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Responses to Division 42 Questions for Candidates for APA President Elect

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1. Contributions to the Independent Practice of Psychology— My career has focused on education, training and mentoring. I am currently Director of Training in Psychology at Boston Children’s Hospital. I have been a leader in the training program since 1988. Over the 26 years, 182 pre-doctoral interns have trained at BCH. While the majority of our alumni have opted to pursue careers in academia or at health centers, some have become full-time practitioners. The internship program has contributed to their training. Also, I was a member of the Massachusetts Board of Registration for over nine years. While chair, I oversaw the implementation of the Health Service Provider regulation which included more stringent requirements for independent practice than for initial generic licensing. Finally, I served on CAPP for five years where I chaired the Grants Committee which reviewed funding requests from state, provincial and territorial psychological associations. Most of the issues were related to independent practitioners.
2. Important Issues Facing Independent Practitioners—Independent practitioners are a heterogeneous group of service-providers-businesses. They vary in terms of length of service in a particular community, demographics of patients (self-pay, insurance companies they are able to bill, and sliding fee schedule), etc. More senior established practitioners will probably be able to continue their practices for self-pay clients. However, for those with fewer years of experience and even some senior colleagues may find themselves challenged to compete in integrated health care systems. Reimbursement criteria and referral patterns will most likely become more challenging in coming years. We must take steps to both assure inclusion of practitioners in such systems of care and educate colleagues on adapting strategies as payment systems change.
3. Initiatives Planned That Will Impact Independent Practice— My campaign has two mantras: “Psychology is every day in almost every way” and “Leadership and Collaborations as Citizen Psychologists”. Given the relevance of psychology in science, education and practice, I will advocate for psychologists to become active in their communities by serving on boards, committees and councils as citizen psychologists who contribute to the enhancement of their “neighbors”. We need to be in the room, at the table and often at the head of the table as policies are developed and implemented. The more we engage in our respective communities, the more likely we will be invited to share our knowledge and skills as citizen psychologists. The people at those tables often make decisions about the impact of psychological services and I would hope that a psychologist would be present to provide an accurate perspective on the discipline and profession.
4. Division 42 Positions-None
5. Contributions to Div. 42—Long time member and fellow.
6. Current Anti-trust Laws that Have Negative Impact on reimbursements—I would work with the APAPO to address these issues. It is clear that APAPO needs to be in the room, at the table and sharing the head of the table position when these matters are addressed. It is a process that

requires planning (cognition), passion (affect) and persistence (behavior). Creating collaborations and partnerships as ways to generate support will be important

7. APA Funding Issues--APAPO, the companion organization to APA, needs resources to support advocacy for professional practice. Generating revenue has been a challenge since its inception. We should invite colleagues involved in an array of professional practices to present ideas about the development of non-dues revenue strategies. Practitioner members of SPTAs and Divisions can propose ways to create, design and market such ideas. Focusing on ideas from practitioners make it more likely that they will become consumers. Engaging more effectively with the SPTAs and Divisions can foster increased identification with APAPO. The top-ranked proposals and collaborations can be recognized at SLC.