



West Virginia  
Psychological Association  
Fall Conference 2023  
and WVPA Annual Business Meeting

October 20th-21st, 2023

West Virginia Training and Conference Center  
Live and Virtual Conference



in Psychological Services:

*Special Topics in  
Psychology: What  
You Wish You Knew  
Before Becoming a  
Psychologist*

Thank you to our sponsors!



October 20, 2023

**Sign-In:**

7:30 AM - 8:00AM

**Decolonizing Psychology in the Mountain State**

(CE -1.0 hr)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**Religious and Spiritual Considerations in End-Of-Life**

(CE—1.0 hr)

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

**Psycho-Oncology and Health Disparities in Rural Practice**

(CE—1.0 hr)

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

**WVPA Awards Ceremony/Lunch**

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Practical Psychopharmacology 101: Understanding the Basics of Psychiatric Medications**

(CE-1.00 hr)

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

**Interprofessional Teaming and Consultation: Psychologists have a Seat at the Table**

(CE-1.00 hr)

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

**Reproductive Justice: Navigating Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare in Rural Communities**

(CE-1.00 hr)

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Professional Development: Advancement in Psychology Career Options and Specialization in Rural and Underserved Communities**

(CE-1.0 hr)

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

**Student Poster Session**

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

**WVPA Social Mixer**

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM



# Welcome to the West Virginia Psychological Association Fall Conference!

Dear Conference Participants,

We are proud to present our Fall Conference 2023! As you can see, we have taken a new approach to update and expand on our skill sets in psychology. With this hybrid in-person and virtual conference, we are excited to bring fresh new topics to our organization and learn from a group of experts on a variety of special topics in psychology.

Whether virtually or in person, we are featuring a first for our organization in holding a conference on topics not extensively covered in our organization to this date. We have invited several engaging speakers of different specialties and practices to present on a variety of needed topics to expand psychologists' outreach, practice, and breadth of knowledge and training. Our conference is designed to help attendees grow as clinicians and diversify our comfort with a variety of different client needs!

We look forward to having you join us for this unique opportunity in partnering with some amazing local and neighboring state providers, teams, and organizations. Thank you for your time and look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference CE event in 2023!

Sincerely,

Chava Urecki, Psy.D.

2023 WVPA President-Elect, Program Chair

Billy Rutherford, Psy.D.

2023 WVPA President

# Program Description

## Our Presenter:

### Chantel Weisenmuller, Ph.D.

Dr. Chantel Weisenmuller received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Kentucky and completed her psychology internship at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She is an Associate Professor at WVU School of Medicine- Charleston and serves as the Director of the psychology predoctoral internship and the Director of Child Psychology in the Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry at CAMC. Dr. Weisenmuller's clinical and research interests include effective interventions for youth with disruptive behavior and/or neurodevelopmental disorders, reducing barriers to access in rural and underserved communities, interventions with youth and families involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems, and increasing availability of LGBTQ affirming healthcare. Dr. Weisenmuller is an APA Council Representative (WVPA) and a member of the APA Committee on Rural Health. She serves as the chair of the Colleague Assistance Program Committee for the West Virginia Psychological Association and is a member of the National Register for Health Service Psychologists, the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (APA Division 37), and the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC).

## Decolonizing Psychology in the Mountain State

Chantel Weisenmuller, Ph.D.

1.0 CE

### Abstract:

Throughout its history, psychology as a scientific field and an area of health care practice has been firmly rooted in the scientific paradigm of positivism, a paradigm of knowledge acquisition and meaning that assumes knowledge is limited to what can be empirically measured. This philosophy spread throughout the world through European colonization, displaced other philosophies of knowledge anchored in cultural practices and faith traditions, and is entrenched in the large dominant monoculture of the US. While this approach to knowledge generation has contributed to the current body of technological and scientific knowledge and achievements, it has also resulted in immeasurable harm to individuals, communities, and cultures. The American Psychological Association has embarked on the mission of decolonizing psychology at the organizational level, including examining, taking responsibility for, and endeavoring to heal and grow from harm done to communities in the US by the field of psychology. This presentation is a starting point for our individual work as psychologists to examine our implicit and explicit biases about knowledge, meaning, and worth and to recognizing instances when our colonized lens is obstructing our ability to provide culturally responsive and inclusive care, teaching, and scholarship in our Appalachian communities.

### Learning Objectives:

- 1) Participants will define "decolonizing psychology" as a framework for assessing and correcting implicit and explicit bias in professional psychology.
- 2) Participants will discuss the benefits of applying the lens of decolonized psychology to teaching, research, scholarship, and clinical services in Appalachian communities.
- 3) Participants will identify specific strategies to broaden their culturally responsive and inclusive practices across professional activities.

# Program Description

## Our Presenter: Rabbi Victor Urecki

Rabbi Victor Urecki has served as rabbi and spiritual leader of B'nai Jacob Synagogue in Charleston, West Virginia since 1986. He is president of the West Virginia Interfaith Refugee Ministry, has served for over a decade on the National Council of AIPAC (The American Israel Public Affairs Committee), the West Virginia Commission on Holocaust Education, and on the board of directors at the University of Charleston. He is the recipient of the "Living the Dream Award," the "West Virginia Civil Rights Day Award," and the ACLU Syd Bell Memorial Award for his work on interfaith relations and civil rights. He co-founded the Root and the Branch, an organization dedicated to creating opportunities for faith traditions in the Kanawha Valley to come together, dialogue, and learn from one another. Rabbi Urecki writes frequently for the Charleston Gazette-Mail and on social media about religious tolerance, mutual respect, and is an activist for immigration/refugee resettlement and local issues of importance. In the last few years, Rabbi Urecki has gone to the Arizona/Mexico border with the Jewish Council for Public Affairs to witness the humanitarian crisis there and completed a fellowship that took him to Guatemala with the American World Jewish Services. Rabbi Urecki is an interfaith leader who is on-call as a religious and spiritual support for individuals in hospitals, palliative care, hospice, and in general for end-of-life issues for over 38 years.

## Religious and Spiritual Considerations in End-of-Life

Rabbi Victor Urecki

1.0 CE

### Abstract:

End-of-life is not only a physical, emotional, and social experience, but also one that can effect one's psychological and spiritual well-being. This presentation will address how to approach end-of-life concerns from both an interfaith religious and spiritual perspective. Participants will learn how religion, belief, and spirituality may factor into end-of-life existential issues. Special focus will be paid to address finding comfort, engaging in meaning-making, and achieving closure at the end-of-life. Rabbi Victor Urecki will share case examples of end-of-life concerns from both a religious and a spiritual approach, the limitations and complications that can develop when religion is provided improperly, and how to support individuals who are desiring spiritual guidance for end-of-life issues. There will be a Q&A at the end of this presentation

### Learning Objectives:

- 1) Attendees will be able to identify common existential end-of-life concerns
- 2) Attendees will be able to describe ways to support individuals in end-of-life
- 3) Attendees will be able to explain similarities within spiritual and religious considerations for end-of-life

# Program Description

## **Our Presenters:** **Jennifer Hancock, Psy.D.**

Dr. Jennifer Hancock obtained her PsyD from Marshall University. She is a West Virginia licensed clinical psychologist, and is the Director of Women's and Family Health for the Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau of Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH). Prior to joining OMCFH, she provided psycho-oncology services for cancer patients, their caregivers and families at CAMC Cancer Center. Her work has included serving on the Medical Ethics Team for a busy hospital service as well as providing primary care behavioral health services for a federally qualified healthcare center in both community and school-based health settings. She is a member of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS) and has been a member of the West Virginia Cancer Coalition, Mountains of Hope (MOH), since 2010. She is passionate about creating and growing programs that improve the health and quality of life of West Virginia women and families.

## **Christina Lawrence, Psy.D.**

Dr. Christina Lawrence is a West Virginia native that completed her doctoral training at Marshall University and residency with a focus on clinical health psychology at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA. She has a passion for working with the rural population, and views patient functioning through a biopsychosocial lens. She enjoys educating patients about the intricate relationship between physical and mental health, and assisting them in taking an active approach in their treatment. She has experience and training in working with the following presenting concerns, along with general mental health concerns: oncological conditions, pulmonary conditions, pain conditions, sleep disorders, and pre-surgical evaluation for spinal cord stimulation and other interventional pain procedures and bariatric procedures.

## **Psycho-Oncology and Health Disparities in Rural Practice**

Jennifer Hancock, Psy.D.

Christina Lawrence, Psy.D.

1.0 CE

### **Abstract:**

Cancer is among the most prevalent chronic health conditions that affect West Virginians, with lung and bronchus, female breast, prostate, and colon and rectum being the most commonly diagnosed cancers in West Virginia between 2015-2019. During this time period, breast cancer accounted for 25.7% of female cancers, and prostate accounted for 20.7% of male cancers. Many factors affect a person's personal experience and contribute to physical and mental health prognoses, and health disparities are seen in this population. For example, although both white and black women are equally likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, black women have higher rates of mortality from the disease. Disparities exist in accessing behavioral health resources, particularly when we consider behavioral health providers who have had training in psychosocial issues affecting oncology patients. Aim 12 of the WV State Cancer Plan 2021-2025 emphasizes promoting the overall health of West Virginia cancer survivors from diagnosis to end of life focusing on the four domains of physical, psychological, social, and spiritual well-being. The American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS) identified West Virginia as one of eight states to participate in a national effort to increase behavioral health practitioners' knowledge base in psychosocial oncology. While cancer occurrence is incredibly common for patients throughout the state, few clinicians have training in how to assist these patients in navigating the many life changes that accompany a cancer diagnosis and treatment. Often within the lay population and with medical professionals who do not frequently work with patients throughout the oncology continuum, there is trepidation or fear associated with addressing "the c word" head on. Within this presentation, we hope to dispel common myths and misconceptions about working with patients experiencing cancer and offer some suggestions to incorporate this into your clinical practice. We will also introduce a scholarship opportunity to participate in the APOS Basic Psychosocial Oncology Certificate program to gain the basic skills necessary to expand your clinical practice. This program is supported by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child, and Family Health, and Office of Community Health Systems and Health Promotion; Mountains of Hope West Virginia Cancer Coalition; and American Psychosocial Oncology Society.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss psycho-social oncology in practice and will be able to identify evidence against common myths/misperceptions about working with people experiencing a cancer diagnosis.
- 2) Participants will be able to describe how health disparities, particularly in the context of the shortage of behavioral health providers with experience in psycho-social oncology, influence quality of life in cancer patients and survivors.

# Program Description

## **Our Presenter: John Early, PharmD**

Dr. John Early graduated from the University of Georgia in 1993 with his Bachelor's in Pharmacy and completed his Doctorate in Pharmacy in 1995. He completed a residency in pharmacy practice at the Hershel "Woody" Williams VAMC in Huntington in 1996. He has served as the clinical pharmacist specialist in psychiatry at the Hershel "Woody" Williams VAMC in Huntington VAMC for 27 years where he has treated thousands of veterans through the years. He specializes in the treatment of depression and combat related PTSD.

## **Practice Psychopharmacology 101: Understanding the Basics of Psychiatric Medications**

John Early, Pharm.D.

1.0 CE

### **Abstract:**

A completely practical overview of antidepressants, mood stabilizers, anxiolytics, atypical antipsychotics, and hypnotics in modern psychiatry.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Differentiate between various classes of psychotropic medications and their primary indications.
- 2) Examine the therapeutic uses and potential risks associated with benzodiazepines and non-benzodiazepine anxiolytics.
- 3) Evaluate the clinical efficacy and potential misuse of hypnotic and sedative medications.
- 4) Recognize the importance of patient education and monitoring for psychotropic medication adherence.

# Program Description

## Interprofessional Teaming and Consultation: Psychologists have a Seat at the Table

Moderator: Kerri Linton, M.A., LPC

Panelists: Rick Workman, M.A.

Linda Workman, M.A.

Kristen Blanks, M.A.

Charley Bowen, M.A.

1.0 CE

### **Abstract:**

Psychologists have an important role to play beyond the therapy milieu. This presentation will take place in a group format featuring psychologists with decades of experience working in a wide variety of formats. Collaborating with various disciplines, groups, and professional settings while adhering to the Ethical Standards of Psychologists and what makes Psychologists unique will be discussed.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Participants will explain how to avoid potential conflicts of interest.
- 2) Participants will describe government systems and collaborating with other professionals.
- 3) Participants will explain the various funding streams for work within psychology and how to carve a niche among other mental health disciplines.
- 4) Participants will compare communication styles in a variety of settings and receive tips on effectively communicating with others.

# Panel Discussion Speakers

## **Kerri Linton, M.A., LPC (Moderator)**

Kerri Linton, M.A. is a Licensed Psychologist/LPC. She earned her MA degree from WVU in 1997. For the beginning of her career, she worked in the Beckley area and moved to the Kanawha Valley in 2008 and joined PC&A. She has continued a small outpatient practice and also is a Long-Term Clinical Consultant for the Bureau for Medical Services. She was on the WV Board of Examiners of Psychologists from 2015-2017. She bought the practice in January 2021 and took over the role of Program Director. She has been married to her husband, Chad, for 26 years. They have a daughter, Hope, age 16 and a son, Danny, age 13.

## **Rick Workman, M.A. (Panelist)**

Rick Workman, M.A. is a Licensed Psychologist and Licensed School Psychologist. He co-founded PC&A in 1979 and grew the small clinical practice into a vendor with the Bureau for Medical Services that is involved with five different programs. He helped develop the initial policy for the ICF/IID group homes and I/DD (Formerly Title XIX) Waiver program as well as assume Administrative Services and Medical Eligibility responsibilities for three additional programs. He served on the WV Board of Examiners in 1981. He has transitioned to a consultative role since selling the practice. He and his wife, Linda Workman have successfully renewed their annual marriage contract 47 times and together they have three children and three grandchildren.

## **Linda Workman, M.A. (Panelist)**

Linda Workman, M.A. is a Licensed Psychologist and Licensed School Psychologist. The beginning of her career was primarily in therapy and assessment as PC&A contracted with several different school systems to provide school psych evaluations and make recommendations. She continued an outpatient therapy practice but after the school contracts dissolved, she became more involved with the BMS programs as a Long-Term Care Clinical Consultant. She has been involved with eligibility decisions and has the notoriety of being the best expert witness in Medicaid fair hearings per the former Assistant AG! She is looking forward to joining Rick in a retirement role at some point.

## **Kristen Blanks, M.A. (Panelist)**

Kristen Blanks, M.A. is a Licensed Psychologist and the Program Manager at PC&A. She brought years of experience in the clinical and ICF fields prior to joining PC&A. She worked in group homes, did Psychological Evaluations for ICF facilities and children/adolescents who were involved in the juvenile justice system as well as completed PAS Level II Evaluations for individuals requesting Nursing Facility placement. You could not tailor a better psychologist for this role. Her primary tasks include first and foremost insuring PC&A meets the Mandatory Requirements of the contract, as well as makes eligibility decisions, participate in meetings to plan, administer and write policy for programs, and oversees the LTC-CCs of PC&A. She has been married to her husband, Vincent, since 2001 and they have a daughter, Simone, age 20 who is a student at WVU and a son, Marcus who is a Junior at Cabell Midland High School.

## **Charley Bowen, M.A. (Panelist)**

Charley Bowen, M.A. is a Licensed Psychologist and Long-Term Care Clinical Consultant at PC&A. He was born to be a therapist and this will always be his first love; however, the role at PC&A has allowed him to delve into other areas of interest and also hopefully prevent burn out! He is certified in EFT/EFFT and Accelerated Resolutions Therapy. During the course of his career, he has supervised license eligible psychologists and Marshall University Psy.D. students as part of their graduate training. He has served on the WV Board of Examiners of Psychologists since 2018 and has chaired the Ethics Committee since 2019. He has assimilated into all areas of the BMS contract at PC&A and makes eligibility decisions as well as serves as expert witness in Medicaid fair hearings. He has been married to his wife Lisa for 34 years and they are the proud parents of two children and three grandchildren.



# Program Description

## **Our Presenter: Marlee Layh, Ph.D.**

Dr. Marlee Layh is a Clinical Health Psychologist located in Charleston, West Virginia. She holds an active license in both West Virginia and Ohio. Dr. Layh specializes in women's health including peripartum concerns, infertility, PCOS, chronic pelvic pain (CPP), and sexual pain and dysfunction. Dr. Layh is the Federal Advocacy Coordinator for the West Virginia Psychological Association (WVPA) and serves as Clinical Adjunct Faculty with Marshall University. She is also the CEO of Layh and Associates, Inc., a multidisciplinary group private practice in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Dr. Layh is an active reviewer for the Journal of Sex Research. Her research interests are in chronic pelvic pain, sexual dysfunction, and women's health.

## **Reproductive Justice: Navigating Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare in Rural Communities**

Marlee Layh, Ph.D.

1.0 CE

### **Abstract:**

Rural communities experience increased barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive services. The lack of institutions such as birthing and abortion centers in rural areas impedes access to gynecological care, reproductive care, family planning, perinatal care, labor and delivery, and postpartum care. These issues are exacerbated by intersectional factors such as gender, race, and sexual orientation, which affect the type, availability, and quality of care received. This dearth of services can affect the mental and emotional well-being of individuals and families, and can lead to significant and long term mental health outcomes within communities. Psychologists are uniquely positioned to develop and implement programs that can empower individuals to take charge of their sexual and reproductive healthcare and create sustainable systemic change in the area. Presentation will summarize the issues above and discuss the ways in which psychologists can utilize a reproductive framework to improve sexual and reproductive healthcare in rural communities.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Attendees will be able to describe reproductive justice and factors that affect access to reproductive care in rural communities.
- 2) Attendees will be able to define perinatal mood disorders and discuss risk factors for these disorders.
- 3) Attendees will be able to develop strategies that empower individuals' reproductive decision making and access to care.

# Program Description

## Professional Development: Advancement in Psychology Career Options and Specialization in Rural and Underserved Communities

Presenters: Jess Luzier, PhD, ABPP, CEDS-S  
Emily Selby-Nelson, Psy.D.  
Marianna Linz, PhD

1.0 CE

### **Abstract:**

In this panel presentation, three psychologists will describe their journeys to increase access to behavioral health care for people in rural and underserved areas, albeit via three divergent career development paths. Panelists will guide discussion around a multitude of domains relevant to professional advancement, including career choices throughout many life stages, considerations based on sociodemographic factors, intersectionality, issues of culture, and preparation techniques for psychologists in training. Panelists will also discuss the myriad roles psychologists may fill in rural and underserved settings, and critical skills to develop.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Describe one way psychologists can work to deconstruct barriers for people in rural and underserved communities to improve access to care.
- 2) List two potential members of a patient's community or treatment team with whom psychologists may consult to improve behavioral healthcare delivery.
- 3) List two ways that academic psychology careers may be leveraged to improve access to behavioral health needs in rural and underserved communities.
- 4) Consider the nuances and importance of technology competency for psychologists working in underserved regions.

# Panel Discussion Speakers

## **Jess Luzier, Ph.D., ABPP, CEDS-S**

Jess Luzier, Ph.D., ABPP, CEDS-S is a board-certified Clinical Psychologist who specializes in treating children, adolescents, people with eating and feeding disorders, and self-injury behavior. Dr. Luzier is a Certified Eating Disorder Specialist through the International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals, a Fellow of the APA, and a winner of the APA Karl Heiser award for Advocacy. She is a Full Professor in the WVU-School of Medicine, Charleston Division. She is actively engaged as a faculty member with the APA accredited predoctoral internship at Charleston Area Medical Center, and she is the Program Director for a new Child Track for the internship starting in July 2024. Dr. Luzier serves as Clinical Director and co-founder of the WVU Disordered Eating Center of Charleston. She conducts meaningful clinical research which has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals and at national/international professional conferences. She leads the WV Eating Disorder Network and has been an advocate for psychology and psychological services at the State and Federal Level.

## **Emily Selby-Nelson, Psy.D.**

Dr. Selby-Nelson is a licensed Clinical Psychologist who serves rural and underserved communities in southern central West Virginia. She is the Director of Behavioral Health at Cabin Creek Health Systems, an FQHC that strives to provide comprehensive care to rural residents by addressing barriers to care. In her role, Dr. Selby-Nelson provides direct clinical services to rural patients in integrated primary care at one of Cabin Creek Health System's community health centers. She also serves as clinical assistant faculty at WVU-SOM-Charleston, Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry and Marshall University Department of Psychology where she trains students and interns to provide culturally competent care to rural and underserved communities. As chair of the APA Division 31 Rural Health Section, she advocates for rural state issues. Dr. Selby-Nelson's scholarly, advocacy, and leadership work support her mission of advancing the field's awareness of the issues facing individuals in rural and underserved areas and individuals experiencing poverty. She has been awarded an APA presidential citation as a Citizen Psychologist in 2018 and the 2021 APA Excellence in Rural Psychology Award for her commitment to rural practice, scholarship, advocacy, leadership and training.

## **Marianna Linz, Ph.D.**

Dr. Marianna Linz is the Psychology Department Chair, professor, and clinical supervisor at Marshall University. She obtained her Ph.D. from University of North Carolina with her major in developmental psychology and a minor in general psychology. She is a mental health consultant for the Cabell and Wayne County Head Start program. She serves on the Marshall University Substance Abuse Coalition and the Health Connections Coalition. Dr. Linz received the Cynthia D. Belar Education Advocacy Distinguished Service Award from the American Psychological Association Board of Educational Affairs "in recognition of her leadership in advocating for increased federal investments in the Graduate Psychology Education program of the Health Resources and Services administration, and her commitment to mentoring and instilling in her students and colleagues the shared responsibility of advocating for the psychology profession (Herald Dispatch, 2018)."

