

## **APA Assembly 11/8/13-11/10/13 Report to HPMA** – Leslie Hartley Gise MD

Amber Sakuda was at Advocacy Day just before the Assembly with Jeff Akaka and attended the Assembly as a guest with me and stayed in my room. Linda Nahulu is minority and underserved (MUR) rep.

### **Health Care Reform**

Parity - 6 categories of care are now covered (in- and out-patient care in- and out-of-network but not intermediate levels of care (intensive outpatient treatment, partial hospitalization and residential treatment) and not Medicaid or Medicare

Complaints - new CEO says send your complaints to APA, our ammunition, tweet him at @DC.tweets

Board of Trustees (BOT) work group - Howard Goldman talked about Quality and Performance Metrics. Outcomes in psychiatry are hard to measure. He uses Outcomes Measurement System (OMS) in Maryland (you can google it) which is based on patient perception and satisfaction, not like General Medicine with blood pressure and blood sugar.

### **Advocacy**

Patrick Kennedy – son of Teddy Kennedy, former RI Congressman, author of 2008 federal parity bill, past history of rehab x 2 and MH treatment, talked a lot and with GREAT passion about stigma “silence = death” (38,000 die every year), “the race to inner space” “psychiatrists as astronauts”, his uncle JFK did NASA and the race to outer space now we need “the race to inner space”. He did 3 public service announcements the 3<sup>rd</sup> of which will be launched in December.

Advocacy Day had keynote speakers, 93 APA members, 40 MITs and ECPs & 230 visits to Congressional Offices.

**Treasurers Report** – average income of psychiatrists \$218,000, high about \$300,000, low about \$160,000

**CEO** – Saul Levin, new CEO and Medical Director succeeds 8 years of Jay Scully as Medical Director and CEO. Annelle Primm, a minority woman, community psychiatrist, longtime APA Staff, very productive head of OMNA (Office of Minority and National Affairs) was considered but not selected.

## **Access to Care Newsgram**

Healthcare is a right - Area 7's own Bill Ulwelling MD (NM) wrote about the ethical principle of healthcare as a fundamental right. The abolitionist movement was a grass-roots ethical movement. Insurers and others are so powerful that the moral high ground is our road to political change. Healthcare as a fundamental right was proposed as an amendment to the NM state constitution

Professionalism – Its hard to recruit and retain psychiatrists because they are used to refill medication and not for assessment, treatment and consultation. We need more psychiatrists in leadership at the highest levels.

**CPT** – Ron Burd, our APA member longtime devoted to CPT, presented a graphic of E&M and parity. In Medicine all codes are covered while in Psychiatry there are black holes of codes not covered by public, Medicaid and carve-out payers.

**Action Papers** – The Assembly passed action papers on parity, unsafe and uncontrolled access to MH records, VA loan forgiveness, free CME, minority MH and disparities, MIT's new name "Resident Members", etc.

## **Public and Community Psychiatry**

We need to extend the new parity regulations to cover all private and public payers including Medicaid managed care

## **Women of the Assembly**

Head – Ludmila De Faria, from Puerto Rico, now in FL is the new head.

Topics – 2 topics: a - advancement of women in APA (Secy, Assembly Speaker and Speaker-Elect and Area 4 Trustee are women) & b - topics of particular concern to women, like human trafficking, rape and postpartum depression, etc. FYI – Novel – Brandon Jones, "Women and Springtime", Brandon is a friend, metalworker and yoga instructor on Molokai, his book is way beyond all the many books I have read on Asian suffering and human trafficking, I recommend this book for conscious-raising about this important issue

Annual Meeting – There is a Women's Resource Center and a Resident Resource Center with topics like "CV boot camp", "passing oral boards", networking, mentoring, fun (The APA program is set but these programs are not part of the APA program, if you have ideas (eg unconscious bias, promoting women APA leaders) you can submit and plan them now)

BOT MUR Trustee – The 1<sup>st</sup> BOT MUR Trustee is Gail Robinson from the Women's Caucus.

BOT Ad Hoc Work Group (AHWG) on MURs – The BOT has an AHWG on MURs which will probably sunset in 1 year.