



CCPA NET Letter

www.psychselect.com/ccpa

Collin County
Psychological
Association

February 2005
Volume 14, Issue 2

BILLING, INSURANCE & MORE!

Our thanks to ***J. Dillard & D. Hurst of JLD Assoc.***,



see add in Opportunities, for an informative presentation! Their work on behalf of many of our colleagues demonstrates their professionalism and the ability to get us paid. They “walked” us through completing the HCFA 1500 so that we can

get prompt payment. Also they had several letters to send when delays occur in insurance payment. See the *Mentor’s Corner for HIPPA security issues!*

Please announce the CCPA Research Award!

We have been privileged to encourage several graduate students through the Award.

The Award has a \$300 prize.

The deadline for submission is 3/15!

more info at: www.psychselect.com/ccpa

“LEGAL & ETHICS UPDATE”

2/25—12 PM **Ψ** R. MALONE, ATTY.

**Please attend and bring a friend!
Our meetings are a great time to network!**

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FUTURE MEETINGS:

- 2/25— Legal & Ethics Update: Southfork Hotel 12 Noon
- 3/25—Authentic Happiness: Southfork Hotel 12 Noon
- 4/22—P. Burnie, TPA Pres.: Southfork Hotel 12 Noon

UPCOMING MEETINGS—SCHEDULE THESE NOW!

Our monthly meetings are held from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. on the 4th Friday of each month at the Southfork Hotel Plano, unless otherwise specified. The Southfork Hotel is on the east side of 75, 1 block north of 15th Street in Plano. Meetings are usually held in the Hackberry room. Members may order lunch from the menu, or just enjoy the presentation. 1.5 CEU credits are given to members for attending the meeting.

Feb 25— Legal Issues & Ethics with Robby Malone, ATTY. Southfork Hotel Plano

Mar 25—"Authentic Happiness" - Introducing the CCPA Book Discussion—

Southfork Hotel Plano

April 22— Paul Burnie, PhD, TPA Pres. Annual TPA Update—Southfork Hotel Plano

Please announce the CCPA Research Award, more info at: www.psychselect.com/ccpa

PLEASE CHECK YOUR REFERRAL INFO. ON www.psychselect.com/ccpa! We try to keep it up to date, but we need you to verify your location and phone info. Remember you need to be current on dues to be listed!

OPPORTUNITIES!

Office Space

Several large offices with waiting area available. Located in Richardson near UTD. Office with other mental health professionals.

Contact: Frank Wichern (972) 234-3178

Two story, reasonably priced (\$950), 1200 sq ft office for rent. Four offices, waiting room, break area, rest room. 1325 19th St. Ste. 4B, Plano

Contact: Dan Perkins 972-562-9140

West Plano 2300 sq. ft. office condominium has two spaces for lease to mental health professionals. The smaller office is about 172 sq. ft. in area and faces onto an eastern courtyard. The larger office has about 272 sq.ft. and has eastern and northern windows, a skylight, and built-in cabinets. Both have internet connections, phone hookups, recessed lighting, and soundproofing. The suite itself has a very nice and spacious waiting room, a nice admin area, file storage, a kitchenette, and interior restrooms for clients and staff. A separate exit is also provided for client and staff use. Free parking and easy access to all parts of the Metroplex are added features of this location. Please call Tom Van Hoose for more details at 972-250-2919.

Services

Groups

Sarah Spreda, PhD and Jason Simpson, PsyD will be offering a **Divorce Recovery Support Group!** The group will concern issues about the divorce transition. Contact them at 972.670.5153 Or 469.879.9588

email: groups@SynergistWeb.com

Employment Sought:

Marcia Moriarity who has been employed for a number of years in a psychologist's office is seeking employment. Contact Marcia at 972.867.8599

Billing

WE MANAGE MANAGED CARE! You are in charge of scheduling your patients, treating your patients, and your TRF's. We do the rest. We are seasoned professionals. We make the phone calls to managed care and make sure they pay. We pre-authorize, file your claims, process your EOB's, do all the billing and collections, send you monthly reports, answer patients billing and insurance questions, and more! Free yourself to market your practice or balance your life! Call JLD and Associates at 972 -424 - 9212.

LET THIS SPACE WORK FOR YOU! Advertise your specialty or service so our members can refer or utilize it! Send to: wichern@att.net

CCPA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: Greetings CCPA members! February 2005



Welcome to the online edition of our CCPA Net Letter! Please keep us informed of any changes in your e-mail address. You can always check for the latest issue as well as recent back issues on or www.psychselect.com/ccpa website.

