

# **Serving the Underserved: Preparing Psychologists for Effective Practice in the Public Sector**

Plenary 1: Speaker 1

## **Basic Obligations to the Public: History of the CAPIC/mhsa Grant**

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Thank you Linda.

And I'd like to first thank Linda our wonderful Executive Director for all the work that she's done in putting together the grant and administering it, she's really done a fantastic job, I don't need to say that, I think we all know it but thank you so much for everything you've done.

On behalf of the CAPIC board I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge all of you here that are involved in training and educating our students and the wonderful work you do, your caring and your dedication. Thank you for that.

And I'd like to take the opportunity on part of the board for all those recipients of the CAPIC MHSA Awards, all the students to stand up those of you that are here. And I'd like to give them a round of applause. And to thank you for your commitment to working with underserved and under represented populations. You have really done us proud.

Now I'm not sure how to run this Linda, is there a button I push, you know how technologically impaired I am so, for the slide show. Oh there's my name ... down there... (*figuring out how to work slides*). I want to give a bit of an overview of the history of the MHSA and its importance and its mandate just to start. The history of Proposition 63 known as the Mental Health Services Act began in November of 2004 and was written by California Senator Darryl Steinberg. The proposition was passed by voters with 53% of the vote and the measure supported increasing the taxes of those individuals demonstrating a high level of income, specifically imposing a 1% income tax on personal annual income that exceeded one million dollars. The generation of funds would provide for the expansion and transformation of the mental health services throughout California's county-wide system of care, enhancing care especially for children, transitional age youth, adults, older adults and families.

The act identifies six targeted areas ... the act identifies six targeted areas that are essential towards developing improvements in the existing mental health system. Success would be evidenced by improvements in patient outcomes. These key components are identified here and as you can see education and training translating into human resources is the component piece of it by which the stipend program was developed. A good portion of the funds garnered from this taxation were distributed primary to the county mental health programs for the purpose of supporting county specific plans for implementation of the x goals. Stakeholders were identified and meetings held to promote an agreeable and successful rollout of the plans, goals and objectives.

A significant portion of the MHSA funds were directed to counties for the purpose of supporting the education and training component of the program. An assessment of needed personnel based on identified shortages was conducted by each county as part of their mandate in order to receive the funds. This included identification of professionals administering and providing services through the new configuration and expansion. This assessment phase was to include local stakeholders in the process. This is more of the requirements while I'm speaking.

The WET requirements for use of these funds were identified by the California Department of Mental Health description of Prop 63 WET Component and included the creation of a new stipend program modeled on a program described in prior regulatory language. The Workforce Education and Training (WET) plans are expected to focus on development and implementation of programming that includes reaching out to underserved and underrepresented populations, efforts toward employment of mental health consumers and their families, facilitation of access to services, and attention to diversity that includes improvements in cultural competency, improved linguistic competency in dealing with the clientele, and increased present and success of diverse populations within the workforce.

So how did we come to have this meeting today? It started with a mandate, followed by some herding of cats, and the cats met in various groups until a village was formed. Contingents of the village emerged in many advocacy or rather engaged in many advocacy efforts which have resulted in many deserving students and their training mentors gathering here today. Here's the back-story of that metaphor driven analogy. For the first few years of the MHSA stipend programs were MFT and MSW students and interns were developed in collaboration with county mental health, area academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders. Stipends for psychology interns were not being disseminated. Psychologists reported their concerns of exclusion from the stakeholder meetings or an inability to impact the process within the structure to include stipends for psychology interns. The California Psychological Association Division II Board on Education and Training engaged in discussions on the difficulty in making headway in this effort. A committee was formed of LaTonya Wood who's with us today, Wayne Okie and myself to address this issue. LaTonya attempted to present a white paper on the need to include psychology interns in the WET Program Plan, including attention to the stipend issue. Although we were not able to exact the result we were pursuing, it was one step on the path of advocating for the inclusion of psychologists and those in psychology training. Frustration was experienced and wonderment as to what to do next.

Concurrent to these efforts Doris Penman challenged me to pursue the issue through CAPIC at a state level in order to advocate for the inclusion of psychologists and psychology interns. Contacting Sacramento resulted in hearing how psychologists have not organized themselves in the way that the MFT and MSW groups successfully had done. I had some conversations with a key person or two in our field to encourage them to join our village so to speak and to request for a meeting with the state officials that oversaw the MHSA WET Stipend Program. Some hesitancy was voiced by some on the belief that the boat had already sailed and our efforts to pursue this would fall on deaf ears, so why bother. Disappointed but unwilling to let go of Doris' mandate I spoke with her about the hesitancy of others to pursue the issue and what could we do to foster enthusiasm for this. Doris called Chuck Faltz, raise your hand Chuck, thank you. Chuck, Director of Professional Affairs for the CPA and shared our plight. Chuck

was quite concerned, let me know if I'm wrong with any of these statements and I'll correct them Chuck, and dedicated toward pursuing a meeting in Sacramento with the MHSA WET administrators. Chuck and I individually had approached Gilbert Newman, Director of Clinical Training at the Wright Institute regarding his support for the effort. Gilbert agreed he was on board. Our CAPIC Executive Director at the time, Patrick Petty of Alliant University, agreed that he would join in attending a meeting in Sacramento if one could be arranged.

Chuck contacted Warren Hayes, then Chief of Workforce Education and Training in Sacramento and the meeting was on. The focus of the meeting was to promote the inclusion of psychologists in the WET planning process and to include a means by which psychology interns would be afforded the opportunity for WET supported stipends. A statewide proposal Request for Proposals was released for a psychology internship program. Mr. Hayes informed me that the three proposals would be awarded for funds but that it was understood that CAPIC would be representing all doctoral clinical programs throughout the state of California except with other two institutions may be submitting for the other two spots. More meetings in Sacramento were held and CAPIC submitted a proposal started by Patrick and I and fully developed later by our current Executive Director Linda Garcia-Shelton who was just coming on board as ED.

Alliant University and Pacific Graduate School of Psychology also submitted proposals. All other CAPIC institutions relinquished their interest in submitting in support of CAPIC's submission on behalf of them. The denouement of the story was that CAPIC, Alliant and PGSP were all awarded monies for the stipend program through the RFP. So it took a mandate ... village forming, meeting seeking, a few Sacramento field trips and some serious fast and eloquent proposal writing, but that I believe is typically what successful advocacy looks like. It's a combination of guts and guile, a tenacious and impassioned spirit and a squadron of folks that care. But it first started with a cause that was worth working for. That cause was you, and I'm speaking to the students especially. In insuring your continued excellence and your training and experience that will undoubtedly result in quality and much needed mental health services to those we serve.

Lastly I would like to mention one person without whom we would not be holding this meeting in all probability. It has been said we stand on the shoulder of giants to paraphrase Sir Isaac Newton and the giant I'm referring to in this case is our most dear Dr. Doris Penman. Many of you have known Dr. Penman who unfortunately left us in October of last year. As you may know Doris was a past president of the CPA, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, member of Division II on Education and Training, Director of Internship Training at Kaiser Permanente, as well as Dede Hirsch Community Mental Health Center to name only a few of her many roles. Doris was a fierce advocate for doctoral training and education. She was a mentor to almost all who crossed her path, students and colleagues alike. She did not seek recognition for her innumerable accomplishments but instead would insist that others be recognized for theirs. If you new Doris then nothing I would say about her would be a surprise to you because those that know Doris or knew her knew that she was well loved and respected. It was an honor to have known her as a treasured colleague and a dear friend. I would like us to dedicate this conference in honor. Her insistence that we advocate for quality education and training and specifically that we pursued representation of our psychology interns and their ability to provide needed services to MHSA WET targeted populations, is represented in the focus of this

conference. Perhaps we can all channel a little of Doris as we move forward. And again to the students as you are soon to be licensed psychologists in the field, you will serve as the next generation of foot soldiers in advocating for excellence in our education and training., and in our representation amongst providers of quality mental health care. Thank you all for joining us here at the conference today which I'm sure will be very engaging.