

February 2024

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the second edition of the renewed newsletter. The board and the committee members were hard at work once again. One of the biggest accomplishments of this quarter was getting the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee off the ground, spearheaded by Melissa Schroeder and Valentina Stoycheva. We have another meeting with a few other SCPA members who expressed interest in being part of the committee. We are discussing several ways to incorporate DEI into SCPA, as well as working with other organizations, and hope to have more information for you by the next newsletter. We are of course open to suggestions if you wish to share any. If you wish to be a part of the committee and were not able to sign up previously, please also let us know.

1. One of the strengths of SCPA is the close relationships that are formed, whether they be personally or professionally. As such, the board is also looking into the next social gathering. We would like to do a group activity where folks can work together as a team, along with a little healthy competition. We are considering laser tag and then a meetup directly afterwards - especially for folks who may not be able to join us. [Please let us know if you are interested in laser tag](#), as the final price of laser tag depends on the number of people. Folks would pay a portion, but no more than \$30 a person. The date is not yet established. We can only reserve the date once we know if folks are interested. Please RSVP by Sunday 2/18/2024.
2. Beth Hollander and Deena Abbe have filled out this year's programming with some great speakers. They also included two "bonus" presentations that are free to SCPA members, One is *AI and Psychology* with Andreas Michaelides, which was a great presentation. They are also working on scheduling a Narcan training - more information to follow at a later date.
3. Germaine Allison continues to do a great job with the School Psychology Committee. After the positive feedback from the previous collaboration with BOCES, Germaine organized another presentation: NEW LI Sharing Site For Creating Well-Being. [Registration is free](#) and is on Tuesday, 2/27 from 4-5pm. This seems like a great opportunity for school psychologists to collaborate with one another and have a shared resource.
4. Neil Grossman is currently working with the Office of Attorneys for Children to see if SCPA can co-sponsor those events for CE credits for psychologists. If so, this might expand the CE programming that is currently offered.
5. Donna Thiele scheduled SCPA to present on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Half Hollow Hills Mental Health Day. The event was a great success. Deena Abbe, Donna Thiele, Melissa Schroeder, and Elana Rimler all presented on behalf of

SCPA. Donna also runs the Independent Practice Committee and the next meeting will focus on non-traditional types of therapy. Donna didn't stop there. She arranged for SCPA to be included at the East Islip SEPTO fair on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

I hope you find their hard work and contributions as meaningful as I do. As always, please reach out if you have any suggestions, thoughts, or concerns.

Tom DiBlasi, PhD  
SCPA President