

E-Update Sept 15, 2023



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, Doneisha Berryman. Please contact Doneisha at 202-459-9749 or dberryman@psych.org.

Fall APA Components Meeting Held Last Weekend in Baltimore



MPA Members Dr. Avani Patel (Chair, APA/APAF Leadership Fellowship and APA Board of Trustees Member) and Dr. Sabrina Deleon (APA/APAF Diversity Fellowship) participated in the APA Fall Components meeting in Baltimore, MD where the fellows met for fellow-specific education and programming. In addition, several councils and committees conducted in-person meetings. Dr. Patel serves on Council on Communications, and they planned for the 2024 year regarding mental health themes, topics and other communications from the APA. Dr. Deleon serves on the Ethics Committee.



Case of the Quarter: Jones v. Smith, MD

Written by
Professional Risk Management Services® (PRMS®)
Claims Department

Facts:

Dr. Smith, a 59-year-old male psychiatrist, is treating Mary Jones, a 28-year-old woman, for depression and anxiety. Dr. Smith has been treating her for two years and he thinks that they have a healthy treatment relationship. Ms. Jones starts to experience financial hardship following a divorce. She is eventually evicted from her apartment and tells Dr. Smith she has nowhere to go. Not wanting her to end up on the street, Dr. Smith offers her a guest room at his home after his wife agrees to the temporary arrangement. Six months later, Ms. Jones is still staying at Dr. Smith's home, and he continues to treat her. Due to her continuing financial troubles, he doesn't charge her for treatment. She is cleaning the house and doing errands for the Smith's since she isn't paying rent. All are happy with the situation and have become like family. They share meals and wine together and have started to hug when greeting each other or saying goodnight. One night Ms. Jones goes out to meet her new boyfriend after drinking a significant amount of wine with Dr. and Mrs. Smith. Unfortunately, she is in a car accident and is hospitalized due to a broken leg and possible concussion. Her boyfriend is outraged and expresses his concerns about her drinking and living with her psychiatrist to the physician caring for her at the hospital. He encourages Ms. Jones to move in with him and file suit against Dr. Smith. The hospital physician files a complaint with the Board of Medicine alleging Dr. Smith committed boundary violations.

Allegations: Ms. Jones alleges that Dr. Smith negligently treated her by failing to maintain appropriate professional boundaries and that he negligently provided her with alcohol knowing that drinking was contraindicated with the medication he was prescribing for her anxiety. She alleges Dr. Smith's negligence caused her car accident and resultant injuries.

Defenses: Because Dr. Smith did violate professional boundaries, an expert could not be found to defend Dr. Smith's care. His defense centered on finding a way to settle each matter without his license being revoked.

Outcome: Dr. Smith's insurance carrier paid \$650,000 to settle the lawsuit with Ms. Jones. Dr. Smith entered into a consent agreement with the Board wherein he agreed to take a CME course on avoiding boundary violations and have his practice monitored by another psychiatrist for three years. Dr. Smith bore the cost of paying the practice monitor.

Take Away: Don't let your desire to help patients lead you to cross over the professional boundaries that are necessary for a healthy treatment relationship. If professional boundaries cannot be maintained by you or the patient, you should end the treatment relationship and refer the patient to another provider.

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52 Weeks of Progress by the MSDH

Each week this year, DMH will be highlighting a specific service or program to increase awareness of services and supports available across Mississippi. Our hope is by the end of 2023, you will know more about offerings in your state through seeing these highlights - 52 Weeks of Progress. **This week, we highlight Supported Employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

Supported Employment services for people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities are available through both the ID/DD Home and Community Based Waiver and the 1915i Community Support Program. This service supports people in finding and keeping a job in the community. It includes activities such as job exploration, assistance in applying for jobs, assistance on the job to ensure the person has the support necessary to be successful, assistance in building natural supports in the workplace, and assistance in learning the routines and requirements of a particular job/workplace. Supported employment can be phased out as the person learns the job and performs it successfully in an independent manner or supported employment can continue

indefinitely, depending on the person and his/her level of support needs. **In FY23, across both of those programs, 164 people used job development services to help search for jobs, and a total of 492 people were employed.**

What's New at the APA

Most Americans believe they would know how to get help for a loved one living with addiction, according to the latest Healthy Minds Monthly public opinion poll presented by APA & Morning Consult. 71% of those polled said they know how to help get a friend or loved one help with addiction, while 65% defined recovery as "being able to function better in life." You can [read more about his poll and see the full results here](#).

