

Psych *perspectives*

A Publication of the West Virginia School Psychologists Association

Fall

2011

President's Letter

By

Lisa Gainer



Welcome all to the 2011 Fall Conference!

We are returning once again to Morgantown to meet and share ideas and hopefully find meaningful dialogue with colleagues. A warm welcome from the university city and especially from the Monongalia County Schools school psychology department! Once again, the focus on the horizon is CHANGE. Even though it's been just six months since we last met, already we've seen changes in the Response to Intervention tiered program (Support for Personalized Learning-SPL), new implications for how school psychologists diagnose and treat autism, and challenges involving licensure regulations for psychologists in West Virginia. We've also seen new initiatives from the WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind as well as possible changes in NCLB legislation. In keeping up with these topics, WVSPA strives to bring you a program designed to keep you abreast of these issues as well as to provide a collaborative forum in which to discuss these events.

We have a host of informative speakers for you this fall ranging in topics from mental health challenges to bullying to autism. Our students are coming to school with more issues, more complex problems, and more opportunities for us to make a difference. Especially with our ever-changing regulations, it can be hard at times to find the right balance between professional, researcher, lobbyist, and child advocate. At times, the waters are a little rough. It always helps to come together to join with colleagues, compare notes, have a few laughs, and move forward. Thanks to your individual efforts and to the hard work that you do every day, we are making strides, step by step. Keep the faith!

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And The Winners Are.....



Monongalia County Schools



Kathy Roby

Stephanie Oberly

Ed Morgret

APA Ethics vs. NASP Ethics

by

Toni G. Parsons

Licensed School Psychologist

Independent Practitioner

The legislative rule revisions dealing with the licensure of psychologists in West Virginia went into effect June, 2010, and have since generated some questions about differences in ethics codes and about which ethics codes are to be followed. For example, are the American Psychological Association's (APA) Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct 2002 (Ethics Code) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) *Principles for Professional Ethics 2010 (Principles)* contrary to each other? Are licensed school psychologists in jeopardy of violating the Ethics Code if they practice psychology in compliance with the *Principles*? Do psychologists who are dually licensed need to comply with the Ethics Code, the *Principles* or both?

While the need to answer questions such as these may or may not seem obvious, for me, the need was never more emphasized than by a remark made at the WV Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the Board) Ethics Investigation training, April 29, 2011. During the training one of the Board's investigators, a dually licensed psychologist, said something to the effect that she preferred to follow APA ethics because NASP ethics don't really say anything. I'm not sure why any psychologist, let alone one who serves as an ethics investigator, would make such a comment. Perhaps it was simply a glib remark or perhaps it was due to lack of familiarity with the Ethics Code, the *Principles*, and the recently revised Legislative Rules. Regardless of her intent, the following is intended to serve as a review of applicable sections of the legislative rules and an introduction to the Ethics Code & the *Principles*.

West Virginia Code of State Rules §17-3

The Board has adopted the Ethics Code as part of its rules, and all provisions of the Ethics Code have the same effect as if they were specifically promulgated rules of the Board. In addition to the Ethics Code, School Psychologists are also bound by the *Principles* (Legislative Rule §17-3-6.1). And all licensees are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the provisions of WV Code §30-21 and the Ethics Code (Legislative Rule §17-3-7.1).

The Board is required to investigate alleged violations of the law governing the practice of psychology & the Board's promulgated rules and regulations, and take appropriate disciplinary action against licensees for violations thereof (WV Code §30-21-6).

Codes of Professional Conduct (APA's Ethics Code & NASP's *Principles*)

Codes of conduct provide guidance toward ethical courses of behavior, are usually general in nature, and are often not exhaustive. These characteristics apply to both the Ethics Code and the *Principles*, although the *Principles* may be somewhat more specific. For instance, the standards in the Ethics Code are written broadly in order to apply to and provide guidance to psychologists in varied roles; whereas, the *Principles* were developed to address the unique circumstances associated with providing school psychological services. The *Principles* further encourage school psychologists who are private practitioners or work in other settings to consult the Ethics Code for guidance on issues not directly addressed in the *Principles*.

The Ethics Code contains five general principles and ten specific ethical standards. The *Principles* contain four broad themes, 17 ethical principles & multiple standards of conduct. Both the Ethics Code and the *Principles* were developed with the purpose to protect the welfare of those individuals or groups that psychologists serve. Both establish a higher standard than required by law. Both also call on psychologists to make it known when conflicts between ethical standards and law arise. Both encourage psychologists to take steps to resolve such conflicts in a responsible manner, and to abide by the law as long as the resulting actions do not violate basic human rights.

The General Principles (A-E) contained in the Ethics Code are aspirational in nature and are not themselves enforceable rules. The Broad Themes (I-IV) in the *Principles* provide the organizational framework and subsume 17 ethical principles and enforceable corollary standards. While the General Principles and the Broad Themes are not identical, the similarity in content and meaning is evident given the following nomenclature.

