayne Walco, Don Franklin
  June- Arline Shaffer, Lisa Greenberg
  July- to be determined

  *The next several tips of the month will be prepared by Rhonda Allen, Don Franklin, and Lisa Greenberg.*

  *Discussions have taken place with NJPA Journal Editor Herm Huber for the special issue focusing on our recent presentation at NJPA on culture and competency. There will be four articles and an introduction. The deadline for our submissions to the Journal well in advance of the August 10 deadline.*
*The presenters at the March, 2017 affiliate group programs have continued to meet and prepare.

- **Recent consults** - Because the Ethics Committee meeting minutes are now posted on the NJPA Website, it has been determined, in consultation with NJPA, that the content of consultations will remain confidential and will no longer be posted in any manner in the minutes. The March, 2017, consults were handled and reported on by Jane Simon, Don Franklin, Arline Shaffer, and Lisa Greenberg.

- Jane Hochberg recommended that committee members become familiar with the work of Ken Pope, who has written extensively and from a humanitarian perspective. After the conclusion of the meeting, Jane provided the members of the committee with links to the 2016 APA Ethics Committee Rules and Procedures, and Revision of Ethics Code Standard 3.04.

The next meeting of the Ethics Committee will take place on Tuesday, April 4, from 10 am – noon, at NJPA Central Office.

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**NJPA ETHICS EDUCATION AND RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NJPA Central Office  
April 4, 2017  
10:00am-12:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Ron Silikovitz, Ph.D., Secretary  
dronpsych@gmail.com

**Present:** Rhonda Allen, Khaya Eisenberg, Donald Franklin, Lisa Greenberg, Jane Hochberg, Ron Silikovitz, Arline Shaffer, Jane Simon, Lucy Takagi, Jayne Walco

**Excused:** n/a

**Copies to:** Danielle Barnes, Keira Boertzel-Smith, Aaron Welt, for NJPA

- **New secretary needed for September, 2017** - Lisa announced that the June meeting will be Ron’s final meeting as a member of the Ethics Committee. The options going forward beginning in September are for a current
member to volunteer for the Secretary position, or for the minutes to be taken on a rotating basis until a position is filled by a volunteer. Please contact Lisa if interested in the position.

- **Update for handling informal complaints**- Lisa announced that procedure that we have developed for handling informal complaints is pending a discussion and recommendation by the NJPA Executive Board. Lisa will attend the Friday Board meeting by video and participate in that discussion.

- **Updates-Tips of the Month**- Tips of the month can be brief. Lisa encouraged Jane Hochberg to write one about some recent publications. By Dr. Ken Pope. Lisa will be writing a tip encouraging NJPA members to seek consultations with the Ethics Committee.

- **Report on presentations**- Ron, Jane, Rhonda, and Don reported that their respective recent presentations to affiliate groups were positively received. Members of the Ethics Committee are encouraged to continue to reach out to NJPA affiliate organizations for future presentations.

- **Plan for journal special section**- The committee discussed in detail plans to develop and finalize the articles for the special issue of the NJPA journal for the Fall, 2017 issue. A tentative title for the special section is “Ethical Practice in a Diverse World.” Lisa has asked that the various articles be sent to her by late June or early July, so that they can be in the hands of the Editor (Herman Huber) by the August 10 deadline. There will be an introduction, a vignette, and four articles, including one by Morgan Murray. The total limit for the section is 9000 words.

  Committee members volunteered to review/edit as follows (initial drafts of all articles to be ready for review at the May and June meetings):

  Khaya will review and write a draft of Lucy’s article
  Don will review Jane Hochberg’s article
  Jayne Walco will review Rhonda’s and Arline’s article
  Lisa will review Morgan Murray’s article

  Jane Simon and Ron will assist as needed.

- **APA request for input with regard to revision of Ethics Code**- Lisa will prepare a note to Keira, on our behalf, requesting additional time in order for the NJPA Ethics Committee to digest and develop appropriate, comprehensive input.
• **Review of recent consults**- Ron, Don, Arline, and Jane Hochberg presented various recent consults for discussion by the committee.

The next meeting of the Ethics Committee will take place on Tuesday, May 2, from 10 am – noon, at NJPA Central Office.

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**NJPA ETHICS EDUCATION AND RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NJPA Central Office**  
**May 2, 2017**  
**10:00am-12:00pm**

Respectfully Submitted by Ron Silikovitz, Ph.D., Secretary  
drronpsych@gmail.com

**Present:** Rhonda Allen, Khaya Eisenberg, Lisa Greenberg, Jane Hochberg, Ron Silikovitz, Arline Shaffer, Jane Simon, Lucy Takagi, Jayne Walco

**Excused:** Donald Franklin,

**Copies to:** Danielle Barnes, Keira Boertzel-Smith, Aaron Welt, for NJPA

• **Updates/Announcements**-

Khaya announced that she has been in contact with the Northeast Counties Association of Psychologists. She will be attending their breakfast meeting next week and will follow up with a proposal regarding an Ethics Committee presentation to that affiliate organization.

Ron made two announcements.

On 4/13/17, Lucy made a presentation on “Working With Immigrants,” to the Allied Staff (primarily psychologists), and other mental health professionals, who have privileges in the Department of Psychiatry at the quarterly meeting.. Her PowerPoint presentation was well received.

