



MORXP/ MONAPPPP

Recent News: Watch for Our Newsletter with complete stories on these items.

News Item #1: Gang, Over the next couple of weeks you are going to hear many things about the MH Parity Bill (S. 558). You will hear it called a great victory for psychology! Be careful what you wish for!

Unless dramatic changes are made to Republican phrases negotiated into the bill that allow for MH services to be sold/and covered as "optional" rather than "required components of all healthcare policies offered-negotiated by many of us in APA and State Assns in the 1980s, it represents a Trojan Horse!

The actual result of such a MH Parity Bill could be "less access to mental health services". Imagine the pressure the pricing managers and sales force can put on buyers when they offer you a scaled down policy (without MH, dental, vision coverage) as \$400 per month and all inclusive at \$800 per month. Which one do you think most Americans are in the position to choose/buy? What do you think such a MH Parity Act will do to access to psychotherapy.

When these psych associations recommend you write your legislator and advocate for a MH Parity Bill, they should be helping you understand these things and refining your communication that says, "only pass a MH Parity Bill if it ensures access for all covered lives to psychotherapy and MH services and in parity with medical services"!

Be careful what you advocate they pass!!!!!!!

News Item #2: Recent Letter from MoNAPPPP to Dr. Dan Abrahamson in the leadership of the APA PO:

Dan,

Thank you and CAPP for taking our constant suggestions in writing and personally delivered to many to change the national RxP strategy (1. focus on a few specific low hanging fruit states, 2. Give larger grants, 3. Teach your states how they can legally use these funds with some flexibility, 4. And by putting actual boots on the ground). This is a much more realistic strategy and we are proud that MO has been chosen.

We might remind you that MoPA did not, in our opinion, have good accountability for these grants in the past, did not share grant data with their RxP TF members, and disbanded their TF, and cut one member off of the list.serve when members complained and requested accounting. We pointed out how money was spent after the bill was dead and on things that could not help the bill. When you and the PO were asked to step in and mediate (and kindly offered to MoPA to do so) and help manage the process, you were blocked by the state assn. You will clearly need to set up stronger grant supervision and accountability and provide more active leadership for our state if you hope for this money to be well applied.

I hope that you are following this grant with intensified leadership and "boots on the ground"! MoPA is resisting the joint sponsorship of one bill among the two state associations and combining PAC efforts and strategies. We know that this will not be helpful and with your becoming a major player you will have more say in configuring the approach (as any grantor can require). You will have to move quickly, since the two bill approach is well down the track and repeated efforts to get collaboration from MoPA have met with stonewalling as you experienced last year.

Again, thanks for shifting tactics and responding to practitioner organizations recommendations in MO.

See attached APA CAPP \$50K Grant Notice

News Item #3: Many MoNAPPP and MoPA member practitioners will not be going to Div 55 KC Conference in KC in early January.

MoNAPPP pulls out of Div 55 Mid-Winter conference due to continued resistance to cooperation and collaboration. After months of communication about the need to include all psychological associations in MO if Div 55 is doing a conference in the state, Div 55 finally appoints a MoNAPPP Board Member (Dr. Jay O'Brien) to the Conference Steering Committee. Dr. Caccavale had been invited to speak, but had declined because Div 55 was ignoring NAPPP's state chapter providing leverage to add a MoNAPPP member to the Conference Steering Committee. After months of stalling, and some say because of fears emerging about possible poor attendance, MoNAPPP was contacted and a MoNAPPP member began to negotiate ways to improve attendance and the quality of the conference. MoNAPPP agreed to fund a breakfast and fly Dr. Caccavale out to be the key not speaker and give a presentation to attempt to fit in with the advocacy and collaboration theme of the Conference and to help Div 55, MoNAPPP, MoPA, and other entities avoid the sabotage and lack of cooperation from the state psychological association and undermining of the bill that occurred in California last year, and with the State Committee of Psychologists undermining the Governor's signing of the law passed in Hawaii last year. MoNAPPP also agreed to sponsor a free cocktail party and bring our KC Senators (a stronghold city for MoNAPPP), and to use our extensive grass roots communication network in Mo and KS to help market and make the convention successful.

