



November 2021

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Presidential Notes from Dr. Swanson

The Reverse Field of Dreams Fallacy:

Even if We Don't Build It, They Will Come

In a recent issue of [Psychology Today](#), Amy Lutz, a nationally known advocate for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and author, commented on an [article](#) in the Philadelphia Inquirer about a 12 year old boy with autism with such aggressive behaviors that neither his parents nor the professionals assigned to him could find suitable services for him other than an admission to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. This admission lasted four months until he was simply discharged back to his parent's care. She reviewed the arguments posited by some disability advocates that we no longer need aspects of disability programs (i.e. guardianship, special education classrooms, larger residential settings). These advocates suggest that even students and individuals with the most profound intellectual and developmental disabilities can thrive in inclusive classrooms, hold competitive jobs, and exercise their autonomy (with perhaps a little guidance through supported decision making).



As Ms. Lutz points out, a lovely vision, if only wishing made it so. For my son, Andrew, an adult with severe autism, that vision would not serve him well.

This is not a Pennsylvania problem but a national problem. Here in Delaware, we have examples like this - where the only safe place determined is a hospital bed. In 2017, Kaiser Health News reported that over a 4-year period, over 160,000 admissions - like that of Emmet Tolis - occurred nationally, with some lasting up to one year. Self-injurious behavior is particularly disturbing, as demonstrated in the video released by several autism organizations and made accessible in Ms. Lutz's article. Many families we know are not immune to this issue - including our own.

Despite the protests, intensive, disability and person-specific supports exist because they are needed by a significant portion of the IDD population, and across a wide spectrum of needs. Unfortunately, these supports tend to diminish as one moves from childhood to adulthood. We need life-long support for those among us who cannot make decisions or speak for themselves; a safe choice in housing opportunities; transportation assistance to improve mobility and access; supported employment that pays a decent wage, and opportunity for safe social interaction so that the fullest life can be lived by all Delawareans.

Kevin Costner heard the phrase, "If you build it, he will come." I would take Ms. Lutz's reverse Field of Dreams Fallacy one step further:

We must build it, because they are here!

[Psychology Today Article](#)
[Philadelphia Inquirer Article](#)

John Swanson, MD
 President
 Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association

Delaware Journal of Public Health

Dementia in Delaware



Dementia, also known as Major Neurocognitive Disorder, is an acquired impairment of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral function that affects an estimated 50 million people worldwide. The most common dementia is Alzheimer's Disease. Family caregivers, health care providers, and public services are working to improve the lives of the 19,000 people with dementia who live in Delaware.

This issue, we welcome Dr. James Ellison, the Swank Foundation Endowed Chair in Memory Care and Geriatrics at ChristianaCare as our guest editor. Dr. Ellison is a Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, and is himself Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neurology*.

[Read the Issue](#)

Upcoming Academy Events

APA Delaware 2021 Fall Conference

Wednesday, December 1 &
Thursday, December 2, 2021

Join co-sponsors the Academy/DPHA and the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association for the APA Delaware 2021 Fall Conference.

This two day conference will include panels discussing COVID-19 informed planning, and equity and planning. Academy/DPHA Board Member **Rita Landgraf** and Executive Director **Tim Glibbs, MPH**, as well as Delawarean **Alan Greenglass** will be speaking at this event.

[Learn More, and Register Here](#)

American Planning Association
Delaware Chapter
Creating Great Communities for All

**APA Delaware
2021 Fall Conference**

Wednesday & Thursday, December 1 & 2, 2021
8:45 AM - 12:00 PM On-line ZOOM Webinar

WEDNESDAY SESSION	THURSDAY SESSION
<p>8:45 - 9:00 INTRODUCTION 9:00 - 9:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER</p> <p>David Edgell, AICP Director of DE Office of State Planning Coordination</p> <p>9:30 - 11:30 COVID-INFORMED PLANNING ACROSS MULTIPLE SECTORS (PANEL)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Broadband/Technology Jason Clarke, Chief Information Officer DE Dept. of Technology & Information Delaware Climate Action Plan (DCAP) Susan Love, AICP, Climate & Sustainability Programs DE Dept. Natural Resources & Environmental Control Thrives in Commercial Real Estate Sean O'Neil, Policy Scientist Institute for Public Administration, UoD Climate Change and Health Kathleen Gorman, Strategic Marketing Coordinator Carl M. Freeman Companies Public Engagement in the COVID Environment Phil Barnes, PhD, Faculty Director SNP Inreach Initiative, Biden School, UoD <p>11:30 - 12:00 CLOSING SPEAKER</p> <p>Saundra Ross Johnson Director of Statewide Equity Initiatives, State of Delaware</p>	<p>8:45 - 9:00 INTRODUCTION 9:00 - 9:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER</p> <p>Susan Alice Wood, FAICP Co-Author of APA's Planning for Equity Policy Guide</p> <p>9:30 - 11:30 IMPLEMENTING EQUITY AND PLANNING (PANEL)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion in the Sustainability Effort Jennifer A. Horney, PhD, MPH, CPH Program in Epidemiology, UoD Delaware Statewide Equity Initiatives Saundra Ross Johnson Director of Delaware Statewide Equity Initiatives Equity in Health Policy Rita Landgraf, Professor of Practice College of Health Sciences, UoD Equity and Sea Level Rise Katie Spidaleri, Senior Associate Georgetown Climate Center Substandard Housing and Public Health Timothy E. Glibbs, MPH, Executive Director DE Academy of Medicine / DE Public Health Association <p>11:30 - 12:00 CLOSING SPEAKER</p> <p>Leo R. Assumon, Jr., AICP APA National President</p>

REGISTRATION RATES (CREDIT CARD ONLY)

APA and APHA Members: \$20.00
Non-members: \$30.00
Full-time Students: \$10.00*
*Free for first 2011

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE APA FOUNDATION

Registration at delawareapa.org

CO-SPONSOR

CM credits available for all sessions

2021 Communicable Disease Summit



Monday, December 13, 2021

Join the Immunization Coalition of Delaware and the Delaware Division of Public Health for their yearly Summit on Communicable Disease. This year will likely be a hybrid conference, and will include various presentations with the overall theme "How 2020 Changed the World."

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

Call for Abstracts

The Academy/DPHA, Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA), and Pennsylvania Public Health Association (PPHA), are once again bringing together regional experts through a two-day virtual conference, with the theme, **“Strengthening Communities Through Trauma-Informed Public Health.”**

The conference will cover public health topics with a trauma-informed lens. Abstracts are now being accepted on Climate Change and Trauma; Trauma in Children/Adverse Childhood Events; and Individuals Living with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Abstracts may be delivered in either oral or poster presentation formats, and will be presented on either **January 13 or January 14, 2022.**

Students are encouraged to submit, and student posters will be automatically enrolled in a student poster competition. The winner will be eligible for a free 2-year membership in their local APHA affiliate, and win a \$250 gift card.

Abstracts must be received by December 15, 2021.

[Learn more](#)

[Submit an Abstract](#)



National Updates

Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health - [The DPH Bulletin](#)

Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

Johns Hopkins Infectious Diseases COVID-19 Grand Rounds - [View Schedule](#)

The Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association

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