



PAPN TEXAS

PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES OF TEXAS



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As always, we are grateful for the PAPN Texas community and the work we do together to support psychiatric nurse practitioners across Texas.

In this issue, you'll find updates on legislative and regulatory developments affecting practice, highlights from recent member activities, information about upcoming leadership opportunities, and resources to help you stay informed and connected. As our profession continues to evolve, PAPN Texas remains committed to fostering education, advocacy, collaboration, and professional growth for PMHNPs across the state.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

- Amy Owens Horelica, Communications Chair



AI IN CLINICAL PRACTICE



AI in Clinical Practice: What Texas NPs Need to Know About SB 1188

Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming part of everyday healthcare practice, with nearly half of nurse practitioners already using AI-powered tools for documentation, workflow support, and clinical decision-making. As AI adoption continues to grow, Texas Senate Bill 1188 (SB 1188) establishes new requirements that directly impact how healthcare providers use these technologies in clinical settings.

The new law emphasizes a simple but important principle: AI can support clinical care, but it cannot replace professional judgment. Under SB 1188, providers remain responsible for reviewing and validating AI-generated content before it is used in patient care. The legislation also requires patient notification when AI is used for certain clinical functions, including diagnosis, treatment recommendations, or medical record review.

Additional provisions include requirements related to U.S.-based storage of electronic health records, maintaining record integrity, and ensuring appropriate access to patient records. The law carries significant enforcement authority, with potential civil penalties for noncompliance.

AI IN CLINICAL PRACTICE



For nurse practitioners, preparation begins with understanding which tools within the practice utilize AI, developing consistent patient disclosure processes, documenting AI use appropriately, and maintaining meaningful clinical oversight of all AI-assisted outputs. Transparency, patient trust, and provider accountability remain central themes throughout both state and federal guidance on responsible AI use in healthcare.

As AI continues to evolve, Texas NPs have an opportunity to lead its responsible integration into clinical practice—leveraging technology to improve efficiency while ensuring that patient care remains guided by human expertise, ethical judgment, and professional accountability.

CONFERENCE UPDATE



PAPN Texas had hoped to introduce a refreshed conference experience this year, including consideration of a new location and a renewed approach to our annual event. After careful consideration, however, plans for the 2026 conference were ultimately unable to move forward as envisioned.

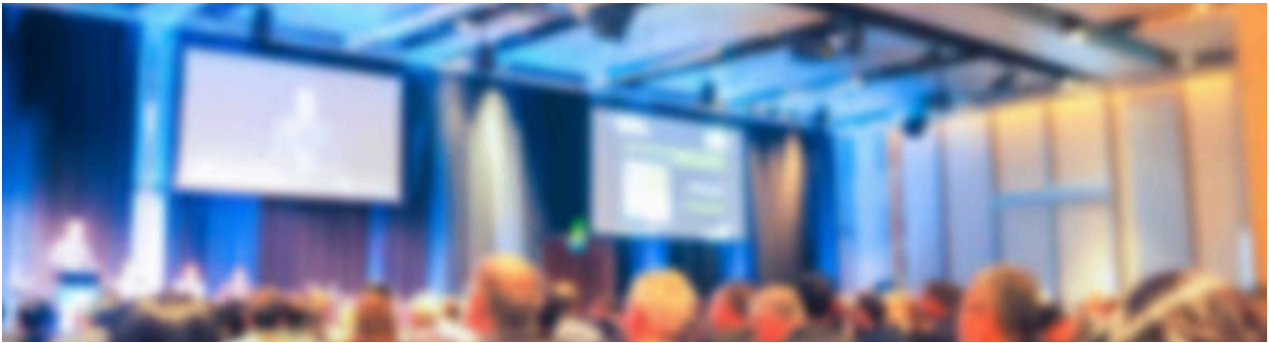
Rather than rushing the process, the Board has chosen to take this opportunity to pause, evaluate, and thoughtfully reimagine what a future PAPN Texas conference could look like. Our goal is to create an event that better reflects the evolving needs of psychiatric nurse practitioners across Texas while continuing to provide high-quality education, meaningful networking opportunities, and professional collaboration.

