

» LAAC UPDATES – DECEMBER 2016

The LAAC provides periodic updates to inform members about recent advocacy efforts and to request input from members about their advocacy needs.

Texas Sunset License Board Review

Every 12 years the Texas State Legislature performs a Sunset Review, which decides if (a) a licensing board should continue to exist and (b) operate as it currently does. The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP) is presently under Sunset review; however, the officials overseeing this process (Sunset Commission Staff) have made a number of concerning recommendations through the Texas Advisory Commission Staff Report, which are as follows:

- To partially consolidate TSBEP with other agencies
- To remove the requirement for postdoctoral training to obtain Texas licensure
- To call into question the proposed changes to the definition of "psychologist" in Texas regarding the ability to diagnose patients

NAN responded to the Staff Report though a [formal letter](#), which outlined opposition to the abovementioned concerns. This letter also stated NAN is in favor of a new definition of "psychologist" in Texas, specifically acknowledging that diagnosis is an essential component of psychological practice. A NAN representative was also present at the December 8, 2016 Sunset hearings in order to provide public comment. Please stay tuned for further updates on this very important matter.

LAAC HONE-In Updates

The Health Outcomes and Neuropsychology Efficacy Initiative (HONE-In) was developed to demonstrate the utility and value of neuropsychological services. Through efforts made by the LAAC and NAN members at large, Phase I HONE-In objectives were met and include a list of citations with associated article summaries. These updates will be available on the NAN website in the near future and include research related to the following topic areas: general utility and outcomes associated with neuropsychological practice, satisfaction among patients and providers, treatment efficacy, among others. The following provides a brief example of the updated HONE-In article citation/summary:

Neuropsychologists' Roles on Integrated Care Teams

Population:	General
Categories:	Improves Treatment; Diagnostic Utility
Authors:	Kirkwood, M.W., Peterson, R.L., Connery, A.K., Baker, D.A., & Forster, J.

Date: 2016

Title: A Pilot Study Investigating Neuropsychological Consultation As An Intervention For Persistent Postconcussive Symptoms In A Pediatric Sample.

Type: Journal Article

Citation: Kirkwood, M.W., Peterson, R.L., Connery, A.K., Baker, D.A., & Forster, J. (2016). A pilot study investigating neuropsychological consultation as an intervention for persistent postconcussive symptoms in a pediatric sample. *The Journal of Pediatrics*. 169:244 – 249.

Utility: One-time neuropsychological consultation was followed by a significant decrease in post-concussive symptoms, even after controlling for a host of potentially mediating factors. Neuropsychological consultation included interviews, a brief neuropsychological battery, and feedback provided to the parents (test results, psychoeducation, recommendations for specific parent concerns) totaling approximately three hours.

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2015.10.014>

You can visit the NAN LAAC webpage for more information about HONE-In and to access the current Phase I listing of articles and citations. Please stay tuned for updates on the HONE-In project and upcoming website additions.