Dear Members,

Greetings! We are currently in the process of redesigning the SCPA website and thought that a newsletter would be a good venue to update you on what we have been busy doing. Time has flown by since I was named president in June! I have been busy planning our 2016 Annual Meeting which will be held in Columbia for the first time in many years. We have an outstanding lineup of speakers focusing on minority and diversity topics related to psychiatry. This will be an opportunity for all of us to learn more about caring for our patients and community. We hope to see you there!

Additionally I have been "bringing the SCPA into the modern world" with new Facebook and Linkedin pages to increase our social media presence. These have been very successful and I encourage all of you to follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/apascpa and join the Linkedin group by searching for South Carolina Psychiatric Association and clicking the "Join" link. These sites allow us to network with other professionals and give you updates and information in real time if there are important events or concerns.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge Dr. Edward Kantor and Dr. David Beckett who have been instrumental in supporting the community in Charleston after the deadly shooting in June. Together we have applied for an APA grant to help defray the costs of community based programs and to provide education for psychiatrists in the state about response to disasters. I have also applied for two grants from the APA to support our Annual Meeting and we were notified that we have received one of them. We will keep you updated as to the status of our other pending grants as information is available.

Thank you all for your time and for your continued support of the SCPA. I look forward to seeing you in January!

Rachel A. Houchins, M.D.
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the 2015 North Carolina Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting & Scientific Session

October 1-4, 2015/Winston-Salem, NC/Twin City Quarter

Visit www.ncpsychiatry.org/annual-meeting for more information!

Response Campaign to Kenneth Cole Billboard

Fashion designer Kenneth Cole recently put up this deeply offensive and misleading billboard in Manhattan.

His attempt at making a statement on gun reform creates a gross misimpression that people with mental illness are violent. To correct the record, APA is conducting a quick response campaign urging Kenneth Cole to #givestigmatheboot. We must set the record

Meeting, “Meeting the Need: Health Disparities and Minority Populations in Psychiatry,” is scheduled January 29-31. The meeting will be held at the Marriot, 1200 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

The SCPA Annual Meeting is the premier psychiatric educational event in the state offering educational and networking opportunities for medical students, resident physicians, and fellows.

More details will be released on our website as they become available http://scpsych.org. Also, visit www.columbiacvb.com to find out exciting things to do during your visit to Columbia, SC. We hope to see you there!

Your Opportunity to Influence Practice Guidelines

APA District Branches are invited to review a draft APA practice guideline on the use of antipsychotics to treat agitation and psychosis in patients with dementia.

First, the APA wants to specifically thank the leaders who were instrumental in developing this guideline, Michael Vergare, M.D., Chair, APA Steering Committee on Practice Guidelines, Daniel J. Anzia, M.D., Vice-Chair, APA Steering Committee on Practice Guidelines, Victor I. Reus, M.D., Chair, APA Guideline Writing Group, Laura J. Fochtmann, M.D., Co-Chair, APA Guideline Writing Group, and Grayson Norquist, M.D., Chair, APA Quality Council.

Our goal is to identify and address any comment District Branch members may have before this guideline is submitted to the November 2015 Assembly for approval. A downloadable PDF version of the draft is available on the APA website at www.psychiatry.org/practice/clinical-practice-guidelines/review-draft-guidelines. Deadline for comments is September 19th, 2015.

