



### **About the New Jersey Psychological Association**

The New Jersey Psychological Association (NJPA) is a 501(c)(6), a not-for profit with approximately 1700 members – students through retirement. The mission of the New Jersey Psychological Association is the advancement of psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health and human welfare in an atmosphere that supports the diversity of its members and the society at large. NJPA is an indispensable network of resources for the public and media, a staunch advocate for psychologists in the state, and an influential presence helping shape mental health policies in New Jersey.

### **About the New Jersey Psychological Association Foundation – The Heart of NJPA**

The NJPA Foundation, a charitable, tax exempt 501(c)(3), is committed to advancing the psychological health of our New Jersey communities by supporting psychological services for underserved children and adults who cannot afford them, by financially supporting the training of graduate students through statewide sites, and by disseminating psychological knowledge to the general public. As the philanthropic arm of NJPA, the Foundation is committed to promoting the psychological health of underserved populations within New Jersey.

### **About the New Jersey Psychology- Political Action Committee (NJP-PAC) IRC Section 527**

NJP-PAC makes contributions, from funds received from NJP-PAC contributors, without regard to party affiliation, to candidates for office and political committees in New Jersey who have demonstrated their interest in and support of psychology. NJP-PAC funds are used to advance the political and professional interests of psychology in New Jersey and to ensure that New Jersey residents have access to quality mental healthcare.



To learn more, visit us at [www.psychologynj.org](http://www.psychologynj.org) and follow us on social media!



### **New Jersey Psychological Association State Advocacy Efforts**

NJPA is committed to strengthening our political outreach and advocating for the interests of NJ psychologists and mental health issues that are important to the public. Over the years, our advocacy has taken many forms. Through our Committee on Legislative Affairs (COLA) and our Governmental Affairs Agent (GAA), NJPA is instrumental in maintaining standards of psychology practice in NJ, protecting patients' rights, and supporting public policy. NJPA also monitors State Rules and Laws that regulate the profession, and maintains a liaison with the NJ Board of Psychological Examiners so we are always informed about any changes that may affect our members.

### **2019 Hot State Advocacy Topics**

#### **NJ Licensing Act Legislation - Bill A5307**

##### **Revising psychologist training requirements and amending P.L. 1966, c.282.**

Assemblywoman Angelica Jimenez is sponsoring our bill which proposes to amend the training requirements for psychologists. The bill provides that persons applying to the State Board of Psychological Examiners after January 1, 2020 or 6 months after passage, whichever is sooner, may now count predoctoral supervised hours toward their license. Current law requires applicants to earn at least half of these hours after earning their doctorate. This change does not reduce the training requirements for psychologists, but makes it easier to accrue supervision hours. These changes are consistent with the licensing requirements in other states (including NY and PA), and encourages new psychologists to become licensed in and practice in New Jersey. This will also increase access to care. The American Psychological Association Committee on Early Career Psychologists recognized NJPA for these efforts to improve the licensure process for psychologists in NJ.

#### **Duty to Warn Law - NJPA in Trenton**

On March 20, 2019, representatives from NJPA, NJ Hospital Association, and Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas, attended a meeting at the New Jersey Attorney General's Office in Trenton to discuss the amendments to the Duty to Warn law. Our association closely followed the bill development over the years. We provided the bill sponsors with suggested amendments to ensure that the bill protects the public while allowing for the most efficient and effective way to implement an additional public safety provision related to duty to warn. Our suggested amendments were focused on safeguarding the motivation of the public to seek mental health care and not be stifled or deterred in any way by a fear that sensitive information would be disclosed to police departments where patients live. We wanted to support and allow for mental health professionals to provide services without concern that patients might be less forthcoming during sessions. In addition, we wanted to explore the best manner in which mental health providers communicate with law enforcement and under what circumstances.

Now that the Duty to Warn amendment has become law, the purpose of the March 20, 2019 meeting was to draw the Attorney General's attention to a few items that are unclear in the new law language. NJPA looks forward to being on the Attorney General's Duty to Warn Law Workgroup to address the details about the law amendments.



**Summary of the Duty to Warn Law** - The original 1991 New Jersey Duty to Warn Law, (9P.L.1991, Chapter 270), requires mental health practitioners to take at least one of five actions, when the patient has communicated a threat of imminent, serious physical violence against a readily identifiable individual or against himself, or that a reasonable professional would believe the patient intended to carry out such an act. The 2018 amendment to the law adds to the existing duty to warn law by requiring in general that, in addition to the actions and condition spelled out in the original 1991 law, notify the chief law enforcement officer or the Superintendent of State Police if the patient resides in a municipality that does not have a full time police department that a duty to warn and protect has been incurred with respect to the patient and shall provide to the chief law enforcement officer or superintendent, as appropriate, the patient's name and other nonclinical identifying information. The chief law enforcement officer or superintendent, as appropriate, shall use that information to ascertain whether the patient has been issued a firearms purchaser identification card, permit to purchase a handgun, or any other permit or license authorizing possession of a firearm and/or will determine if they have access to firearms.

#### **The New Jersey Psychological Association's Successful Involvement in New Jersey Law**

2017 Authorization of the provision of health care services through telemedicine and telehealth, and supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

2014 Professional Corporation Act - inclusion of psychologists

2013 Jurisprudence Exam in New Jersey

2010 Direct Payment of Benefits to Out-of-Network Providers requires third party payers to reimburse psychologists directly when patient assigns benefits

2004 Capacity for Guardianship through the Civil Practice Committee, Superior Court of NJ

2000 Lawsuit against MCC Behavioral Care, Inc. successfully settled

1999 Prompt Payment (supported)

1999 Mental Health Parity (Coalition) [Serious Mental Illness]

1997 Health Care Quality Act (supported)

1997 Competency Evaluations in Criminal Cases

1996 Hospital Privileges

1996 Lawsuit filed against MCC Behavioral Care, Inc.

1993 Counselors Licensing (opposed)

1991 Duty to Warn

1989 Temporary Disability

1985 Peer Review

1974 Freedom of Choice

1966 Psychology Licensing Law Signed



### **New Jersey Psychological Association Federal Advocacy Efforts**

Every year, the American Psychological Association gathers delegates from the 60 state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations, as well as American Psychological Association staff and committee members, at the Practice Leadership Conference to provide advocacy training for leaders in the field of psychology. Following several days of training events, the delegates head to Capitol Hill to meet with their congressional and state representatives. In March 2019, the New Jersey Psychological Association delegates met with the following New Jersey Representatives and Senator's offices to discuss cosponsoring two bills that remove barriers to quality mental health access for Medicare patients through bills HR884 and HR1301 and preserving mental health and substance use disorder coverage in Medicaid and private health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act. Lastly, we enjoyed having a dialogue with them about important social advocacy issues.

*Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ-07); Rep. Jeff Van Drew (D-NJ-02); Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ-03); Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ-11); Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06); Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ-09); and Sen. Bob Menendez (Senator D-NJ).*



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