

Statements from State Psychological Associations Regarding the Hoffman Report



OPA Board of Directors Statement Regarding APA Independent Review July 21, 2015

The Oregon Psychological Association's (OPA) Board of Directors, like many of our members, spent much of the last week reviewing the independent report delivered to the American Psychological Association (APA) Board of Directors by David Hoffman. The report revealed APA's collusion with the Department of Defense and other government officials to support their policies on torture. We are shocked and profoundly disappointed at the actions of a small group of APA leaders who misled our organization and our membership. We recognize that our members, like us, are experiencing a deep sense of betrayal by our parent organization. The sense of betrayal cuts across many levels as we learned from the Hoffman report that many of our most trusted leaders, including individuals who authored our ethical code, were attempting to "curry favor" with government officials by intentionally making our ethical code "loose and porous." That their actions abetted human suffering is especially painful to a profession of healers with a long and proud history of scientific research on the alleviation of human suffering. And it is unconscionable that the very leaders we trusted to carry our message of healing to the public instead chose to deceive both us and the public in the interest of avoiding accountability for those who engaged in abusive interrogation techniques. Their actions violated their responsibility to us, to our profession and to the public.

While we remain troubled and shaken by the revelations in the Hoffman report, we also want to voice our appreciation to those who courageously expressed their concerns about APA's policies on torture over more than a decade of time and in the face of strong opposition including a concerted campaign to silence and discredit them. Dissenting voices are important and deserve to be heard. We are proud of the OPA members who dared to dissent and repeatedly spoke out against these violations. We fully support APA's and the public's steps to hold accountable those who are responsible for harming the good name of our profession and for supporting actions against other human beings that violate the very core of what we stand for. We respect that APA invited this investigation and that they are seeking feedback about further actions to take. We recognize that APA has more than 400 employees and that many of them were misled in the same ways that we, the membership were misled. We expect that there will be a long process of re-building trust with APA as they root out all of the individuals and system dynamics that led to this shameful series of events.

The OPA Board of Directors is committed to transparency as we seek to help our members understand and recover. To that end, we will carefully monitor APA's actions, we will solicit member input and we will actively provide feedback to APA as they work to re-build our profession's good name. We plan to be a pipeline of information to our members and we encourage any and all feedback to us and to APA. At the end of this letter, please find a link to the APA comments webpage where they are actively collecting feedback.

And finally, we extend to our membership, and the public, the following affirmation: We are a profession of healers. Fundamentally, psychologists help people overcome trauma. Creating trauma in other people goes against everything we stand for as a profession. Psychologists, our clients, the public we serve and the victims of torture themselves deserve better. We need to take the necessary steps to make sure this never happens again.

Here is the link to the APA webpage for more information on this issue and to submit feedback if you would like to provide comments to APA. <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/index.aspx>.

Wendy Bourq, PhD – President

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Rebecca Breiholz, PhD - Director/Southern Oregon Chapter Representative

Linda Schrader, PhD - Director/Central Oregon Chapter Representative

Cynthia Song, MA, JD - Director/Student Representative



CPA's Board of Directors Responds to APA Independent Review

To our Members,

The CPA Board of Directors, like you, has spent the last few days reviewing the independent report provided to the APA Board of Directors by Mr. David Hoffman, a partner in the law firm of Sidley Austin in Chicago, IL. APA requested that Mr. Hoffman address the question of whether APA officials colluded with the Department of Defense, CIA, or other government officials "to support torture." Mr. Hoffman reports that APA fully cooperated with the investigation. The 500+ page report is extraordinarily detailed and thorough and is available in its entirety at www.apa.org. Our response is based on this profoundly important report.

