Advocacy Coordinating Committee
FEBRUARY 10, 2021

Committee Members Present: Kathleen Brown, PhD (chair); Sharon Berry, PhD (chair-elect); Eugene Borgida, PhD; Amanda Dettmer, PhD; Robert Frank, PhD; April Harris-Britt, PhD; Chuck Hollister, PhD; Steven Kozlowski, PhD; Debra Major, PhD; Karen Postal, PhD; Nadika Paranamana, MA; William Stoops, PhD

Committee Members Absent: Ayli Carrero Pinedo, MA

Board of Directors Liaison Present: Sandra Shullman, PhD (Past-President)

APA Staff Present: Andrew Ferreira (Staff Liaison); Katherine McGuire, MS; (Chief Advocacy Officer), Karen Studwell, JD (Deputy Chief Advocacy Officer)

The meeting is called to order at 11:00am Eastern

The Chair’s Report
The Chair reported she along with the CAO participated in an advocacy town hall for the Membership. The Town Hall was well received with over 350 in attendance. Furthermore, the ACC will appoint formal liaisons to boards (BPA, BAPPI, BEA, BSA), and monitors to committees. As aforementioned on Jan. 27, the Chair and Chief Advocacy Officer will be representing ACC at the upcoming Council meeting during the plenary Wed. February 25. Final note, there will be an advocacy update on the next Equity Flattens the Curve check-in (Feb. 25).

The Chief Advocacy Officer’s (CAO) Report
The CAO provided a comprehensive Advocacy Snapshot for the ACC. She informed the ACC of the revised Biden Administration priorities: COVID-19, climate change, economic recovery, racial equity, immigration, healthcare, and global standing. Regarding the proposed $1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief proposal: there is $4 billion earmarked for mental and behavioral health. There have also now been 42 executive orders that either revoked the Trump Administration’s priorities or implementing a regulatory freeze. The Advocacy Office is acting as a “convener” in the legislative branch since our previous bipartisan champions are continuing to
repair relationships as a consequence to Jan. 6, 2021. The 117th Congress is under Democratic control, however, by slim margins in both Houses. In the States, the Advocacy Office is pursuing multipronged strategies so that psychologists can advance APA priorities across party lines. The CAO informed the ACC that APA Advocacy is monitoring congressional committee appointments and looking for areas of policy overlap. Meanwhile, the office will pursue new avenues of engaging the Membership and expanding the Psychology Action Network. In 2021, the Advocacy Office will host four summits and will advance a the “train the trainer” model to strengthen advocacy skills across membership. Current focus of the office is on COVID-19, Racial Equity, Medicare Sequester Moratorium, Climate Change, FY2022 Appropriations, SEL/Equity in access to remote learning, tracking State legislative activity, and webinar series.

Psychology PAC Update and Orientation
CAO reports that the APASI sent a letter to 7,000 active and former PAC donors. The CAO also brought up the APA Advocacy office is reviewing the PAC Advisory Board’s composition while also developing recommendations for future operation of the PAC. ACC can be a partner in educating the Membership on the PAC. The Deputy CAO and Chair-elect provided an in-depth analysis of the PAC’s progress in recent years. The PAC supports all issues important to the discipline and professions of psychology not just practitioner issues. They informed the ACC of the disparity between Psychology PAC measured against other health profession political action committees.

ACC Liaisons for Spring Consolidated
The Chair reported that she will reach out to individual members and ask them to be formal liaisons to BAPPI, BPA, BEA, APAGS, ECAP, CIRP offline. A question was posed by the Chair if there are other groups the ACC should liaise with and the ACC recommended either CESPPA or Division 31.

Upcoming Meeting Dates
The March calendar is abundant with a lot of APA Advocacy activity that the ACC should be made aware of. An email will be disseminated with more information on the upcoming listed events:

ACC Advocacy Goals & Needs Assessment Subcommittee: Feb. 19 @ 11am
ACC Member Engagements Subcommittee: Feb. 26 at 10am
ACC Meeting: Mar. 10 at 11am
Practice Leadership Conference (PLC): Mar. 5-7
PLC Advocacy Summit: Mar. 14-15
Spring Consolidated Meetings: Mar. 19-21
The Committee adjourned until Wed. March 10, 2021

AJF