



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

June 30, 2006

National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers
P.O. Box 6263
Garden Grove, CA 92846

Dear NAPPP Board Members,

I have received your letter of June 26, 2006 regarding my communication of September 14, 2005 to Dr. Judy Hall of the National Register on behalf of the APA Board of Educational Affairs. In response I do want to assure you that BEA acted within its authority, and that the communication was indeed consistent with APA policy, specifically the policy adopted by the APA Council of Representatives entitled Recommended Postdoctoral Training in Psychopharmacology for Prescription Privileges a copy of which is enclosed. Although I am aware that significant differences of opinion exist on the intent of some of the language in the attached policy, I invite your attention to the four policy points cited in my letter, which can be found nearly verbatim in the APA policy Recommended Postdoctoral Training in Psychopharmacology for Prescription Privileges as follows: (1) page 3, paragraph 3, (2) page 3, paragraph 4, (3) page 2, paragraph 2 plus footnote; (4) page 3, paragraphs 1 and 2. With respect to item number two, another relevant APA policy was Criteria L6 of the CE Sponsor Approval System's Criteria and Procedures (1996) that specified that the terms "accredit" or "accreditation" should not be used in reference to the APA Sponsor Approval System. That policy was developed to avoid confusion with APA's accreditation program.

As I believe you know, because the model curriculum is now 10 years old, and in view of the advances that have occurred in prescriptive authority training and legislation since that time, the APA's Board of Educational Affairs and Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice are collaborating on a joint task force to review it and the related Model Legislation for Prescriptive Authority passed by APA Council in 1996. It seems important to underscore that in this latter document there is the explicit acknowledgement of a "grandparent" provision that may be added to waive the coursework for psychologists who have obtained relevant training and experience. How this APA policy would disenfranchise our psychologists does not seem clear. In any case, any proposed revisions to the current policies will also be provided for public comment, so I would anticipate ample opportunity for input and do encourage your participation. I look forward to a healthy dialogue as the education and training guidelines for psychopharmacology evolve in our profession; this is an extremely important undertaking for our discipline.

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National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers
Page 2

Since your letter also raises many issues and concerns that are much broader, I will bring it to the attention of BEA and the Committee on Accreditation for their next meetings. However, I would like to note that whatever opinions one might hold about these various matters, I am concerned about the number of inaccurate statements made in your letter and am saddened by what I view as rather sweeping overgeneralizations and innuendos about what are heterogeneous communities of psychologists involved in education, training, research and practice activities.

Finally, I request that you remove your letter from the NAPPP website, as public statements about "a clear example of the fraudulent activity of the BEA" may be viewed as defamatory by some of our members. I am unaware of any basis for such accusations. I also request that you correct other inaccurate information about BEA on your site, including the accusation about a "BEA attempt to limit training...for psychologists with postdoctoral master degree training." BEA has never supported such a position, nor made any statement concerning the master's degree and training in psychopharmacology.

Sincerely yours,



Cynthia D. Belar, Ph.D., ABPP

Cy: Norman Anderson, Ph.D., CEO

Enc. Recommended Postdoctoral Training in Psychopharmacology for Prescription Privileges