However, MoNAPPP eventually had to pull out of the Conference when our breakfast was blocked from being placed on the brochure (but they wanted to bill us for the contribution up front and in advance of the workshop), they canceled our cocktail party without notice and refused to put it on the brochure or even to allow it to be added to the e-brochure that would be broadcast nationally by NAPPP and MoNAPPP. With obvious ambivalence about partnering and collaboration among Div 55 and MoPA and obvious lack of ability to make fundamentally simple and doable decisions to bring in several thousands of dollars of support and highly compatible advocacy activities to the convention, MoNAPPP decided to withdraw to continue our dedication to do nothing that is not focused on using our resources only for what benefits Mo practitioners.

We have additional concerns about the way that MoPA led the conference to Branson first (a poor spot for this type of conference due to travel costs and difficulties, and the kind of amenities that are usually not acceptable to members.) , and later moving it to KC without adequate preparation with the KC psychological groups. Further, we have serious concern about MoPA once again using the CAPP grant money for something (the Buss Trip to the Capital) which is more PR than useful in the real world of political lobbying. Bringing buss loads of people to the Capital is a cute thing, but legislators are not impressed by this technique, get tired of hoards descending upon them that they must accommodate and feign joy in seeing them, and especially when they are not like the "Beef Growers" who have large predonated PAC presence and bring a free steak lunch with them. We reported that last year we spent \$6,000 for a cute little DVD, and over \$1,000 for a cocktail party after the bill was dead, but could not get MoPA to spend money where it could have helped pass the bill.

Probably the most disappointing part of the conference that really concerned our practitioner organization was the nearly \$300 fee. Practitioners are hurting and cannot afford to fly to KC, pay a \$300 conference fee to hear several people talk about their take on advocacy, and to pay conference organizers hotel rooms and expenses. A practitioner could easily spend over \$1,000 on the conference and we became convinced that that money would be better-spent going into our PACs and sending out an advocacy DVD with volunteers contributing their private point of view and hints about advocacy.

MoNAPPP members and most NAPPP members will not likely attend this Conference, though we continue to have high hopes for Div 55 and their rumblings of leadership about collaboration and trying to get groups in psychology to sponsor joint bills and do joint conferences. We think that with a little hard work and leadership evolution they can get there. MoPA continues to refuse to collaborate on legislation and in other ways with other psychological associations in Mo and has turned MoNAPPP's offer to joint sponsor an RxP Bill and to coordinate the MoNAPPP and MoPA PAC.

News Item #4: MoNAPPP's national affiliate meets in DC to form a coalition of mental health disciplines, unions, and other entities to fight back in the war on psychotherapy. Kennedy to address the group. See *The Clinical Practitioner* for Dec 2007 at the NAPPP web site: <http://napp.org/>

News Item #3: MoNAPPP continues to petition the state psychological association (MoPA) to equalize practitioner annual association dues with academic dues. While MoPA has minor disputes with our numbers and likes to calculate membership and discounts using first rather than fifth year dues and other entry variables, MoNAPPP has researched the state psychological association (MoPA) dues structure and our estimates show that full-time academics pay \$125 per year and practitioners pay a whopping \$220. Practitioners often pay approximately 176% of what academics pay for membership in the state psychological association.

MoPA finally agreed to deal with this issue in their December Board Meeting and we hope to be able to report the results soon.

This is just one more way that your state practitioner's association is looking out for our practitioner's best interests. Our national group has repeatedly called for APA and the APA Practice Divisions to petition council to give the same humanitarian dues break to practitioners as they give to academics and scientists who belong to their societies.

Join the fight for practitioners during the "war on psychotherapy era"! We are asking you to become a member of MoRxP/MoNAPPP and enjoy its many benefits as well as help support this practice and RxP focused organization. At present (for a limited time) membership in MoRxP/MoNAPPP is free. If you also join the important national organization NAPPP you will gain its many benefits as well. Those include FREE APA approved CEUs, and many other benefits.

Please indicate if you would like to join our organization.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone, home _____

office _____

fax _____

EMAIL (very important) _____

MoNAPPP: <http://monappp.napp.org/>

NAPPP: <http://www.napp.org/>

Please email reply back to morris49@ipa.net