

E-Update Feb 2, 2024



Medical leadership for mind, brain and body.

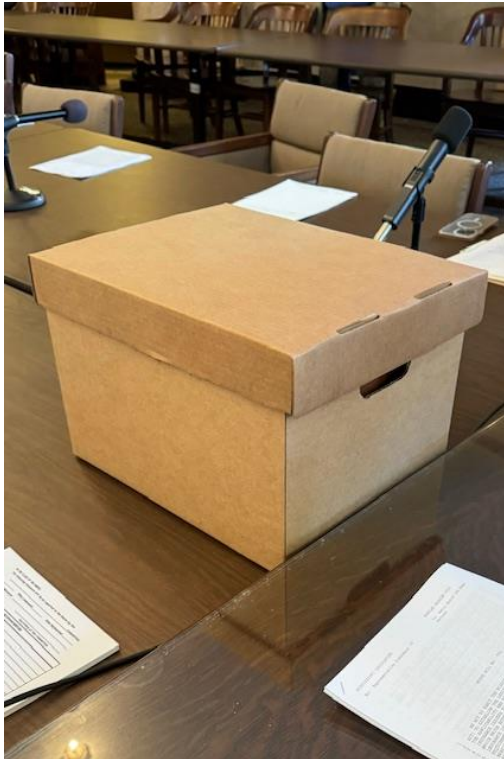
The weekly E-update is the tool by which MPA members can share information or announcements with each other. It is a member benefit and the mechanism by which MPA shares important notices regarding trends in psychiatry, pharmaceutical updates, information about your medical practice, advocacy, your opinions, and job opportunities. Members are encouraged to make the content their own. Please submit items for weekly publication by Thursday at 5pm. Your email

addresses are protected by the DB and not for sale or use by any other entity besides the DB. Content should be pertinent to the practice of psychiatry or related medical information. Review the E-update highlighted titles and attachments for content and action steps. We value your input and attention to your specialty! Any item that appears in **royal blue** contains a link for detailed information on the topic. Questions regarding membership status are referred to our APA Membership Coordinator.



MPA Received Award from Families as Allies on Monday

During the 10th annual Community Partnership Celebration at Bravo on Monday evening, MPA received an award for legislative advocacy from Families As Allies. The Tessie Schweitzer Accountability Award was given to MPA by Joy Hogge, Executive Director, for ongoing legislative advocacy, particularly the work on House Bill 1222 in the 2023 legislative session. "We especially appreciate MPA keeping Families as Allies and other grassroots groups up to date from when a group of legislators introduced HB 1222 until they voted it into law and the governor signed it." MPA was represented by President, Dr. Philip Merideth, Legislative Chairwoman and Pres-Elect, Dr. Katherine Pannel and Angela Ladner, Exec Director. Representative Sam Creekmore of New Albany was invited by MPA to join in the award since he was the primary author of HB 1222 and a visionary on the topic of mental health systems improvements that led to the content of the bill from the 2023 session. Creekmore has been named the Chairman of the House Public Health and Welfare Committee for the next 4 years. His Vice Chair is Rep Kevin Felsher of Biloxi, who won an award from Families As Allies last year. Pictured above from left are Rep Creekmore, Dr. Merideth, Angela Ladner, Dr. Pannel and Joy Hogge. MPA and Families as Allies work on issues that affect patients from early childhood



diagnosis. MPA appreciates the partnership and look forward to further interaction between the two organizations.

This Week at the Mississippi Legislature The fifth week of the 2024 Mississippi legislative session was about reversing the veto by the Governor from last session on the prior authorization legislation. On Tuesday, Senator Walter Michel, Chair of the Senate Insurance Committee, passed the Prior Authorization Reform Act, [SB 2140](#), out of the Senate Insurance Committee. The bill cleared the Senate floor by a vote of 52-0 and was transmitted to the House on Wednesday. SB 2140 has been assigned to the House Public Health and Human Services Committee. Rep Sam Creekmore, Chair of the House Public Health and Human Services Committee, passed a companion prior authorization reform measure, [HB 775](#), out of the House Public Health and Human Services Committee on Wednesday afternoon. HB 775 is now on the House calendar awaiting a floor vote which should occur next week. The picture is a box that was placed on the committee table in the House prior to the discussion of prior authorization. Chairman Creekmore

referenced the box at the end of the Q&A to alert committee members that it was full of letters and patient testimony as to their delays and less than stellar outcomes due to prior authorization. The bill requires all health care providers and insurance companies in the state, including Medicaid and the state health plan to comply. Votes are already being counted in both Chambers to override any potential veto. The MS Dept of Insurance would regulate and promulgate the rules on operation which include fines for each violation, same specialty peer review, appeals processes and categorizing diagnoses as urgent (24 hours on PA) and non-emergent (up to 5 days). An online portal for every company and a standardized process would be set up moving forward.

On Wednesday, Representative Missy McGee of Hattiesburg, Chair of the House Medicaid Committee, successfully passed [HB 539](#), which provides for presumptive Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women, out of the House Medicaid Committee and across the House floor by a vote of 117-5. HB 539 is currently being held on a motion to reconsider but the expectation is to table that motion next week and move the bill on to the Senate. Senator Nicole Boyd of Oxford is also expected to introduce a similar bill in the Senate prior to the introduction deadline. This bill is a follow up to the postpartum legislation within Medicaid raising coverage from 60 days to 12 months that became law on July 1, 2023.





Join us as we host a
DAY AT THE CAPITOL - WHITE COAT DAY
with the
Mississippi State Medical Association
Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association
Mississippi Psychiatric Association
Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants

This is your chance to meet your lawmakers and have your voice heard.
We are encouraging all attendees to wear your white coat.

White Coat Day
MSMA's Day at the Capitol

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
7:30 AM - 12:00 PM
1st Floor - Mississippi State Capitol Building

LET'S FLOOD THE CAPITOL WITH WHITE COATS!

REGISTER TO ATTEND WHITE COAT DAY

MPA's 2024 Legislative Priorities:

- Regulate the Prior Authorization Process for Physicians by MS Dept of Insurance
- Changes to Commitment Laws to Result in Jail Diversion and Increased Community Treatment Options
- Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women 60 days prior to processing
- Update Future Testing Options for Citizens Around Foreign Substances and Street Drugs
- Make Kratom Schedule III
- Strengthen the Step Therapy/Fail First Protocol Override Statute
- Support a Change to CON regarding Psychiatric Residential Treatment Beds and Substance Use Disorder Beds in the State
- Add a Designated Child Psychiatrist to the Rural Physician Scholarship Program

A full listing of Senate and House Committees can be found here:

- [2024 Senate Committee Listing](#)
- [2024 House Committee Listing](#)

MPA Congratulates 3 New APA Fellows and 2 New APA Distinguished Fellows APA alerted the DB's this week that there was a 96% approval rate this year for the Distinguished Fellow/Distinguished Life Fellow/International Distinguished Fellow nominations this year, which is consistent with previous years. MPA is honored that Doctors **Saurabh Bhardwaj**, **Clyde Glenn** and **Tongji Shavers** will receive their Fellowship and Doctors **Maxie Gordon** and **Mark Ladner** were selected as Distinguished Fellows. All will be given the opportunity to participate in the convocation in May 2024 in New York, NY.

Apply for APA/APAF Fellowship at the Link Provided

MPA has been very fortunate in recent years with these Fellowship opportunities for Residents. Please read all the criteria as commitments vary from one year to two years. We encourage anyone interested to apply.

Link here: <https://www.psychiatry.org/residents-medical-students/residents/fellowships/available-apa-apaf-fellowships/american-psychiatric-leadership-fellowship>



MPA Exec Director Addresses JPD Pastoral Task Force Regarding Faith-Based Initiatives and Mental Health

JPD has continued to invite the MPA Executive Director to address pastors and people of faith during its weeklong task force on battling concerns from the pulpit and inside the church regarding the city of Jackson. Mrs. Ladner gave each of the attendees a copy of the APA Foundation booklet entitled *Mental Health: A Guide for Faith Leaders*, which fosters education, awareness and compassion so faith leaders can best support their congregations' mental health needs. She led a discussion about how to dispel misunderstandings, reduce stigma and help provide resources in the community for those in need. More information is available at apafdn.org. *Ladner is pictured left with Sergeant Fredrick Suttles of JPD*

Register Today for the MPA/LPMA Meeting March 2024 in Baton Rouge,

Make your reservation and register for the 2024 LPMA/MPA Spring meeting to be hosted in Baton Rouge, March 1 – 3. This is an opportunity to explore the latest developments in the field of psychiatry in a relaxed and welcoming environment at the Marriott Baton Rouge. Engage with experts on important topics such as Psychedelic Drugs in Substance Use Disorders, Perinatal Mental Health, Risk Management, Physician Assisted Suicide to name a few. We are excited to again partner with LPMAA and the Mid-Gulf Council for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. Take this opportunity to connect with colleagues and contribute to the ongoing progress of psychiatry. [Registration](#) is open so please [book your hotel room](#) now. **Deadline for hotel reservations is Feb 14th**. Please direct any questions to mpa39206@aol.com.