APA's General Principles

NASP's Broad Themes

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|---|---|
| (A) Beneficence & Nonmaleficence | (II) Professional Competence & Responsibility |
| (B) Fidelity & Responsibility | (IV) Responsibility to Schools, Families, Communities, the Profession & Society |
| (C) Integrity | (III) Honesty & Integrity in Professional Relationships |
| (D) Justice | |
| (E) Respect for People's Rights & Dignity | (I) Respecting the Dignity & Rights of All Persons |

Obviously, both the Ethics Code and the Principles say a lot and it is vitally important for psychologists to be knowledgeable of the contents of both documents.

Summary/Recommendations

In summary, the Ethics Code and the *Principles* are not contrary codes of conduct but are similar in content and intent. And while the Ethics Code has been adopted by the Board as part of its rules that must be followed by all licensed psychologists, licensed school psychologists are further bound by the *Principles*. Complying with the *Principles* does not place licensed school psychologists in jeopardy of violating the Ethics Code, inasmuch as the *Principles* encourage psychologists to look to the Ethics Code for guidance on issues not covered by the *Principles*.

Whether licensed, dually licensed or certified, psychologists need to be knowledgeable (not just familiar) of the laws, rules, regulations and ethical codes that govern their behavior. Ethics investigators, especially, need to be knowledgeable of both APA's Ethics Code and NASP's *Principles*.

But don't just take my word for it. Read for yourself and you be the judge.

References*

WV Code §30-21

Title 17 Legislative Rule Psychologists Series 3

Requirements For Licensure As A Psychologist And/Or A School Psychologist, Effective, June 1, 2010.

APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct 2002

National Association of School Psychologists Principles for Professional Ethics 2010

*All references may be found on the WV Board of Examiners website at www.wvpsychbd.org. Under the Menu column click on Law, Rules & Regulations.

Awards Criteria

West Virginia School Psychologist of the Year Award is in recognition of an individual's exemplary provision of school psychological services.

Exemplary Program in the Delivery of School Psychological Services Award is in recognition of implementation of innovative practices or programs by an individual or county school system.

Chloe Hollinger Award is in recognition of an individual who has promoted school psychology in West Virginia through such things as publications, presentations and overall leadership.

Special Friends of Children Award is presented to a person who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the children in West Virginia and has shown a commitment to the profession of school psychology.

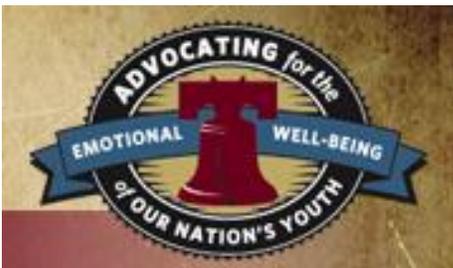
Government & Public Relations Award is presented to a person who has demonstrated leadership in government and public relations.

Nominations

If you would like make a nomination for one or more of the offices/positions, please contact Dr. Sandra Stroebel for a nomination form.

NASP 2012 Annual Convention

February 21-24, 2012
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
Philadelphia, PA



WVSPA Executive Board

President - Lisa Gainer
Past President - Sandra Stroebel
Secretary - Susan Beck
Treasurer - Debbie Rolston
Government and Public Relations - Angela Madia
Ethics Chairperson - Karen Edgell
Membership Chair - Debbie Rolston
Newsletter Editor - Gwendolyn Smith
Historians - Michael Powell and Tanya Cook
Awards - Libby Willard
Nominations - Sandra Stroebel
Region A - Mike Curry (RESA 5 and 6)
Region B - Angela Madia (RESA 7)
Region C - LeAnn Cooper (RESA 8)
Region D - Kathy Showen (RESA 2 and 3)
Region E - Bev Winter (RESA 1 and 4)
MUGC Representative - Fred Krieg
MUGC Student Representative - Beth DeVilla
NASP Delegate - Fred Krieg
NASP Futures Liaison - Susan Beck
WV Board of Examiners - Toni Parsons
WVDE Liaison - Lanai Jennings

Join WVSPA

Membership Categories

REGULAR - Available to those currently certified by the State Department of Education, or persons who hold a current license in school psychology granted by the WV Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Fee \$50.00 annually

STUDENT - Available to those actively enrolled in a psychology training program, taking a minimum of six semester hours. Student membership status is granted for no more than five years, requires annual verification from the University where they are enrolled, and is not granted to any person employed full time. Fee \$25.00 annually

RETIRED - Available to persons holding regular membership for at least five consecutive years and who retired from professional activity. No fee, but requires annual application.

ASSOCIATE - Available to those having at least a bachelor's degree and who have an interest in school psychology. Fee \$15.00 annually.

Dues are assessed on or near July 1st of each year. New and student members may be required to complete additional forms before membership is accepted. Please make checks payable to WVSPA. Mail to:

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WVSPA Treasurer/Membership
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TO: