

WVPA NEWSLETTER 2026

WVPSYCHOLOGY.ORG
INFO@WVPSYCHOLOGY.ORG



West Virginia Psychological Association



Our Mission

- Advance the science and practice of psychology.
- Promote psychological well-being for all West Virginians.
- Improve access to quality care for all West Virginians.
- Provide professional development and networking for members.
- Educate the public about psychology
- Collaborate with other psychological associations

In this Newsletter

- 1) Meet your 2026 Board & Committee Members
- 2) Presidential Corner
- 3) Updates from APA
- 4) WV Legislative Advocacy
- 5) WVPA Surveys



[Renew your Dues Today](#)

MEET OUR OUTSTANDING EXECUTIVE TEAM



Ms. Nikki Feldhaus

Executive Director

Nikki works and supports a psychologist team at CAMC Behavioral Medicine. She partners with them for daily operations and patient care as the Ambulatory Manager over the department. She has served WVPA for 1 year and looks forward to continuing to expand that support in our community. In her downtime, Nikki enjoys spending summers with her husband & watching her daughter play travel softball. She also loves all things Italian. For more information, please reach her by email at nichole.feldhaus@gmail.com



Mr. Ashton Gambill

Administrative Consultant

Ashton has served as the Administrative Consultant for WVPA for 1 year. He works as the Ambulatory Department Coordinator at a Behavioral Medicine Outpatient Clinic. Ashton has worked with mental health professionals in the healthcare field for over 6 years. He works closely with Psychology Faculty on a daily basis, and collaborates with both his departmental staff and other areas. He is always happy to assist in any way he can! Outside of work, Ashton enjoys camping, traveling with his partner and their dog, entertaining friends and family, and exploring technology—whether it's helping others learn about their tech or troubleshooting issues. Feel free to reach out via email at- ashton.gambill@outlook.com

MEET OUR 2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Christianne Connelly, PhD *2026 President*

Dr. Connelly grew up in WV and has a heart for Appalachian communities. Dr. Connelly has served as the Diversity-at-Large chair for the past 2 years. She is excited to serve as your 2026 President with goals to continue to strengthen WVPA's member engagement and advocacy efforts in the Mountain State. See below for more! When she's not working, Dr. Connelly loves snuggling with her pup, traveling, socializing with friends, and doing yoga! For questions, suggestions, or needs for change, please contact her at ChristianneConnelly@gmail.com.



Chantel Weisenmuller, PhD *2025 Past President*

Dr. Weisenmuller served as the 2025 President of WVPA. We continue to be honored by her presence on the WVPA Board to continue pushing WVPA forward. Dr. Weisenmuller previously represented WVPA for the APA Council of Representatives for 6 years. She is proud of the work WVPA does to support psychologists throughout the state and the communities they serve through advocacy, outreach, and professional development. In her downtime, Chantel enjoys painting, fiber arts, and NY Rangers hockey. You are welcome to reach her at cweisenmullerphd@gmail.com.



MEET OUR 2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Jillian Keener, PsyD

Secretary

Dr. Keener has served as the secretary of WVPA for the last year. She is a WV native, and is pleased to provide advocacy, outreach, mentorship, and advancement of psychologists in our state. She has a clowder of cats though more importantly, a ginger cat named Oscar who will be an honorary member as he stomps through meetings making sure his demands are met. She loves figure skating but is not a figure skater herself. Please nerd out on this topic with her if you enjoy it!



Christina Lawrence, PsyD

Treasurer

Dr. Lawrence is honored to be serving her third year as the Treasurer for WVPA. She began her involvement with WVPA as a graduate student and was part of the first cohort of the WVPA Emerging Leadership Program. After this, she assisted with the WVPA membership committee prior to transitioning to her role as treasurer. She has appreciated WVPA's influence throughout her graduate program and early career to keep her connected to other psychologists and learning opportunities through conferences. Much of the treasurer's work occurs behind the scenes (please ignore the woman behind the curtain), but she is happy to discuss if anyone has questions! You can reach Dr. Lawrence at christinalawrence@uhswv.com. When not wearing her professional hats, you can find her hanging out with her dog, Moose, or chasing her 18-month old around her house.



