

**For Information Contact:**

Lydia Sermons-Ward, 703-907-8640

[press@psych.org](mailto:press@psych.org)

Jason Young, 703-907-8582

[jyoung@psych.org](mailto:jyoung@psych.org)**For Immediate Release:**

October 7, 2005

Release No. 05-59

**APA Announces Two New Hires for Government Relations**

**Arlington, Va.** – The American Psychiatric Association (APA) announced today that it has hired Helen Clare Jenkins and R. Thomas Leibfried as lobbyists in its Department of Government Relations (DGR). Jenkins stepped into the role of DGR associate director on Oct. 5 and is now working to advance the APA's legislative priorities in the U.S. House. Leibfried will come aboard as DGR deputy director on Oct. 24 and will work on the Senate side.

“Clare Jenkins and Tom Leibfried bring solid health policy experience to their new positions at the APA,” said Nicholas M. Meyers, director of APA's Department of Government Relations. “Clare joins the APA with impeccable Hill credentials, and Tom has top-notch government relations and mental health advocacy credentials. Both are well known for working with congressional offices from both sides of the aisle and are well respected within the health and mental health communities. Clare and Tom are key to advancing APA's efforts on behalf of psychiatry and quality patient care.”

The APA's current legislative priorities include ending discriminatory insurance coverage of treatment of mental illnesses, preserving patient access to psychiatric treatment and medications in government benefit programs, ensuring adequate mental illness research funding, protecting medical records confidentiality, and safeguarding patients through the regulation of the practice of medicine and non-physician scope of practice.

Jenkins has four years of experience on Capitol Hill, most recently as a legislative assistant for Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.), where she was responsible for health policy issues, including the member's work on the Ways and Means Committee. Prior to that, she was a legislative assistant for health for then-Rep. Brad Carson (D-Okla.). Jenkins was a resident graduate at Harvard University Divinity School and holds a master's degree from Boston University School of Theology and a bachelor of arts from Wake Forest University.

Leibfried has fifteen years' experience in the mental health community, most recently serving as director of government relations with the D.C.-based National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. He has also served as a division director for the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania and as the director of consumer advocacy for the National Mental Health Association. Leibfried holds a master of public administration from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and a bachelor of arts from the University of Delaware in Newark.

**About the American Psychiatric Association:**

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society whose more than 36,000 physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org) and [www.healthyminds.org](http://www.healthyminds.org).

###