Comments should be submitted via email to guidelines@psych.org with Microsoft Word file attachments preferred. Please include the following information with each comment:

- Reference each comment to the relevant draft by page and
Tell @mr_kennethcole to #givestigmatheboot
@mr_kennethcole got one thing right: many Americans with mental health issues don't get the help they need. #givestigmatheboot
When only 38% of adults with mental illness get treatment, the right answer is to get them care, not marginalize them. #givestigmatheboot
Disappointed with @mr_kennethcole for linking gun violence, mental illness. Follow us to get the facts. #givestigmatheboot
Vast majority of people with mental illness are not violent. #givestigmatheboot #mentalhealth
Most violent acts are committed by people who are not mentally ill. #givestigmatheboot
Ppl. with a mental illness are 2x more likely to be victims of violence than the general public #givestigmatheboot @mr_kennethcole
People with mental illness are vastly more likely to be victims of violence than to perpetrate it. #givestigmatheboot @mr_kennethcole #mentalhealth
1 in 4 people with serious mental illness has been the victim of a violent crime in the past year #givestigmatheboot @mr_kennethcole #mentalhealth

American Psychiatric Association Joins AMA Task Force to Address America's Opioid Crisis

Opioid abuse is a serious public health problem that has reached crisis levels across the United States, with 44 people dying each day from overdose of opioids, and many more becoming addicted. Recognizing the urgency and serious impact of this issue on the health of hundreds of thousands of patients across the country, today the American Psychiatric Association (APA) announced that it has joined the American Medical Association (AMA) and other medical organizations to address the growing epidemic.

The AMA Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse comprises 27 physician organizations including the APA, AMA, American Osteopathic Association, 17 specialty and seven state medical societies, and the American Dental Association. Task force members are committed to identifying the best practices to combat this public health crisis and move swiftly to implement those practices across the country.

APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A., has specialized in substance use treatment, notably in previous posts at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and as the head of the D.C. Department of Health and Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration.

"As experts in the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders, psychiatrists play an important role in curbing this epidemic and helping our medical colleagues participate in the prescribing part of the treatment plan," Levin said. "The APA is honored to join our colleagues in the house of medicine in
control is a public health issue.
#givestigmatheboot #mentalhealth

Take down the billboard. But keep raising awareness about lack of care for
#mentalhealth #givestigmatheboot

The APA is also working with NYSPA and others on this effort. It's possible that Kenneth Cole will be responsive to our concern and come around to raising awareness in the right ways - unfortunately, the current billboard is stigmatizing and completely unhelpful to the public discourse on two important issues.

The task force's initial focus will be on efforts that urge physicians to register for and use state-based prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) as part of the decision-making process when considering treatment options. When PDMPs are fully-funded, contain relevant clinical information and are available at the point of care, they have been shown to be an effective tool to help physicians identify patients who may be misusing opioids, and to implement treatment strategies including referral for those in need of further care.

Opting Out of Medicaid Expansion: Impacts on Behavioral Health Services at Community Health Centers

A cost analysis of states' decisions to opt out of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act shows these states will receive less revenue and have a reduced capacity to serve people with mental illness. If all 50 states expanded Medicaid by 2020, an additional 70,500 behavioral health services would be provided that year. The study is published online in Psychiatric Services in Advance.

The study focused on community health centers, a key source of medical and behavioral health services in undeserved communities because they serve all patients regardless of the ability to pay. Health centers are not required to provide behavioral health services, making these services vulnerable to cuts if there is not enough funding. Most health center patients have incomes below the federal poverty line; centers in states that have expanded Medicaid are likely to see increased revenue as more patients will have health insurance to cover the cost of their care, according to study authors.

The authors calculated that, if all 50 states expanded Medicaid by 2020, health centers would accrue nearly $230 million in additional revenue during that year, because fewer of their patients would be uninsured. Based on previous health center spending, the study found this would likely provide an estimated $11.3 million for mental health services and $1.6 million for substance use disorder services in 2020, resulting in more than 70,500 additional encounters with behavioral health specialists.

The authors, led by Emily Jones, Ph.D., M.P.P., with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the George Washington University, conclude that onsite mental health services are necessary at community health centers and that the financial consequences of opting out of Medicaid will limit the ability to addressing this problem. We owe it to our patients to ensure they receive the proper and appropriate care."

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provide these services in states that opt out. The study also highlights an important indirect benefit of Medicaid expansion - that expanding Medicaid would likely result in higher utilization of behavioral health services in health centers.