October 21, 2023

**Sign-In:**

7:30 AM - 8:00AM

**Take a Deep Breath: Avoiding  
Licensure Complaints and Dealing  
with the Unavoidable  
(CE -1.0 hr)**

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**Advocating for Psychology:  
Communicating Perspectives in  
Tough Policy Environments  
(CE—1.0 hr)**

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

**Alternative Relationship Practices  
(CE—1.0 hr)**

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

**WVPA Business Meeting/Poster  
Session Awards/Lunch**

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Consultation Liaison in a  
Nutshell—Capacity, Drive-By  
Consultation, and All Other Magical  
Skills**

**(CE-1.00 hr)**

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

**Panel on Community Integration:  
Collaborative Services to Create “No  
Wrong Door” to Care and Address  
Social Determinants of Health  
(CE-1.00 hr)**

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

**Autism Spectrum Disorder—It’s  
Not What TikTok Tells You  
(CE-1.00 hr)**

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Barriers to Pain Care in West  
Virginia: How Psychologists Can  
Help  
(CE-1.0 hr)**

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

**Closing Remarks and  
Adjournment**

5:15 PM - 5:30 PM



# Welcome to the West Virginia Psychological Association Fall Conference Day 2!



# Program Description

## **Our Presenter: Megan Green, Psy.D.**

Dr. Megan Green is a graduate of Marshall University's Psy.D. program. She has been licensed in Kentucky since 2010 and in West Virginia since 2017. She has been employed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs since 2007, and has had a private forensic practice in Kentucky since 2010. She has been employed by Hudson Forensic Psychology since 2017.

## **Take a Deep Breath: Avoiding Licensure Complaints and Dealing with the Unavoidable**

Megan Green, Psy.D.

1.0 CE—Ethic Focused

### **Abstract:**

All psychologists should seek to proactively avoid licensure complaints, but sometimes despite our every effort to that end, complaints do occur. Each state board has a different procedure for addressing complaints, and there are best practices for responding to them, regardless of jurisdiction. This presentation will address procedures specific to West Virginia licensees, retaining counsel for licensure defense, and general risk management issues in clinical and forensic practice.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Attendees will be able to identify the most common complaints made against psychologists.
- 2) Attendees will be able to discuss complaint procedures in West Virginia.
- 3) Attendees will be able to identify best practices in responding to complaints and utilizing legal services.

# Program Description

## Our Presenters:

### Alexandra “Alix” Ginsberg, MPH

Alexandra "Alix" Ginsberg is a Senior Director of Congressional & Federal Relations and Special Projects for the American Psychological Association (APA). For the last decade, Ginsberg has advanced key psychology workforce priorities on Capitol Hill, including increased federal support for psychology education and training and access to high-quality mental and behavioral health services for at-risk populations. Ginsberg provides strategic support for APA's grassroots operations, as well as the Psychology PAC, and was named one of the Hill's Top Lobbyists in 2021 and 2022. Ginsberg holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Syracuse University, and Master's in Public Health from the George Washington University.

### Karen Studwell, J.D.

Karen Studwell, JD is the Deputy Chief Advocacy Officer for Strategy and Operations at the American Psychological Association. She designs and leads designated advocacy campaigns to increase the impact of APA's advocacy to advance the discipline and practice of psychology and increase the application of psychological science across both the public and private sector. She leads APA's advocacy efforts to expand federal funding for graduate psychology education and training programs and inform elementary, secondary, and higher education policy. Karen previously worked in the APA Science Directorate Government Relations Office advocating for psychological research funding at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Mental Health and the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. Karen received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Ohio University and her law degree from Seattle University.

## Advocating for Psychology: Communicating Perspectives in Tough Policy Environments

Alexandra “Alix” Ginsberg, MPH

Karen Studwell, J.D.

1.0 CE

### Abstract:

We will explain the range of actions that comprise advocacy and share best practices in making compelling cases to policymakers, as this is an important part of shaping the policy environment in a way that strengthens the field of psychology. To help illustrate these best practices, we will provide examples surrounding gender affirming care advocacy. The advocacy practices we will discuss are drawn from decades of experience advocating for psychology within the Advocacy Office, as well as recommendations from standard-setters in the field, such as the Public Affairs Council or published communications experts such as Daniel H. Pink.

### Learning objective:

- 1) Describe approaches to communicating an effective array of clinical experiences with policymakers through relationship-building.

# Program Description

## Our Presenter:

### Brandi Weatherington, Psy.D.

Dr. Brandi Weatherington is a supervised Clinical Psychologist at Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center, working in the Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program. Dr. Weatherington is in the process of obtaining her licensure after graduating with her PsyD from Nova Southeastern University in August 2023. Dr. Weatherington has a Master’s degree in Forensic Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and a Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Weatherington obtained a dual Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice and Behavioral Science from Trevecca Nazarene University. Previously, Dr. Weatherington has completed training through Community Mental Health, the West Palm Beach VAMC, and the Miami Federal Detention Center. Her areas of interest include LGBTQ+ communities, diversity, and trauma including complex trauma, historical trauma, and minority stress.

## Alternative Relationship Practices

Brandi Weatherington, Psy.D.

1.0 CE

### Abstract:

Individuals engaging in alternative relationship practices, such as consensual non-monogamy and BDSM, have been historically understudied and over-pathologized in clinical settings. With the growing number of U.S. adults participating in these relationship practices, it is imperative for clinicians to increase their knowledge and skills with these populations in order to provide competent care to patients in these communities. This presentation will focus on increasing baseline knowledge and understanding of consensual non-monogamy and BDSM practices. Common misconceptions, stigma, and risks within these communities will be explored, including how to identify abuse. Clinical considerations will be discussed to build competence and reduce provider bias when working with patients engaging in alternative relationship practices.

