

Liaison Report
APPIC Board Meeting
8/11/2010
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I attended the open portion of the APPIC board meeting as the APTC liaison, along with liaisons from CUDCP, NCSPP, CoA, ASPPB, APAGS & the VA. Here are the highlights:

1. End of post-match clearinghouse. 77% of APPIC membership approved shifting to a second match, ending the clearinghouse. To enter the 2nd match, the student must have entered the 1st match (no sneaking in to the 2nd match). An internship may not hold a position from the 2nd match; it is filled then or not at all. Other info available on APPIC website (www.appic.org).
2. Connie Hersey retires as Executive Director of APPIC, to be replaced by a Ph.D. psychologist as of 1/1/11.
3. CoA report: Implementing Regulation C-20 has been modified (see CoA website) – graduate programs must now list % of interns matched at accredited internships, APPIC internships (& other regional recognition), and non-accredited internships. A recent APPIC survey shows 37% of programs requiring accredited internships, 42% requiring at least an APPIC-style internship, and 21% with no restriction. Greg Keilin reports that programs use a lot of creativity in reporting their match levels – need tighter definition of when a student is a match.
4. Match imbalance. The Council of Chairs of Training Councils (CCTC) has taken the lead in working on the match imbalance by bringing together CCTC member groups to work in concert on the issue; progress on various initiatives was reported: an internship development toolkit, designed for sites wishing to become internships, has been developed (see www.psychtrainingcouncils.org). APPIC is enhancing its mentoring program for APPIC-accredited sites to help them achieve accreditation. Graduate programs encouraged to take local action to increase number of internships; also to offer supervision, office space to local internships to make more internship slots possible. A sequence of training conference is in the works for 2012 that should help (how exactly?). Some in the group supported the idea of a workforce analysis to see what the demand for psychologists would be. This, along with the efforts to promote accredited internships, doesn't seem to your liaison person to address the imbalance question. NCSPP liaison reported that their group has been having “difficult conversations” about limiting growth or even reducing class sizes to help address this issue. As part of this effort, they have begun, as of July, collecting “internal data” about placements and match rates. Finally, the new health care law may bring in a lot of newly-insured folks who will need services; this may enhance internship opportunities in the future. Holding your breath not recommended.
5. ASPPB reports developing a common licensing application for use by all states; and a faculty section on their website. ASPPB website (www.asppb.net) worth checking out!
6. CUDCP. Working on criteria for readiness for internship – need to be fully ready for internship (this should also help with match issues by reducing number of less qualified applicants). Also working to disseminate information to college advisors about how to select graduate programs, with information on the various alternatives and the issues associated with them (available on CUDCP website (<http://chp.php.ufl.edu/cudcp/>)).

There was also a discussion about how students who don't match can get feedback on their applications to individual internships – the goal is for students to get a feel of whether they were qualified but simply not chosen, or whether an internship has ruled them out entirely. Much discussion about this; overall sense from APPIC folks was for student to call up the site and ask, “what could I do to improve my application.” It is also important for graduate programs and advisors to review these issues with interns.

7. The VA has developed a practicum guide, posted on their private, internal website. Your liaison is attempting to gain access and will reveal all if successful.
8. Your liaison reported on APTC activities and touted the benefits of membership. People are impressed with our organization!