

## 2006- 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

### Bahá'í Association of Mental Health Professionals, Inc.

Board of Directors:

Dr. Elena Mustakova-Possardt, Ms. Mary K. Radpour, Mr. Phillippe Copeland, Mr. Jason Ighani, Ms. Sharon Eakes, Mr. Azin Nasserí

The Bahá'í Association of Mental Health Professionals (BAMHP) is a non-profit, Bahá'í-inspired organization designed to serve the intellectual, social and spiritual needs of practitioners, researchers and theoreticians who desire to apply the insights contained in the Bahá'í writings to the mental health professions. It is incorporated in the State of Illinois as a non-profit corporation, and the National Spiritual Assembly serves as its "sole member" with the Board of Directors serving at its appointment.

Because the Bahá'í Association of Mental Health Professionals holds its annual meeting in the fall of each year, this report reviews the accomplishments in the years 2006-2007. BAMHP accomplished the agenda set for itself by its Board:

- a) Maintenance of the membership of approximately 70 mental health professionals;
- b) The holding of an annual conference at Lou Helen Bahá'í school, on the theme of "Authentic Morality, Mental Health and Healing". The purpose of this year's conference was to bring together clinicians, artists, scholars and other concerned individuals to explore the psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions morality in mental health practice. This year's conference was dedicated to the memory of Dr. William Hatcher, one of the original founders of BAMHP who passed away this past year.

Presenters at this year's conference were:

Dr. John Hatcher who offered remarks in memory of his brother Dr. William Hatcher and presented on "*The Mizán of Affect in Material and Metaphysical Models of Consciousness.*"

Dr. Phil Squires who discussed "*The Existential Origins of Depression*"

Dr. Steven Handwerker who discussed "*The Spiritual Dimension: An Authentic Resource for Mental Health and Healing*"

Ms. Sharon Eakes who discussed "*The Moral Challenge of Addiction*"

A workshop lead by Dr. Sheri Dressler, Dr. Michael Penn, and Ms. Mary K. Radpour: "*Seeking an Authentic Response to Moral Dilemmas: a Workshop*"

A Panel Discussion of "*Integrating Spirituality into Clinical Practice*" with Mr. Azin Nasserí, Ms. Adrienne Ewing-Roush, and Mr. Phillippe Copeland

A Panel Discussion of "*Morality and Health: Bridging Theory and Practice*" with Dr. Steve Handwerker, Dr. John Hatcher, Dr. Phil Squires, Ms Mary K. Radpour, and Dr. Elena Mustakova-Possardt

And finally, facilitated group consultation regarding "*Morally Saturated Clinical Case*

*Studies”*

Artistic Presentations were offered by Ms. Erika Batdorf who performed an original dramatic piece called *“The Red Horse Is Leaving”* and musicians Ms. Adrienne Ewing-Roush and Ms. Helen Keniston Owey who utilized gospel music as a form of community building and worship

- c) Practicing an out-ward looking orientation through the participation of non-Bahá’í presenters and attendees at the conference such as Dr. Stephen Handwerker who decided to become a member of BAMHP
- d) The nomination and election of new members of the BAMHP Board at the annual meeting. The new members included, Ms. Sharon Eakes, Mr. Azin Nasserri and Mr. Jason Ighani
- e) The convening of an annual retreat for Board development and organizational planning in Chattanooga, Tennessee
- f) Maintenance of the BAMHP website at [www.bamhp.org](http://www.bamhp.org) with conference reports, abstracts of presentations, presentation papers; statement of purpose and various other useful documents
- g) Auditing of the BAMHP books;
- h) Planning and promotion of the upcoming conference on the theme: *The Human Spirit and the Social World,* to be held at Louhelen Bahá’í School, September 20-23, 2007
- i) Securing continuing education units for participants in the conference
- j) Continuing promotion of the booklet, *“Some Guidance for Spiritual Assemblies Regarding Mental Illness and Its Treatment”* through the website.

Several new initiatives were also begun:

- a) The creation of Regional Chapters of BAMHP who will engage in their own conferences and social networking. The first ever gathering of this kind was held in Decatur, Georgia in February of 2007
- b) Intensification of collaboration between BAMHP and BNASSA including a special day long workshop that will be held at the beginning of this year’s conference on human sexuality and the holding of the BNASSA Coordinating Committee meeting during the conference weekend at Lou Helen with the potential for a joint meeting with BAMHP
- c) Conducting a nation-wide survey of Bahá’í clinicians who may be able to be called up to serve communities during emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina

Among the remaining unaccomplished challenges which must engage the Board are the following goals articulated in previous years:

- a) Greater participation of minorities in the work of BAMHP
- b) Stimulating fuller participation of non-Bahá’ís in BAMHP conferences and initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phillipe Copeland, Chairperson  
Bahá'í Association of Mental Health Professionals