Liam Condon, PhD, ABPP

Early Career Representative-at-Large

Dr. Condon has served as the Early Career Rep for WVPA for the last year. He is passionate about supporting and shaping the profession of Psychology in the state given rapid technological and policy changes, particularly that impact early career psychologists (ECP). Dr. Condon hopes to support efforts for professional development including but not limited to networking and collaboration opportunities for ECPs in WV. He looks forward to hearing from members and other ECPs about how to support your interests. He encourages you to contact him for further discussion at: dr.liam.condon@gmail.com

MEET OUR 2026 COMMITTEE BOARD



Jessica Bradley, PsyD

Communications Chair for Governmental Affairs

Dr. Bradley is grateful to serve as the Communications Chair for WVPA, a role she has held since 2022. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University, where she loves watching graduate students grow in their skills and confidence. Growing up in rural West Virginia, Dr. Bradley understood how easily professional isolation can occur, and her goal is to use this role to help psychologists across the state connect, share resources, and pursue new opportunities. Outside of work, Dr. Bradley loves to travel and she is always planning the next adventure. You are welcome to reach her at elliott70@marshall.edu.

Not Pictured:

Brittany Canady, PhD

APA Council Representative

John Prentice, PsyD

Diversity-at-Large Representative

Emily Selby-Nelson, PsyD

Rural Practice Affairs Chair

Molly Wagner

Student Representative



West Virginia Psychological Association



Vacancies include:

For Membership, this Committee focuses on recruitment and retention:

- Membership
- Colleges/Universities
- Public Sector Management

For Government Affairs, this committee focuses on matters related to government policies and practices affecting psychologists and disseminating that information to association members:

- Federal Government Affairs
- State Government Affairs
- Business of Practice Committee

For State Assistance, this committee focuses on matters related to providing assistance to members or to the public:

- Colleague Assistance
- Disaster Response
- Substance Use Taskforce

Committee Chair Openings:

Curious about ways you can become more involved in WVPA? We have several openings for Committee Chairs!

To join, please email info@psychology.org for more information.



Being apart of a committee not only enables WVPA to build connection with psychologists in the state, but it allows us to broaden our expertise and ways to support our communities in practice, research, and innovation.

PRESIDENTIAL CORNER

By: Christianne Connelly, PhD

WHAT'S AHEAD

Welcome to a new year with WVPA!

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to make positive shifts within our organization. Here are my primary goals for the year:

- 1) Strengthen our sense of community & belonging to one another and other local organizations
- 2) Advocate for our underrepresented populations across the state
- 3) Address practice challenges within Medicaid



CONTACT

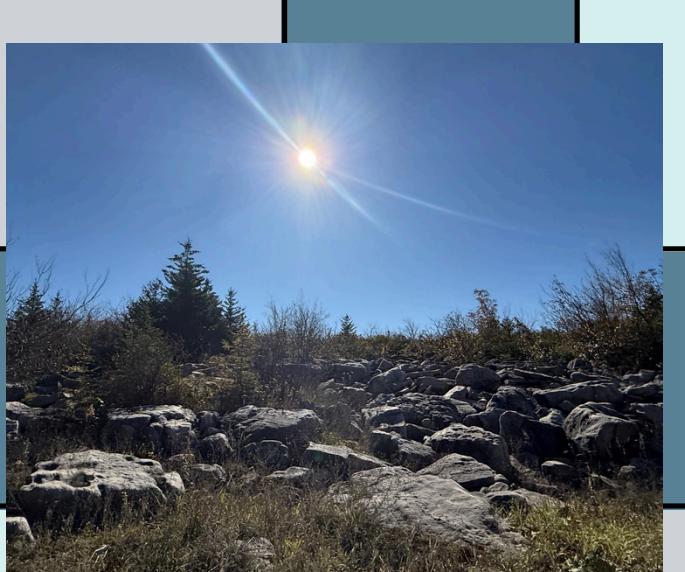
Please feel free to reach out any time for questions, concerns, or ways we can support psychology in WV.

info@WVPsychology.org

SURVEYS:

- 1) To strategize for improvements within WV Medicaid, I am conducting a single-question survey to learn about your concerns. To complete it, click [here!](#)
- 2) To help us understand better your needs in WVPA, please complete our Needs Assessment Survey [here!](#)

APA UPDATE



CONTACT

For any additional questions or concerns, please inquire at
info@WVPsychology.org