### Learning Objectives:

- 1) Attendees will be able to define Consensual Non-Monogamy and BDSM and recognize subtypes of each.
- 2) Attendees will be able to identify common misconceptions and evaluate their own biases in relation to alternative relationship practices.
- 3) Attendees will be able to recognize risks and signs of abuse in alternative relationship practices.
- 4) Clinicians will be able to integrate information into their clinical practice when working with patients belonging to consensually non-monogamous and BDSM communities.

# Program Description

## Our Presenters:

### Rachael Hatfield, Psy.D.

Dr. Rachael Hatfield is employed by Huntington VA Medical Center. She transitioned to her current position as a Consultation & Liaison Psychologist in August 2015. Her primary responsibilities at the medical center include consultation services for the emergency department and internal medicine/ICU, liaison to various multidisciplinary staff/clinics, teaching de-escalation techniques and crisis intervention skills with patients exhibiting mental disturbances, and facilitating transfers to psychiatric units and mental hygiene commitments. She is an active member of the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, which has included presenting at the November 2018 annual conference and publishing in their journal in August 2022.

Since 2013, she has also worked with various state, county, and city law enforcement agencies to provide consultation and in-service training in mental disturbance identification, de-escalation of crisis situations, and police officer self-care.

### Mikayla Larzo, Psy.D.

Dr. Mikayla Larzo is a licensed clinical psychologist working at the Hershel Woody Williams VA Medical Center in Huntington, WV. At the VA, Dr. Larzo is a member of the Consultation & Liaison Clinic, also known as the Gateway Clinic, providing inpatient services to veterans admitted to the emergency department, internal medicine, intensive-care, and surgical medical units, outpatient services to veterans newly establishing with mental health services, and psychological assessment services. Additionally, Dr. Larzo serves as the Suicide Prevention Emergency Department Coordinator ensuring that veterans who presented to the emergency department with positive suicide screens or who are identified as intermediate or acute risk for suicide receive appropriate mental health contact during their encounter. Dr. Larzo is involved in program development, training of psychology students, and community outreach/advocacy efforts in rural West Virginia. Dr. Larzo is an early career psychologist, just completing her first year working as a Staff Psychologist at the Huntington VA Medical Center. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC where she received extensive training in providing consultation and liaison services in a complex medical setting. Dr. Larzo's clinical, research and professional interests include: motivational interviewing, clinical triage, mental health consultation, risk assessment, healthcare decision making capacity evaluations, managing mental health symptoms in a medical setting, treatment of substance use disorders, working on interdisciplinary teams, supervision of psychology students, and stigma and barriers to treatment in rural Appalachia. Dr. Larzo served as the West Virginia Psychological Association Student Representative for two years during her doctoral training at Marshall University.

## Consultation Liaison in a Nutshell—Capacity, Drive-By Consultation, and All Other Magical Skills

Rachael Hatfield, Psy.D.

Mikayla Larzo, Psy.D.

1.0 CE—Veteran Focused

### Abstract:

This event will be a hybrid of information presented via PowerPoint as well as a guided discussion among presenters and attendees. Presenters will provide a brief introduction to Consultation & Liaison clinics and psychology's history and current roles within these teams. There will be a breakdown of the consultant versus the liaison role as well as the short- and long-term benefits to patient care. An additional highlight will be a review of the definitions of decision-making capacity and guidelines and procedures for assessing capacity as a C&L provider. There will be Q&A throughout the presentation; attendees will receive guidance on additional resources and training in the C&L field.

### Learning Objectives:

- 1) Attendees will be able to identify the various roles of a Consultation & Liaison provider as well as the benefits to patient-centered care
- 2) Attendees will be able to recite the definitions of capacity, guidelines for assessing capacity, and limitations to these evaluations
- 3) Attendees will identify available resources and education opportunities for developing consultation and liaison skills



# Program Description

## Panel on Community Integration: Collaborative services to create “no wrong door” to care and address social determinants of health.

Panelists: Kerri Cooper (United Way of Central West Virginia)  
Jake Van Horn, Psy.D. (Cabin Creek Health Systems)  
Traci Strickland (Kanawha Valley Collective)

1.0 CE

### **Abstract:**

The provider space is full of discussion related to social determinants of health to the point that the term is equally everything and nothing. Providing services in underserved areas to underserved populations is hard. It's harder when you go it alone. Providers are left with a limited set of options; refer to an outside provider which do not always exist; develop the capacity to address the need themselves which is burdensome and overwhelming; or expand the “No Wrong Door” approach in integrated care to the community and collaborate with social agencies that are already experts respectively. This panel will examine the specific programs of the United Way of Central WV, the Kanawha Valley Collective, Cabin Creek Health Systems, and the Integrated Community they utilize to address patient needs.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Attendees will be able to define “No Wrong Door” approach in integrated care.
- 2) Attendees will be able to identify specific programs and social agencies in West Virginia to utilize in order to address patient needs.

# Panel Discussion Speakers

## **Kerri Cooper**

Kerri Cooper has been at United Way Central West Virginia for the last eleven years and has been the Community Impact Director for the last seven. Prior to her current role, Kerri worked with the United Way as the Central WV's RSVP Program Director, and the LifeBridge AmeriCorps Program Assistant. She began at the United Way of Central WV as a LifeBridge AmeriCorps alum, having served 3 terms in Lincoln County at Duval PK-8 in the Education Corps for LifeBridge AmeriCorps; served one term with United Way Central WV AmeriCorps \*VISTA at Duval PK-8 as well; after having been an AmeriCorps \*VISTA serving LifeBridge AmeriCorps Vet Corps program.