The APA Foundation donated \$25,000 to relief efforts for the wildfires in Maui. The APAF's gift will be made to the [Maui Strong Fund](#). The APAF has committed to absorbing all administrative expense for those who donate, so that 100% of funds donated go directly to relief efforts. You can read [more here](#).

APAF launched the Mental Health Care Works public information campaign dedicated to raising awareness around the signs and symptoms of mental health disorders and showcase the efficacy of mental health care and encourage people to take action and seek help if they need it. The campaign is currently active in Denver, CO, Raleigh, NC, and Baltimore/Washington, D.C., with a nationwide rollout slated for 2024. You can [read more about the Mental Health Care Works campaign here](#).

September Course of the Month – The Shame of Suicide and Attempted Suicide in Physicians: Five Physicians Who Are Speaking Out

Physicians are known to be a group of individuals who are more at risk of suicide than the general public. Data is sparse about attempted suicide, but we do know that medical students and residents have rates of suicidal ideation that are higher than age-matched peers. The intent of this course is to unravel the stigma around suicide and attempted suicide in physicians, present new learning from look-back research, share personal narratives, and offer ways to save doctors' lives.

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

Call for Applications: Moore Equity in Mental Health Community Grants Program

Increasing equitable access to mental health care is a cornerstone of the APA Foundation's mission. Each year, [we award grants to community nonprofits that are supporting the mental health of minoritized youth](#) through the Moore Equity in Mental Health Community Grants program. The 2024 grant application is open now through September 30. [Learn more about our work to end disparities in access to health care and apply today!](#)

Virtual Immersive: Geriatric Psychiatry Updates

Don't miss out on the opportunity to enhance your clinical expertise in geriatric psychiatry! Join us on September 27 for the **Virtual Immersive: Geriatric Psychiatry Workshop**. Expand your

knowledge and sharpen your skills in caring for older adults with common psychiatric disorders. [Register today](#) and secure your spot in this immersive learning experience.

Looking Beyond:

We invite you to join us on Thursday, September 28 for the next **APA Looking Beyond Mental Health Equity Fireside Chat**. During this engaging discussion our panelist will provide valuable insights into the growing public health concern of vaping and e-cigarette use and how these behaviors are linked to increased risks of substance use, especially among marginalized youth. Our panel of experts will explore the intersectionality of these risks and the role of psychiatry in addressing and preventing these inequities. Don't miss out on this informative discussion - [Register today!](#)

@theAPA November Event:

Mark your calendars for November 17 to join us at APA Headquarters for the **Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Update**. This second event of our new immersive learning series will provide an update on the five critical domains relevant to practicing psychiatrists and primary care physicians. Don't miss this opportunity to stay informed and enhance your professional expertise. [Sign up for Updates.](#)

Submit Abstracts for APA's 2024 Annual Meeting

Abstract submissions are now being accepted for APA's 2024 Annual Meeting, which will take place May 4 to 8 in New York, N.Y. The theme of the meeting is "Confronting Addiction From Prevention to Treatment." Submit your ideas for general sessions, courses, and posters to the biggest psychiatric meeting of the year. [LEARN MORE](#)

2023 APA Mental Health Services Conference Scientific Program Now Available

The Mental Health Services Conference will take place from **Thursday, October 12**, through **Saturday, October 14**. You can now review sessions planned for this year's conference. [LEARN MORE](#)

Be a part of APA's Speakers Bureau

APA is seeking members who are active and engaged in Component activities to be a part of APA's Speaker's Bureau. The Speaker's Bureau is aimed at diversifying and broadening APA's bench of public-facing experts. In addition to traditional media requests, APA has a number of other opportunities available for members who are willing to share their expertise. This includes writing blogs on important mental health topics, providing government testimony, and participation in social media events, like Twitter chats, Instagram live, and more.

Members of the APA Speaker's Bureau, as an internal influencer group, will also be asked to amplify APA's voice by promoting public education initiatives via social media and engaging during APA social media events.

Simply scan this QR code to access the speaker's bureau form and add your voice.



Note: Any personal information shared is kept **strictly confidential** and only able to be accessed by APA Communications staff. We ask for this information so that we can get a decent picture of who our experts are and make the best match for a given opportunity. Participation in this project does not guarantee that a member will be contacted for a media interview or other public-facing opportunity.

Please contact James Carty (jcarty@psych.org) with any questions you may have.