**May 2013 APA Assembly Report**

**By Robert Feder, M.D.**

**New Hampshire Assembly Rep**

1. **APA Leadership**

Jay Scully, M.D. will be stepping down as Medical Director of the APA after serving in that position for 12 years. He is being replaced by

Saul Levin, M.D. Dr. Levin is currently the Director of Health for the District of Columbia, and brings many years of administrative experience to the APA. The Medical Director is the highest ranking, non-elected full-time administrator of the APA.

Relationships between the Assembly and the Board of the APA have been at a very positive level during the recent Presidencies of John Oldham and Dilip Jeste. The Board and the Assembly seem to be working together better than previously. It is expected that this will continue during the Presidency of Jeff Lieberman.

1. **Finances**

The APA’s current financial situation is very solid. Operating expenses are under good control, and revenues are expected to increase significantly with the publication of DSM5. The APA’s reserves have improved along with the general improvement in the U.S. stock market.

1. **Membership**

National APA membership was up slightly for the past year, but is still significantly lower over-all for the past five years (around 30,000) than for the previous decade (around 35,000).

1. **CPT Coding and Parity Abuse**

The APA has a group of six full-time staff, including its legal counsel, who are working exclusively on tracking and trying to correct insurance company non-reimbursement under the new mental health CPT codes. Activities in this area include a lawsuit against Anthem in Connecticut, and a lawsuit against United Behavioral Health in New York. It is hoped that a recent State ruling in Vermont will set a legal precedent in this area; the ruling stated that insurance companies bear the burden of demonstrating that there is a clinically appropriate standard of care that permits mental health benefits to be treated any differently than medical-surgical benefits. Please report any difficulties you are having with insurance reimbursement to [cptparityabuses@psych.org](mailto:cptparityabuses@psych.org); for further information see <http://www.psychiatry.org/cptparityabuses>

1. **Assembly Actions**

The Assembly passed the following notable actions. These will still need to be approved by the Board before they become official APA policy.

1. A Position Statement on Firearms Access, Acts of Mass Violence, and the Relationship to Mental Health Services - this is a very carefully and well-thought out statement on these issues, and should be available on the APA website once it is passed by the Board.
2. Free DSM5 as a membership benefit – An Action Paper was submitted to have hardcopies of the DSM5 distributed to all APA members as a membership benefit. This was eventually revised to provision of a free electronic version of DSM5 to all members.