We are appalled and disheartened at what the report reveals. The findings reveal not only an initial collusion between APA officials and those from the Department of Defense, but a continuing pattern of deceit that was aimed at misleading APA members and the public about this collusion. The report does not conclude that APA or anyone within it promoted torture. However, in its extensive effort to "curry favor" with the Department of Defense, APA lent support to the Department's interrogation program and thereby contributed to abuse by DoD and the CIA. It is disturbing and repellant to learn that our parent organization contributed to these abhorrent acts. The report describes a motivation to maintain intentionally "loose and porous" ethical constraints that allowed psychologists to participate in enhanced interrogations in the manner that DoD preferred, and to present a positive image to the public at the same time, during what was admittedly a very difficult and frightening time in our country. This was a violation of their responsibility and a betrayal of APA members and of our profession. These actions do not reflect who we are or our values as psychologists.

Our profession has a crucial role in society. CPA members and leaders share in the responsibility to ensure that our national organization safeguards the ethics of our field. We will watch, with you, to see how the APA Board of Directors moves forward with the recommendations included in their response to the report. Those of us who trusted the leaders of APA learn from this report that our trust was, in many cases, wholly

misplaced. To the critics of APA, including CPA members, Chapters, and particularly our Monterey Bay Chapter that pushed tirelessly for accountability, we extend our humble thanks.

CPA will be submitting editorial comment to the news media to assure California consumers that psychology is a profession that values human dignity and human rights. CPA will also be communicating these same thoughts to APA in a letter that will be shared with our members.

Actions of central figures within APA over the past decade have wounded all of us. It is now incumbent on APA to move forward in a manner that will restore the integrity not only of APA but of our profession.

The CPA Board of Directors

Stephen Pfeiffer, PhD, President
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Alyssa Aguilar, MA, CPAGS Representative to the Board



July 14, 2015

Dear MPA members:

The Board of Directors of MPA, like most MPA members, is deeply concerned about the Hoffman report regarding the APA's involvement in the U.S. torture program. As this is an extraordinarily important and complicated issue, MPA does not want to comment based solely on an emotional response, but rather on a clear understanding of the facts. Towards that goal, MPA's Board of Directors is in the process of reviewing the entire 500+ page Hoffman report and APA's response so we can have an informed discussion about the issue.

We encourage all MPA members to fully acquaint themselves with the Hoffman report <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/APA-FINAL-Report-7.2.15.pdf> and the APA's response to that report <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/independent-review-release.aspx>. The APA has indicated that as a result of the findings from the independent review, there will be significant changes in the organization, in terms of both policies and procedures. MPA wishes to support its members who may also belong to APA in understanding and coping with this disturbing news in a thoughtful manner. The MPA Board will continue to review available information and monitor this situation.

The MPA Board invites its members to continue an open and respectful discussion of the issues surrounding the Hoffman report. We hope that with an open discussion you, our members, can come to a resolution about how to best manage your relationship with the APA and the profession that we all love.

Respectfully,



Montana Psychological Association

Dear MPA Members,

I expect that most of you are aware that the Hoffman Report investigating the role of APA staff and members in government torture programs has been released. We want to ensure that you have access to this important information and recommend that each of you take some time to review the report and APA's response.

We also want to explicitly state to MPA members, the larger Montana psychological community, and the public that MPA is committed to the highest levels of ethics and standards of care. MPA will remain focused on advocacy for the profession and the people we serve in a manner that is consistent with these high standards.

As I digested the information over the weekend I found myself thinking about the crises that can occur during therapy. Sometimes we learn some very difficult and painful things about ourselves, things that make us question who we are and what we are doing. Things that make us wonder who and how to trust. I believe that this is such a time for our national association. We have seen some ugly truths about choices that were made by people in powerful positions and as a group we have to take responsibility for the wrongs that have been committed. The individuals who were directly involved in these decisions have an appropriately hard road ahead of them. As a profession and a professional association it is imperative that we work to truly understand how this happened so that we can ensure that it does not happen again. It is my hope that APA and its members will emerge from this difficult situation a stronger, wiser, more humble, and more self-aware organization. As with anything involving humans there is capacity for horror and grace and everything in between. APA has done a great deal of good in other areas. Holding the whole truth is very difficult at times like these but I believe it will be necessary in order to move through this horrifying situation effectively and productively.