Please complete and return your TPA group insurance enrollment form today even if you never intend to buy the insurance! We need your help. Please act now. See your e-mail or go to the TPA website www.texaspsyc.org.

Thanks to Judy Dillard and Dena Hurst for their interesting and informative presentation on Insurance Billing. Since their company, JLD and associates, bills many thousands of claims a week Judy and Dena know some of the "Tricks of the Trade" that those of us who only file 25 claims a week don't know. I think the meeting took on extra excitement when someone asked a question and each question triggered three more questions! In what seemed like only moments it was 1:35PM and we had to adjourn the meeting with many people staying behind to ask more questions!

I would like to think of the Collin County Psychological Association as a group that is mutually supportive, builds a sense of community among psychologists, and a place where people can network for purposes of professional growth. Competition can break down group cohesion. We are each others' competition. Yet without community and mutual support we can not survive as a profession. This last meeting was a good example of Psychologists working together in mutual support. There was a high attendance to the meeting. Almost everyone asked a question or made a comment which indicated to me that people weren't just attending but they were involved. It started right in the beginning during the initial announcements. For example Doctor Gordon Sauer spoke up and brought it to our attention that there was a class action suit going on against CIGNA due to unpaid claims on a large scale. Doctor Carol Mohny brought it to our attention that the new updates to the HIPPA Law for this Spring were just published on the web. The information sharing and informed questioning took on a life of it's own and the meeting started to look more like a town hall meeting where people felt like they counted and the meeting looked less like a formal presentation. It was nice to watch.

Legislative day is upon us. The more people we have in Austin on legislative day the better. When the legislators come to this meeting they are getting an impression as to how large a group we are in the state and how much influence we may have on election day. So if you have the time either now or in future years you would be making a very important investment by show up in Austin for legislative day. It is a very inclusive process and it takes no preparation except for packing and traveling.

Please join us on the fourth Friday of February and each following month for the exciting continuation of our monthly educational programs!

Steve Sliwinski, Ph.D.

Suggestions, comments? Please contact me at dr.sliwinski@comcast.net.

**Collin County
Psychological Association**

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*The network of psychologists that
connects!*

CCPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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ANNOUNCEMENT OR OTHER
RELEVANT INFORMATION,
CONTACT CCPA: wichern@att.net

BOARD MEETINGS:

Please attend!

600 W. Campbell Rd #5,
Richardson

NOON – First Friday of month!

**CCPA REMINDS:
YOU MUST BE A MEM-
BER TO GET CEU'S!**

MENTOR'S CORNER: *CCPA encourages it's members to build prof-
itable, ethical practices. These tips are timely and* we solicit your suggestions,
recommendations and Questions!

***When you get a complaint! From a recent National Psy-
chologist article by B. Caudill, JD:***

Things you should not do! Contd. From Jan. Issue

(4) Never call the Board directly and discuss the case without the assis-
tance of counsel. As noted above, psychologists frequently are their own
worst enemies when it comes to presenting evidence in the most favorable
light. There is a tendency toward self-flagellation that some professionals
have that causes them to confess error or mis-take, when the conduct does
not under legal standards need to be improved. It can, **however**, be ex-
tremely difficult to persuade the Board that no action is warranted when the
psychologist has called up and apologized for making a mistake or de-
scribed him or herself as negligent. There should be no communication
with the Board except that following consultation with legal counsel and
with the approval of legal counsel.

(5) Don't even think about trying to sue the person who complained against
you. In most states complaints against licensing boards are privileged from
suit. Suits against complainants seem like an attempt to intimidate or har-
ass the person making the com-plaint and such suits may waive the psy-
chologist's right of privacy.

JOIN CCPA ON 2/25 for more important information!

APRIL HIPPA SECURITY RULE:

The HIPPA Security Rule outlines steps that must be taken to
protect electronic health care information (E PHI).

1. A security officer must be designated to create administrative
policy to protect E PHI. This means policy and plan documen-
tation and a business contract with any party receiving E PHI.
2. Implementation and physical standards must be done. This
means segregating computers and having password protec-
tion for E PHI. The answer may be to have a separate com-
puter for E PHI and a computer for internet use and schedul-
ing.
3. All storage media containing E PHI must be secured by lock or
password. Cleansing is required if discarded.
4. Backup of E PHI may be wise in case of system problems.
5. Technical standards must involve control of access
(passwords), audits for security breach, integrity of data, au-
thentication, and transmission security.
6. If transmitting data on the net, or within an office, unique
user id is required and cannot be shared. No common logons
for multiple users.
7. If transmitting data even across networks, an encryption pro-
gram is required; this applies to email also.
8. The security procedures must be documented and retained for
6 years.

More later on how a solo practioners might implement this!