Of Kerri's many roles and accomplishments as the Community Impact Director, her favorite is being "Kerri, The Shoe Fairy" with the Equal Footing Shoe Fund that serves Boone, Braxton, Clay, Kanawha, Logan, and Putnam County children.

Kerri is married to her high school sweetheart of 27 years, Tommy and reside in Alum Creek, WV. Kerri and Tommy have three children, Jordan, Gavin and Gillian. Kerri and Tommy have three dogs.

## **Jake Van Horn, Psy.D.**

Jake VanHorn, Psy.D. is a native West Virginian and a clinical psychologist, receiving his Psy.D. from Marshall University in 2017. He completed his Internship at the Appalachian Psychology Internship: Woodland Centers Inc., Gallipolis OH, and a post-doctoral fellowship with Cabin Creek Health Systems (CCHS), in Kanawha County, WV focusing on Integrated Primary Care (IPC) in underserved communities. While working with CCHS Jake has worked on numerous projects including expansions of services and access points, COVID-19 pandemic response, and the development of other programs in response to community needs. These unique projects lead Jake to develop Community Impact for CCHS, a department which identifies service gaps for marginalized populations and create programming to address their needs in the community.

## **Traci Strickland**

Traci Strickland has more than 20 years of experience in advocacy and leadership for at risk populations. Traci began her focus on ending homelessness working for an emergency shelter and then moved to a leadership position with a community mental health center. In 2020, after six years of contractual leadership, she became the Executive Director of the Kanawha Valley Collective. In just four years, she has octupled the budget of the KVC by securing funding and providing direction for new programs, targeting those who are most vulnerable. In 2023, her career came full circle when the Kanawha Valley Collective took over leadership of the emergency shelter where she got her start. In addition to the day to day oversight of the KVC, Traci's current focus is on systems improvement to create a structure that will end homelessness.

# Program Description

## **Our Presenter: Jocelyn Brown, Psy.D.**

Jocelyn Brown, Psy.D. is a licensed psychologist at the CAMC Family Resource Center. She obtained her doctorate in clinical psychology from Marshall University in 2012. She completed her internship at Devereux – Kanner Center/Children’s Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services in West Chester, Pennsylvania and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the Tulsa Center for Child Psychology in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Brown’s clinical interests include pediatric psychology, autism spectrum disorder, mood disorders, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and general child assessment. Dr. Brown has served as the Executive Director of the West Virginia Psychological Association (WVPA) since 2018.

## **Autism Spectrum Disorder: It’s Not What TikTok Tells You**

Jocelyn Brown, Psy.D.  
1.0 CE

### **Abstract:**

Over the past several years, representations and descriptions of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have increased in pop culture. From television shows to movies to social media, a large amount of information is shared...but is it accurate? During this presentation, participants will explore current trends in pop culture relating to autism spectrum disorder and how this compares to diagnostic criteria for ASD and more common presentations. Additionally, the presentation will discuss ways to address misconceptions about ASD in the clinical setting.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Identify current trends and popular beliefs that impact perceptions of autism spectrum disorder
- 2) Demonstrate ways to communicate with patients/families about misconceptions relating to ASD to promote more accurate understanding and awareness.

# Program Description

## Our Presenter:

### Brittany Canady, Ph.D, ABPP

Brittany Canady, PhD, ABPP is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Marshall University and is a licensed psychologist in West Virginia. Dr. Canady received her doctorate at the University of Houston in 2008. She is board certified in Clinical Health Psychology, and has worked extensively with individuals with chronic pain among other health conditions.

## Barriers to Pain Care in West Virginia: How Psychologists Can Help

Brittany Canady, Ph.D., ABPP

1.0 CE

### Abstract:

Chronic pain is a substantial problem worldwide, and evidence suggests that it may be particularly problematic in West Virginia due to risk factors for pain conditions including an aging population as well as participation in job duties that carry the risk of injury. Chronic pain is associated with decreased quality of life as well as higher rates of anxiety and depression. Further, behavioral health treatments for chronic pain are considered an essential aspect of pain treatment. Despite these clear needs, many patients with chronic pain do not receive behavioral healthcare. This presentation will discuss the barriers to patients in West Virginia receiving appropriate behavioral health treatment for chronic pain, as well as identify steps psychologists can take to improve access to care for those with pain conditions.

### Learning Objectives:

- 1) Participants will be able to describe the prevalence of chronic pain, including rates of chronic pain in West Virginia.
- 2) Participants will be able to identify behavioral health treatments for pain conditions.
- 3) Participants will be able to discuss individual and systemic barriers that patients experience regarding receiving behavioral health treatment for pain conditions.
- 4) Participants will assess their own readiness to offer treatment to individuals with pain conditions and begin to develop ideas of how to increase their readiness to deliver such treatment in a way that reduces patient barriers to care.

## VENUE INFORMATION



### West Virginia Training and Conference Center

431 Running Right Way  
Julian, West Virginia 25529

(304) 369-7823

[westvirginiacenter.com](http://westvirginiacenter.com)

**Directions:** When you see the Alpha Metallurgical Resources headquarters, take a left down the hill after passing the fountain on your right. Parking is free (225 vehicle spots) in front of the building. The large conference rooms are located at the end of the hallway in Building 1.

## HOTEL INFORMATION



### Hampton Inn Charleston-Southridge

1 Preferred Place  
Charleston, West Virginia 25309

(304) 746-4646

**Booking Link:** [WV Psychological Association Booking Link](#)

Reservations can be made via the booking link or by calling Hampton directly at 304-746-4646 and selecting option #1.

