

Standards Committee

Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Psychological Association of Manitoba April 25, 2012

Since last AGM, the Standards Committee has addressed a range of issues.

The Committee contacted several people who were not registered with the Psychological Association of Manitoba but who were seen to have presented themselves as psychologists. Our approach was mainly educative, involving a letter describing the terms of the Psychologists Registration Act and requesting that there be no further inappropriate use of terms and titles referred to in Section 11(1). Also, with the backing of the Manitoba Association of School Psychologists (MASP), Standards contacted the Manitoba Department of Education to raise concern about a school division reportedly ordering a merging of its students' clinical and cumulative files, with the consequence that psychological and other personal health information and protected psychological test protocols would be stored along with general information about a student's educational history, and therefore accessible to all who had access to the cumulative file. At the same time, we expressed concern about School Psychologists in the same Division allegedly having been directed to instruct unqualified school staff in the administration and interpretation of psychological instruments (that only someone properly educated, trained, and regulated can appropriately conduct or interpret). Although psychologists working in schools are not currently regulated by P.A.M., we saw it as appropriate to raise concern, in concert with MASP, given the seriousness of the allegations.

Standards also carried forward to Manitoba's financial institutions regulator, concern about the "Terms and Conditions of Referral" sent by an insurance company to Psychologists with certain patient referrals, as certain sections of the document were seen as asking psychologists to agree to future breach of Personal Health Information legislation, or at least breach of the spirit of PHIA. (A future issue of *The Manitoba Psychologist* will advise members to consider their ethical and legal position should they accept a referral under the insurer's terms.)

The Committee was also recently in touch with the Sport Medicine and Science Council of Manitoba to raise concern that it oversees a "Sport Psychology" program (providing "Sport Psych Skills Development Modules" and other "Sport Psych" services), but apparently without the involvement of psychologists. The approach here as well was to provide the SMSCM Board with correct information about use of title and description of services containing the words "psychological", "psychologist" or "psychology", or derivatives thereof, under terms of the Psychologists Registration Act. We pointed out that, just as there's a difference between a person talking about medicine or dentistry on one hand, and referring to himself or herself as a physician or dentist on the other, non-

psychologists may speak about psychological matters, but only registered psychologists may refer to themselves as psychologists or to the work they do as psychological.

Work on a Code of Conduct document for P.A.M. continues. A draft document is currently under review by Executive Council. Finally, Dr. Jane Bow, Chair of P.A.M.'s Continuing Education Committee (a subcommittee of Standards) conducted an audit of continuing education claims by a randomly selected 10% of our membership. At the completion of her audit, Dr, Bow and Council updated the information on our website.

This is my second report to an AGM as Chair of P.A.M.'s Standards Committee. I write on behalf of Gary Shady, Ph.D., C.Psych., and the Chairs and Members of the Continuing Education, Jurisprudence Examination Committees and Code of Conduct working group: Drs. Jane Bow, Don Stewart, Hal Wallbridge, Lesley Graff, and Alan Slusky, and thank them for their work.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal D. Anderson, Ph.D., C.Psych
Chair, Standards Committee