We will continue to ensure that you, our members, are informed as new information becomes available. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Here is the full report:

<<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/APA-FINAL-Report-7.2.15.pdf>>

Here is a response by Drs. Nadine Kaslow and Susan McDaniels that you may have received if you are a member of APA:

/"Dear Members,/"

/The APA Board of Directors commissioned Mr. David Hoffman of Sidley Austin to do a thorough and independent review related to allegations of a relationship the APA and Bush Administration related to the use of abusive interrogation techniques during the War on Terror. The report was recently received confidentially by Council who were in the process of providing recommendations to the Board when it was leaked to the New York Times. We had planned on a public release this coming week after Council's input, but we have now posted the complete report on the APA website along with a press release that includes the Board's initial recommendations. The supporting documents will be made available on our website this weekend./

/The conclusions of the Independent Review report are deeply disturbing. Mr. Hoffman found evidence of an ongoing pattern of collusion between a small group of APA representatives and the Department of Defense. The Hoffman report states that the intent of the individuals who participated in the collusion was to "curry favor" with the Defense Department, and that may have enabled the government's use of abusive interrogation techniques. As a result, the 2005 PENS report became a document based at least as much on the desires of the DoD as on the needs of the psychology profession and the APA's commitment to human rights. Mr. Hoffman did not find evidence of collusion with the CIA or in the 2002 change to our Code of Ethics. /

/The Hoffman report clearly writes a difficult chapter in our organization's history. We sincerely apologize for the actions, policies and lack of independence from governmental influence detailed in the report. Our members, our organization, our profession, and the public expected and deserved better. We have announced a series of corrective actions related to policies and procedures to strengthen our organization and demonstrate our commitment to ethics and human rights./

/We realize it is a lengthy document, but encourage you to read the full report. Although the Executive Summary thoroughly overviews the findings, the specific details that provide the background (emails and interview data) are in the actual document. Reading the full document will help you to better understand how Mr. Hoffman came to his conclusions./

/As troubling as the findings are, it is important that they have come to light so we can address them in a systematic and thoughtful way. As a result of the report, there will be significant changes in the organization, in terms of both policies and procedures. Dr. Stephen Behnke is no longer an employee of APA as a result of the findings in the Hoffman report, and other personnel actions are under consideration./

/APA as an organization is a tremendous force for good in the world. Our members and our staff include so many talented, committed, and ethical psychologists. Our task now is to use what we have learned to ensure that something like this can never happen again, to return to a focus on our core values in everything we do, and to work to regain the trust of both our members and the public. /

/The months ahead will be very challenging for the association. We have much work ahead of us to address the findings of the report and to move toward healing. Nothing will _ever_ undo what was done in the past, and we cannot deny that it is a stain on the honor of "Psychology," but we must and we will return to our roots to rebuild a new organization of which all of us can be proud. With your patience, support and engagement, we truly believe that we can come through this painful time an even stronger organization./

/Sincerely,/

Drs. Nadine Kaslow and Susan McDaniel/

/The APA Independent Review's Special Committee"/

Michele C. McKinnie, Psy.D., PC

1648 Ellis St., Ste. 302

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New York State Psychological Association

Dear NYSPA Members and NYS Psychologists:

The New York State Psychological Association is committed to transparency, honesty and integrity, and is on record opposing torture. We are extremely troubled by the revelations in the Hoffman Report that there was collusion between senior members of the American Psychological Association and government officials which ultimately gave license to military operatives to use abusive interrogation techniques. This collusion, deception and dishonesty corrupted the very makeup and activities of the Presidential Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security (PENS) originally set up to study this issue. We learned that this was done to "curry favor" with the United States Department of Defense and also meant to protect psychologists rather than to protect the public. We condemn this behavior.