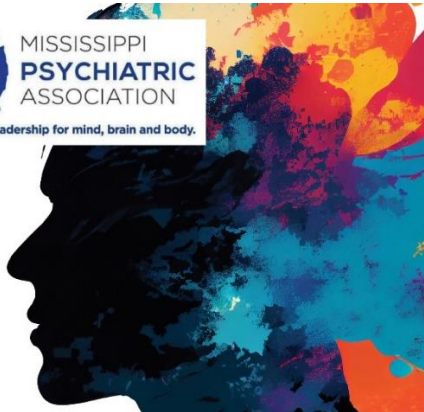


in
conjunction
with



**2024 LPMA/MPA
Spring Meeting**

MARCH 1 - 3, 2024



Southern Psychiatric Association Meeting Dates for 2024

Mark your calendar now for the 2024 meeting with the Tennessee Psychiatric Association:
September 11 – 14, 2024 Westin Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Third Risk Management New Year's Resolution for 2024

Written by
Professional Risk Management Services® (PRMS®)

Our suggested easy-to-implement risk management resolutions are focused on termination of the treatment relationship. Get a kick-start on the first quarter of the year with our third risk management resolution for 2024 below!

3. If you are a contracted provider with any health plans, review and be familiar with termination provisions in all of your provider contracts.

Some health plans require their contracted physicians to provide a specific amount of notice to patients prior to terminating.

Stay tuned for the fourth and final resolution next week.

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- MPA Main Account: [Mississippi Psychiatric Association](#)

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What's New at the APA

- **Dr. Marketa Wills, M.D., M.B.A.** was named the next CEO & Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Wills currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Johns Hopkins Health Plans and has a clinical practice at University of South Florida Student Health Services in Tampa, FL. She will assume the role of CEO on June 1, 2024. You can [read more about Dr. Wills and see the full CEO announcement here.](#)
- **One in three** Americans feel lonely every week according to a January Healthy Minds Monthly poll administered by APA & Morning Consult. Younger people were more likely to experience these feelings, with 30% of 18–34-year-olds saying they were lonely every day or several times a week. You can read the full poll results and [read more about loneliness here.](#)
- **Personal Finances** were a major source of anxiety for Americans heading into 2024, according to the latest Healthy Minds Monthly poll fielded by APA & Morning Consult. 44% of adults they say they experience the same amount of stress at the start of 2024 as they did a year earlier, while one in four said they experience more. You can [read the full results of the anxiety poll here.](#)

February Course of the Month – Food Addiction: A New Substance Use Disorder?

Approximately 14% of adults and 12% of children exhibit clinically significant levels of "food addiction" based on the *DSM-5* criteria for substance use disorders. However, "food addiction" is not currently included as a recognized or provisional diagnostic category in the *DSM-5*. This course will consider the validity of "food addiction," review evidence of excessive food intake and what it can lead to, discuss the clinical relevance, and more.

[Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.](#)

Early-bird Registration for APA Annual Meeting Ends February 6

Join APA on **Saturday, May 4, through Wednesday, May 8**, for sessions, courses, and more in New York City that will leave you feeling inspired and energized. Register today at the lowest rates for the in-person experience, which end on **Tuesday, February 6**.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

NEW At the Annual Meeting: Mind Games Masters!

New for the 2024 Annual Meeting! A three-part educational experience that allows psychiatrists to assess their knowledge and learn more about five subspecialties in an engaging, fun, and competitive format. Any psychiatrist in the U.S. (ACGME-accredited) or Canada may participate. Registration for this Paid Course is available as an add-on in the registration platform when you [register for the in-person Annual Meeting](#). You can [learn more about Mind Games Masters and register here](#).

Contact Your Representative to Prevent Cuts to Physician Reimbursement

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a 3.4% reduction in Medicare's physician payments for 2024. This cut is devastating to physician practices and the patients they care for, and could necessitate reduced staffing and office closures, disproportionately harming rural and underserved communities. **Please urge Congress to prevent these devastating cuts from going into effect by cosponsoring the Preserving Seniors' Access to Physicians Act of 2023 (H.R.6683).** This bipartisan bill would completely eliminate the 3.4% physician pay cut expected to take effect on January 1. Learn more and [compose a message to your representative in Congress here](#).

@theAPA Delirium Update 2024 Promotion:

Join us at APA Headquarters on **Friday, March 8** for the next **@theAPA Educational Series** event. This immersive learning experience offers an in-depth exploration of Delirium detection, prevention, and treatment. [Secure your spot today!](#)