WHAT'S AHEAD

Brittany Canady will be attending the APA Council Meeting February 20-21, 2026

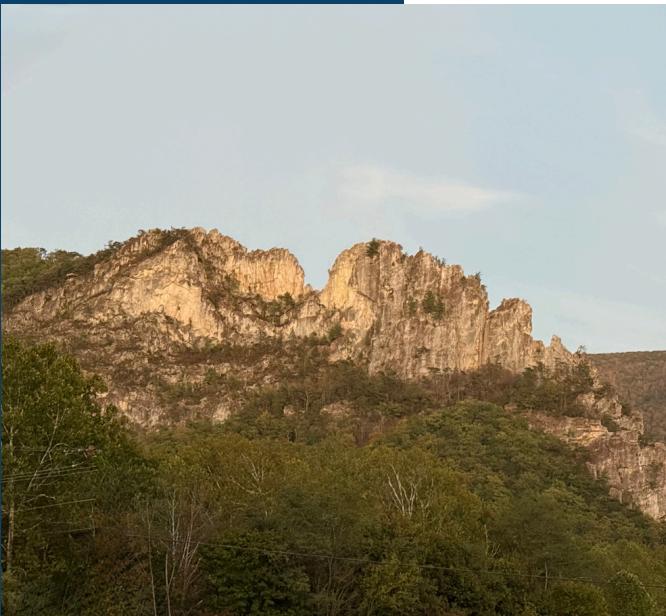
The Committee on Rural Health has proposed a Rural Health Resolution in APA that could be valuable for our communities in WV!

Thank you to those who may have taken the Rural Healthcare Landscape Survey in 2025. Results can be found [here!](#)

To get involved in APA Advocacy, click [here!](#)

APA MISSION

- Improve mental, behavioral, and physical health by promoting clinical practices based on the best available evidence.
- Identify interventions that are effective and can be implemented in the community.
- Develop clinical practice guidelines that are scientifically sound, clinically useful, and informative for psychologists, other health care professionals, training programs, policy makers, and the public.



Ways to Advocate

Are you passionate about giving a voice to vulnerable people in West Virginia? We can use your help! Join us by becoming a committee member or let us know your interests and we would be glad to have your help & expertise!

There are multiple bills we are watching, so please look out for emails from Voter voice and comment on bills before they reach the voting floor.

To leave a comment for bills, go to <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/index.cfm>

Click Bill Status, then Bill Status from the dropdown

Enter the bill number

Click to add a comment

Note: Do not use profanity, make threats, or share identifiable information

If you are having any difficulties being reimbursed for services for 2025 SB 128, please let us know at info@WVpsychology.org

WV Legislative Session

January 14-March 14

Important dates:

2/6 -Join us at a table for Recovery Advocacy Day!

2/11-WV Healthcare Providers Legislative Reception 5:30-7:30pm

2/16- Rural Health Day at the Capitol

Legislative Watch:

SB 629- Prohibits gender affirming psychotherapy For anyone under the age of 21

HB4169- Creates a path for psychologists to allow individuals who lost rights to firearms own them again

HB4063: Uses tax payer money to help families exit public schools

HB4037: Consolidates county schoolboards to large districts without evidence to improve communities

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Funded by the West Virginia First Foundation, this scholarship initiative supports the next generation of behavioral health professionals serving communities throughout **Region 5** of West Virginia (Boone, Cabell, Clay, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne). Building on the success of the *School-Based Mental Health Scholars Program*, it expands beyond K-12 settings to now include Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment centers and community behavioral health agencies.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Available for graduate students pursuing degrees or certifications in:

- Mental Health Counseling
- School Counseling
- Violence, Loss & Trauma Counseling
- Social Work / School Social Work
- Clinical Psychology
- School Psychology

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- \$133,000 total funding
- 20 students selected
- Awards based on individual need - funding amounts will vary.

Funding may cover:

• Tuition	• Conference fees
• Textbooks	• Technology & software
• Mileage & lodging	

ELIGIBILITY & PLACEMENT

- Priority for students completing a practicum, internship, or field placement during the grant period
- Placements may be in:
 - School mental health settings
 - SUD treatment centers
 - Community behavioral health agencies
- Students will indicate preferred counties/agencies or list an existing placement within Region 5

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Participants must:

- Be enrolled in an eligible graduate program
- Obtain a placement in a Region 5 county
- Attend 6 trainings (virtual or in-person)
- Meet with the Project Director twice per semester
- Complete required evaluation forms
- Participate within the grant period (ends Dec. 31, 2026)

Application Deadline: March 6, 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/4tsua7p9>

**SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
AND APPLY**



CONTACT LUCIA MEYER FOR MORE INFO:

 Lucia Meyer, MBA, MSW
Project Director
meyerlu@marshall.edu



**West Virginia
First Foundation**



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
FOR RECOVERY**



KEEP AN EYE
OUT FOR OUR
UPCOMING
CONFERENCE
SCHEDULE & CE
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