We are troubled by the lack of transparency, accountability and an inadequate set of checks and balances. Had there been a better system established, no small group or entity within the APA would have been able to hide crucial information from governance and the membership.

We are also extremely troubled to learn that attempts by those who strove to reveal inappropriate actions on the part of senior members of the APA, over many years were met with denial and ridicule.

We endorse the corrective actions that the APA has planned and the suggestions that are circulating in the areas of ethics, governance structure and checks and balances.

Our two NYSPA Representatives to APA Council, Drs. June Feder and Peter Kanaris, will be empowered to find solutions that include how to move through this organizational crisis and move forward in the future. They will be meeting in August.

We intend to monitor these developments and communicate with you periodically. Please make use of all avenues to communicate with us and to APA.

NYSPA has a proud history. Established in 1921 we were the first 'state' psychological association and the first psychological association to adopt an official code of ethics. The fact that trusted leaders of APA have tinkered with APA's code of ethics in order to carry out previously forbidden or illegal behaviors regarding the treatment of detainees is abhorrent. The pride we have as psychologists has been blunted.

Our own NYSPA leaders were wise enough in 2010 to bestow the Beacon Award upon a relentless fighter and a NYSPA member Dr. Steven Reisner. The Beacon is an award "presented to a psychologist whose leadership or advocacy has established a guiding light for the profession of psychology."

To our NYSPA members - whether you are a member of APA or not you are still our member, you are still psychologists, and we speak for you. Through us you indeed have a voice.

Finally we must learn from this tragedy the principle of never giving up despite the barriers and hurdles before us. Those who fought hard to expose these wrongdoings and never backed down - Stephen Soldz, Steven Reisner, Jean Maria Arrigo, and James Risen - have shown us what that means. We thank them.

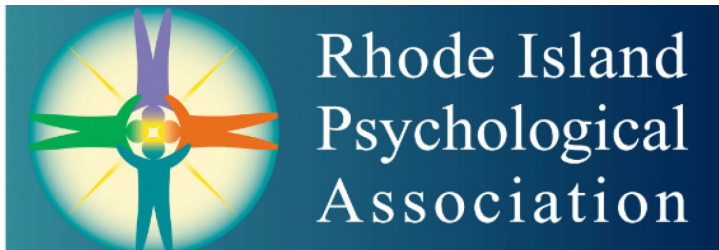
On behalf of NYSPA's Executive Committee,



Leonard Davidman, PhD

President, New York State Psychological Association

Roy Aranda, PhD, JD (President-Elect)
Dinelia Rosa, PhD (Past-President)
Tanya Gesek, PhD (Secretary)
Alan Hack, PhD (Treasurer)
Antoinette DeLuca, PsyD (Member at Large)
Herbert Gingold, PhD (Member at Large)
June Feder, PhD (APA Council Rep)
Peter Kanaris, PhD (APA Council Rep)
Rochelle Balter, PhD, JD (Parliamentarian)
Jerry Grodin, PhD (Director of Professional Affairs)
Tom Coté, MBA, CAE (Executive Director)



APA has issued a press release and the Hoffman Report that investigated the role of APA staff and members in government torture programs.

Here is APA's press release:

<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/independent-review-release.aspx>

Here is the full report:

<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/APA-FINAL-Report-7.2.15.pdf>

Here are two media articles about the report and APA's response.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/11/us/psychologists-shielded-us-torture-program-report-finds.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=first-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&r=0>

<http://chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/psychological-associations-board-urges-a-ban-on-members-role-in-military-interrogations/101887>

I will pass along further information when we get it.

It's important that we take time to read the report and reflect upon its implications. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you have interest in getting together to discuss the report and APA's response.

Peter Oppenheimer, Ph.D.



July 11, 2015

Good evening:

As many of you are aware, the Hoffman Report investigating the role of APA staff and members in government torture programs has been released. We want to make sure you have access to this important information and ask that each of you take time to review the released information below.