As we begin planning for the future, we would love to hear from you. Are there locations within Texas that would make you more likely to attend? What types of educational content, networking opportunities, or conference experiences would be most valuable to you?

Your feedback will help shape the next chapter of PAPN Texas conferences and ensure that future events are designed with our members' needs in mind. We appreciate your continued support of PAPN Texas and look forward to sharing updates as planning progresses.



EDUCATION



Looking for Educational Opportunities This Fall?

While PAPN Texas will not be hosting an annual conference this year, we encourage members to explore the educational opportunities available through our colleagues at the Texas Nurse Practitioners (TNP) Annual Conference.

The conference brings together nurse practitioners from across the state for continuing education, professional development, and networking. We are especially proud that several PAPN Texas members will be presenting and sharing their expertise, ensuring that psychiatric mental health topics remain well represented within the broader NP community.

We encourage members seeking high-quality continuing education and opportunities to connect with fellow nurse practitioners to consider attending. Supporting one another's organizations strengthens the NP profession and helps amplify the voice of advanced practice nursing across Texas.

LEADERSHIP

Consider Taking the Next Step: Leadership Opportunities with PAPN Texas

Every organization is shaped by the members who choose to get involved.

As PAPN Texas prepares for upcoming board elections, we encourage members to consider whether this may be the right time to step into a leadership role. Serving on the board is an opportunity to help shape the future of our organization, support psychiatric nurse practitioners across Texas, and contribute to the advancement of our profession.

Leadership does not require having all the answers. Many of our current and past board members began simply with a desire to give back, connect with colleagues, and make a difference. Board service offers opportunities to develop new skills, expand your professional network, gain experience in advocacy and organizational leadership, and collaborate with passionate PMHNPs from across the state.

Whether you are an experienced clinician with years of practice behind you or a newer PMHNP looking to become more involved, your perspective matters. The challenges and opportunities facing our profession continue to evolve, and diverse voices are essential to ensuring PAPN Texas remains responsive to the needs of its members.

If you have ever thought, "Someone should do something about that," consider that this may be your opportunity to be part of the solution.

In the coming weeks, information regarding available board positions and the nomination process will be shared with members. We encourage you to review the opportunities, ask questions, and consider how your talents, interests, and experience might contribute to the continued growth of PAPN Texas.

Strong organizations are built by members who are willing to step forward. We hope you will consider joining us in shaping the future of PAPN Texas.



ONGOING SUPPORT



First Year PMHNP Support

The 1st Year PMHNP Support Group meets by Zoom teleconferencing on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The general goals of the group are to: 1) provide support and encouragement for new PMHNPs, 2) discuss reasonable pay and workplace conditions, and 3) to network with colleagues.

Private Practice Roundtable

The PAPN Texas Private Practice Roundtable continues to be a valuable space for members to connect, share experiences, and discuss the opportunities and challenges of private practice in Texas. The Roundtable is on hiatus for the summer and will return to its regular schedule in September.

We look forward to reconnecting with everyone this fall.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board Officers - Elected - Term Ends

President - Lisa Anderson - 2026

President Elect - Michelle Hext - 2028

Secretary - Kaylie Dozier Joachim - 2026

Treasurer - Linzi Leighton - 2027

Representatives At Large - Elected - Terms Ends

Stella Logan - 2027

Meshel Stewert - 2026

Becky Spencer - 2027

Toni Brent - 2026

Board Appointed Positions

Communications Committee Chair - Amy Owens Horelica - 2026

Education Committee Chair - J.T. Seaman - 2026

Legislative Chair - Becky Spencer - 2026

Membership Committee Chair - Martina Gallagher - 2026

Nominations Committee Chair - Connie Wang -2026

Student Representative - Katie Hanel - 2026

Conference Committee Chair - J.T. Seaman -2026

Non Voting Attendees

First Year Practice Group Chair - Justin Cullers

Private Practice Group Chairs - Sherry Grogan/Lola Bello

