

## Reflection Over the Past Year in My Role as President Of ISPN: Successes and Future Opportunities

It is hard to believe that it has been one year already since I began my tenure as President of ISPN. It has taken a village to do the work of ISPN. Thank you to each one of you for your support and, most importantly, for choosing to be a member of ISPN, and supporting our mission to advance mental health and wellbeing of populations across local and global communities. Thank you so much to the ISPN Board of Directors, the ISPN Foundation Board, and ISPN Committees.

We started off the year in May 2022 with a gathering of the ISPN Board of Directors and representatives from ISPN foundation Board, and ISPN Committees Chairs. We developed from this ½ day meeting – a draft of accomplishments, mission, values, and opportunities. The ISPN Board of Directors have worked diligently for the last 9 months to critically review and revise our mission, values, and priority goals for the next 5 years. We are excited to share this with you and get input for final strategic goals.

**Reconnecting at the 2023 Conference.** This is our first in-person conference since 2018. We are so excited to be in the same place and reconnect. We have an incredible line up of very esteemed speakers to recharge us for the future. I want to extend a big thank you to our conference planning committee members.

**Growing Membership.** Our numbers of new membership and renewal membership is off the chart. We are so amazed and thankful to our membership committee leadership and members. They have developed regional groups (first time ever) and presented stellar webinars to local and international professional audiences.

**Archiving ISPN History.** A committee is also in place implementing Historical archiving of all ISPN Materials since its inception. Our sponsor Dr. Catherine Kane and the ISPN Foundation have diligently overseen this effort.

**Growing an ever-diverse membership and our reach into the community.** I am so excited to see the final products of a DEI Committee video project. You may have been invited to participate in this video project designed to encourage students to pursue careers in mental health/psychiatric nursing through inspirational stories of individuals who had and continue to have wide ranging careers in mental health nursing. This project is timely and innovative because of current mental and behavioral health crisis across local and global communities.

**Advancing of mental health wellbeing policy.** Our policy committee has been busy at work with several products. Most notably, we were contacted by white house regarding Unaccompanied Children Initiative: The policy group sent a letter (4/20/21) to Kamala Harris, VP; Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General. Recently, Megan O'Connell, Advance Practice Psychiatric Nurse at U.S. Department of Health, and Human Services (HHS) and in the Office of Refugee Resettlement replied to the letter and agreed to provide a webinar for ISPN explaining what the Office of Refugee Resettlement does, what its mission and needs are currently. Their team deals with nine thousand placements of the southern border refugees and Afghan children refugees, placement, applications for asylum, etc. Indeed, the webinar was delivered July 2022 titled, *Introduction To Resettlement of Unaccompanied Refuge Children*.

**Enhancing our brand and communications.** Our Communications Committee has also been wonderful with supporting our presence via social media and overall branding and messaging to our membership and public. Over the next year, they will also be reviewing and making suggestions to strengthen our brand.

**Responding to Ever-growing Trauma in Our Society.** There is so much that we all have accomplished together despite the many turmoil across our local and global communities: more violence everywhere we live, work, play, and learn. I know we were all left wondering how we might help! Indeed, this a question that ISPN must address head on. How might we be nimble and response ready? The peer support initiative that we launched during the COVID-19 pandemic provides a shovel ready tool to enhance and build on. We learned that there is urgent need to provide support to health professionals and first responders who are often on ground in the affected communities. This is an area ripe for investigation and planning in collaboration with other professional, local, and national government agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency Administration, Red Cross, etc.

**Need to Enhance the ISPN Leadership pipeline.** I thank our nominating committee for their tireless effort to collate, vet, and oversee elections for new ISPN leadership. We have candidates for every open position this year. However, we are reminded that we must continue to be intentional about building and nurturing the future leadership pipeline. We invite each of you to serve. We are all volunteers. There is no payment to any ISPN Board of Directors, ISPN Foundation Board, ISPN Committees or members. We value your expertise and perspectives to build a stellar ISPN and achieve our mission of advancing mental health wellbeing globally.

In closing, we miss our Past President Dr. Evelyn Parrish. We find comfort in our cherished memories of her many contributions to ISPN. Her warm smile will live forever in our hearts.

Take care of you, your family, and communities.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as the ISPN President, 2022-2023.

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