We also want to assure TPA members, the larger Tennessee psychological community, and the public that TPA is committed to the highest levels of ethics and standards of care. TPA remains focused on advocacy for the profession in a manner consistent with these high standards.

Here is APA's press release:

<<http://cirrus.mail-list.com/tpaboardplus/43358736.html>>

Here is the full report:

<<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/APA-FINAL-Report-7.2.15.pdf>>

Here are two media articles about the report and APA's response:.

<<http://cirrus.mail-list.com/tpaboardplus/27526967.html>>

<<http://cirrus.mail-list.com/tpaboardplus/57507460.html>>

Here is a response by Drs. Nadine Kaslow and Susan McDaniels:

/"Dear Members,/

/The APA Board of Directors commissioned Mr. David Hoffman of Sidley Austin to do a thorough and independent review related to allegations of a relationship the APA and Bush Administration related to the use of abusive interrogation techniques during the War on Terror. The report was recently received confidentially by Council who were in the process of providing recommendations to the Board when it was leaked to the New York Times. We had planned on a public release this coming week after Council's input, but we have now posted the complete report on the APA website along with a press release that includes the Board's initial recommendations. The supporting documents will be made available on our website this weekend./

/The conclusions of the Independent Review report are deeply disturbing. Mr. Hoffman found evidence of an ongoing pattern of collusion between a small group of APA representatives and the Department of Defense. The Hoffman report states that the intent of the individuals who participated in the collusion was to "curry favor" with the Defense Department, and that may have enabled the government's use of abusive interrogation techniques. As a result, the 2005 PENS report became a document based at least as much on the desires of the DoD as on the needs of the psychology profession and the APA's commitment to human rights. Mr. Hoffman did not find evidence of collusion with the CIA or in the 2002 change to our Code of Ethics. /

/The Hoffman report clearly writes a difficult chapter in our organization's history. We sincerely apologize for the actions, policies and lack of independence from governmental influence detailed in the report. Our members, our organization, our profession, and the public expected and deserved better. We have announced a series of corrective actions related to policies and procedures to strengthen our organization and demonstrate our commitment to ethics and human rights./

/We realize it is a lengthy document, but encourage you to read the full report. Although the Executive Summary thoroughly overviews the findings, the specific details that provide the background (emails and interview data) are in the actual document. Reading the full document will help you to better understand how Mr. Hoffman came to his conclusions. /

/As troubling as the findings are, it is important that they have come to light so we can address them in a systematic and thoughtful way. As a result of the report, there will be significant changes in the organization, in terms of both policies and procedures. Dr. Stephen Behnke is no longer an employee of APA as a result of the findings in the Hoffman report, and other personnel actions are under consideration./

/APA as an organization is a tremendous force for good in the world. Our members and our staff include so many talented, committed, and ethical psychologists. Our task now is to use what we have learned to ensure that something like this can never happen again, to return to a focus on our core values in everything we do, and to work to regain the trust of both our members and the public. /

/The months ahead will be very challenging for the association. We have much work ahead of us to address the findings of the report and to move toward healing. Nothing will ever undo what was done in the past, and we cannot deny that it is a stain on the honor of "Psychology," but we must and we will return to our roots to rebuild a new organization of which all of us can be proud. With your patience, support and engagement, we truly believe that we can come through this painful time an even stronger organization./

/Sincerely,/

Drs. Nadine Kaslow and Susan McDaniel/

/The APA Independent Review's Special Committee"/

We will pass along further information as it is made available. It's important that we all take time to read the report and reflect upon its implications. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Erin Patel, Psy.D., ABPP
TPA 2015 President- on behalf of the TPA Board

Ohio Psychological Association

Dear OPA members:

As nearly all of you must know by now, the report of the independent reviewer, written by attorney David Hoffman has been publicly released. In it, Hoffman addresses allegations that APA colluded with the Bush administration in facilitating harsh interrogation and torture. Like many of you, we have spent the past week reading the Hoffman Report with a mixture of shock, sadness, anger, confusion and profound disappointment. We have been carefully reading OPA member comments on our listservs and responding to questions and comments that have come through the OPA central office.