On December 14, at Morristown Memorial Hospital, Ron will be delivering the keynote address, on “Positive Ethics,” at the first annual all-day program on ethical practice. Mental health and medical staff from all Atlantic Health System hospitals will be invited, as will all members of the NJPA Ethics Committee and NJPA leadership. The Morris County Players will be participating at various times during the day, including during Ron’s presentation of an ethics vignette.
It was agreed that Ron would use/modify the vignette we have developed regarding cultural diversity, and that, time permitting, some of the Players would be invited to attend, as observers, the initial twenty minutes of the September, 2017 meeting.

- **Tips of the Month**-

  Jane Hochberg distributed, for feedback, her proposed tip regarding two recent APA publications focusing on APA ethics processes and procedures.

  Rhonda is developing a future tip of the month. It was suggested that some of our consults may lead to the development of specific tips of the month.

- **On call schedule for May** – Don and Jayne Walco

- **Discussion of consults by Ron and Rhonda**

- **Status of articles for NJPA journal special section** – Breakout groups worked on various aspects of these articles. The planned format for the journal special issue is as follows:

  - Introduction (Lisa)
  - Vignette
  - Four articles
  - Conclusion (to be developed)

*The next meeting of the Ethics Committee will take place on Tuesday, June 6, from 10 am – noon, at NJPA Central Office.*
Excused: Rhonda Allen, Arline Shaffer,

Copies to: Danielle Barnes, Keira Boertzol-Smith, Aaron Welt, for NJPA

- **On call schedule and Ethics Tips of the Month through the summer-**

  The on-call schedule going forward is as follows:

  June- Arline and Lisa  
  July- Don  
  August- Jane Hochberg  
  September- Lisa  
  October- Jane Simon  
  November- Jayne Walco

  **Tips of the month** are as follows:

  June- Jane Hochberg (two recent APA publications focusing on APA ethics processes and procedures)  
  July- Jayne Walco (fee-splitting)  
  August- Jane Simon (testimonials)

- **Meeting schedule for September, 2017-June, 2018**

  Sept. 12, 2017  
  Oct. 3  
  Nov. 7  
  Dec. 5  
  Jan. 9, 2018  
  Feb. 6  
  March 6  
  April 3  
  May 1  
  June 5

- **Need for new Members, Secretary, and at end of year, Chair-**

  Recruitment of new members is in process, in an ongoing manner. Lucy will look into a presentation for NJPAGS, and the possibility of recruiting a student member.
Beginning with the September meeting, the Secretary position may rotate. Jane Simon and Jane Hochberg expressed some interest in taking a lead to be the primary recorders of minutes, on a rotating basis.

Regarding the Chair position, Lisa is open to the possibility of continuing in that role through June, 2018, health permitting. Jane Simon expressed an interest on serving as Co-chair, with the possibility of her assuming the Chair position in September, 2018.

- **Presentation of Consults**

  Several consults were presented and discussed.

- **Review of articles for journal special section**

  The various articles for the special issue of the N J Psychologist are all virtually complete.

  Jane Hochberg will write a conclusion. Lisa will write an introductory section.

  Jane Simon will do a read through, for final edits and a view as to whether there is too much overlap in content and whether the various articles are sufficiently connected.

  All writers and editors of the various articles will receive appropriate credit.

  There was discussion regarding the amount of effort required to create presentations at conferences vs. creating written presentations. The consensus was that a great deal of effort was spent in preparing the special issue of the journal article, that the effort was somewhat less because of the preparation for the NJPA conference presentation, and that written journal articles reach a large audience. The consensus was that, all things equal, it is preferable to prepare a written presentation first, then an in-person presentation of similar or the same content.

- **Announcement**

  Ron reminded the members of the December 14 all-day program on ethics at Morristown Memorial Hospital. A request is in process for NJPA to provide 4 or 5 CE units and possible co-sponsorship of the program, pending approval. Ron will be the keynote speaker. The Morris County Players will do several role plays depicting ethical dilemmas. A flyer will
be distributed to members of the Ethics Committee and NJPA members once the program is approved by NJPA.

- **Bittersweet farewell to departing committee members**

Ron, Khaya, and Lucy each expressed their appreciation to the members of the committee for their collegiality and positive feedback during their various terms on the committee. Khaya reported that she will maintain involvement with the committee from her new home in Israel. Members of the committee expressed their appreciation for the contributions of the departing members and wished them well. The moment was bittersweet for all committee members.

*The next meeting of the Ethics Committee will take place on Tuesday, September 12, from 10 am – noon, at NJPA Central Office. Have a pleasant summer!*
3) Recruiting new members – We will reach out to counties that do not have representation on the committee – maybe invite members from further away to skype into meetings

There weren't any consults this summer. A discussion followed and it was decided that we would ask the new director of professional affairs to recommend more directly that members call Ethics committee when appropriate. Lisa will follow up with Judith Glassgold and Keira about reaching out to us with ethical queries. The question was raised if the initial contact re: ethics consults should be via email or phone. Lisa shared hat she was contacted by a fellow NJPA member who was upset that many psychologists do not return phone calls. A discussion followed questioning if this is an ethical issue or one concerning practice management.

Arline volunteered to write up the “Tip of the Month”. It will address that when asking for referrals, the qualities of therapist be requested rather than specific patient issues.

Lisa announced that our journal section was completed.

Don will write an article about ethics of working with members of the same family.

We discussed various issues for potential tips of the month. Going forward we will keep a record of our tips of the month. Lisa will write one about briefly describing positive ethics.

We discussed where and when we might present again.

Jane Simon presented the vignette she, Jane Hochberg and Jayne Walco will present at the Bergen County meeting. A discussion ensued about cultural implications raised in the vignette.

The next meeting of the Ethics Committee will take place on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at NJPA Central Office (10 am – noon).