The hotel is willing to provide the group rate on shoulder nights (October 19<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup>), however you will have to call directly for reservations.

Please make your reservations by 11:59 PM on October 5, as the group block will close at midnight on October 6 and the group rate will not be available after that time.

## Please take note...

### Americans with Disabilities Act

The West Virginia Psychological Association is committed to providing access and support to persons with special needs who wish to participate in programs we sponsor. We will reasonably accommodate your request when it is made in advance. Persons with special needs are encouraged to contact the WVPA office at 304.345.5805

### Considerations

- ◇ All attendees must be registered prior to the day of the event.
- ◇ No new registrations will be available the day of the CE event.
- ◇ The presentations begin promptly at the assigned times throughout the day.

### Live Attendance Option

This conference will include an option for live attendance. All live attendees will be asked to comply with venue precautionary health standards including masking and physical distancing in accordance with the West Virginia Training and Conference Center guidance. Catered lunch will be included. In the event that venue precautions change to prohibit live meetings at the time of the conference, all live registrations will be changed to a virtual-only format. Registration fees will be adjusted accordingly.

### Virtual Format Option

This conference will also include an option to attend virtually via Zoom Meetings. A link will be provided by email to all those who register for the online option, which you can use to access all conference events at the specified times. To ensure that you can access the conference, please be sure that your devices and software are compatible with Zoom Meetings.

## CE Credits for Psychologists

APA Standards for awarding credit prohibit offering variable credit for partial workshop attendance. **Those arriving late or leaving a workshop early will not receive CE credit.** Please allow time to sign-in for CE before class is scheduled to begin.



*The West Virginia Psychological Association (WVPA) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. WVPA maintains responsibility for this program and its contents*

## Registration

**You may register online at:**

**<https://wvpsychology.org/fall-2023-conference/>**

## Cancellation Policy

We are not able to issue refunds nor exchanges to another training date or location.

## Grievance Procedures

The West Virginia Psychological Association (WVPA) is fully committed to conducting all activities in strict conformance with the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists.

When a participant, either orally or in written format, files a grievance and expects action on the complaint, the following actions will be taken.

1. If the grievance concerns a speaker, the content presented by the speaker, or the style of presentation, the individual filing the grievance will be asked to put his/her comments in written format. The CE Chair will then pass on the comments to the speaker, assuring the confidentiality of the grieved individual.
2. If the grievance concerns a workshop offering, its content, level of presentation, or the facilities in which the workshop was offered, the convention chair will mediate and will be the final arbitrator. If the participant requests action, the convention chair will:
  - a. attempt to move the participant to another workshop or
  - b. provide a credit for a subsequent year's workshop or
  - c. provide a partial or full refund of the workshop fee.

Actions 2b and 2c will require a written note, documenting the grievance, for record keeping purposes. The note need not be signed by the grieved individual. 3. If the grievance concerns a WVPA CE program, in a specific regard, the CE Chair will attempt to arbitrate.

Please contact WVPA Executive Director Jocelyn Brown, Psy.D. at [info@wvpsychology.org](mailto:info@wvpsychology.org) to submit a complaint, or if you have additional questions.

## Benefits of WVPA Membership

As a member of WVPA, you enjoy a wide range of benefits:

- ◇ You will stay current and competitive by attending our cutting-edge education conferences in the spring and fall with member discounts.
- ◇ In some cases, the member conference discount more than pays for your annual dues!
- ◇ You can grow your practice and improve your cash flow through our web-based referral and credit card acceptance programs.
- ◇ You can rest easy knowing your profession and your patients are protected through our federal and state legislative advocacy efforts.
- ◇ You can take advantage of outstanding opportunities for career and personal growth through our work with students and early career psychologists, association committee service, and leadership opportunities.
- ◇ You can make connections with colleagues through our listservs, membership directory and conferences.
- ◇ Finally, you have access to quality and timely information through our public outreach programs, our award-winning newsletter and our web site at [www.wvpsychology.org](http://www.wvpsychology.org).

**Visit our website and  
click the "join" tab!**

## WVPA Fall Conference Registration Form (If Registering By Mail)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Suffix/Professional Designation/Specialty (PsyD, PhD, LICSW, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Work/Practice Location(s) Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code (9 digit as possible) \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### CE Information:

What CE are you applying for?

American Psychological Association \_\_\_\_\_

None of the Above \_\_\_\_\_

**Live Conference Registration:**    \_\_\_\_\_ \$275 Non-WVPA Member Conference Rate (Two Days)  
  \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 WVPA Member Discounted Rate (Two Day)  
  \_\_\_\_\_ \$170 Non-WVPA Member Conference Rate (One Day)  
  \_\_\_\_\_ \$130 WVPA Member Discounted Rate (One Day)  
  \_\_\_\_\_ FREE Student Rate

\*\*Dietary Restrictions for Conference Meals:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Virtual Conference Registration:**    \_\_\_\_\_ \$145 Non-WVPA Member Conference Rate (Two Days)  
  \_\_\_\_\_ \$105 WVPA Member Discounted Rate (Two Day)  
  \_\_\_\_\_ \$85 Non-WVPA Member Conference Rate (One Day)  
  \_\_\_\_\_ \$65 WVPA Member Discounted Rate (One Day)  
  \_\_\_\_\_ FREE Student Rate

**Vendor/Exhibitor Table Registration:**    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 One Day (Half-Day)  
  \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 One Day (All-Day) or Half-Day on both Days  
  \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Two Days (All-Day on both)

**Make checks payable to:**

**WVPA**

**PO Box 11599 Charleston, WV 25339**