Our Executive Committee met on Friday, July 17 and discussed the Hoffman Report and how we can best respond to the issues and concerns of our OPA membership. As you are undoubtedly aware, delving into the details of the report, addressing the widespread implications and determining necessary and appropriate courses of action is an evolving process that will continue over an extended period of time. It is the primary item on the agenda for the APA Council of Representatives at its upcoming meeting at the APA convention early next month.

We want to ensure that you have on-going information about what APA and others are doing to address the ethical malfeasance and abuses of power described in the Hoffman Report. Here are the steps we have identified so far:

- First, so that you remain accurately informed, we recommend that you read the Hoffman Report, or at least the Executive Summary. (The complete, unedited report is available at www.apa.org. Click on "Report of the Independent Reviewer). Reading the report will help you draw your own conclusions rather than relying on secondary resources and opinions. The Hoffman Report itself is the best source of information about what is in the Hoffman Report.
- We have asked our APA Council Representative, Dr. David Hayes, to provide us with regular updates, which will be posted on the OPA listservs. We will continue to monitor the listservs for your questions, comments and ideas. These will be compiled and shared with APA.
- APA has established a portal for psychologists to submit comments and ideas to address issues raised in the Hoffman Report. We urge you to participate in this process in order to create change that is necessary. Comments can be sent to irfeedback@apa.org or by going to <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/index.aspx>. We want to see your comments and ideas as well so that we can be sure that they are getting through to the people who need to see them. You can send your comments to mranney@ohpsych.org or hayesdl@sbcglobal.net.
- If you plan to attend the APA convention in Toronto, please consider attending the Town Hall meeting on Saturday, August 8 from 3-4:30 pm. Several OPA leaders will also attend this event to convey the concerns and questions of OPA members.
- Finally, OPA will respond formally to APA to ensure that APA leaders are aware of our concerns arising from the Hoffman Report.

APA must focus on rebuilding trust and making necessary changes to organizational structure and operational processes. All of us must get involved and be a part of making meaningful and effective change happen. It is crucial that we better understand how these ethical breaches occurred and how APA can ensure that they do not happen again. We must make certain that our voices are heard. OPA will continue to work with you and for you to ensure change at APA.

Peg Richards Mosher, Ph.D., President

On behalf of the OPA Executive Committee:

Dr. Bob Stinson, Psy.D., J.D., LICDC-CS, ABPP, President-Elect

Dr. Kathleen Ashton, Ph.D., ABPP, Past-President

Dr. Nathan Tomcik, Ph.D., Finance Officer

Dr. David Hayes, Ph.D., ABPP, Representative to the APA Council of Representatives

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To the WSPA membership regarding the Hoffman report and APA

July 13, 2015

It is likely that, by now, many of you are aware of the New York Times reports and the recent release of the Hoffman Report, an independent report commissioned by the current APA Board of Directors tasked to investigate the role of APA staff, governance, and some members in United States government torture programs. These are indeed very dark and difficult times for APA and the discipline of psychology as a whole. WSPA wants to make this important information available to you and encourage you to review the released information below.

These events affect us all and offer an opportunity for self-assessment and increased self-awareness regarding psychology's responsibility to the community, the public, and society to uphold the highest levels of ethics and standards of care. The WSPA Board takes these issues very seriously. WSPA remains focused on advocacy for the profession in a manner consistent with these high standards.

Thank you.

APA's press release: <http://cirrus.mail-list.com/tpaboardplus/43358736.html>

The full Hoffman report: <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/APA-FINAL-Report-7.2.15.pdf>

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<http://cirrus.mail-list.com/tpaboardplus/57507460.html>