The implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010, with its goals of increased access to care for more Americans, a better patient care experience, improved health outcomes, and lower cost, promotes significant changes in both the delivery and financing of healthcare. These changes will dramatically alter the practice patterns of psychologists who work in health care, particularly in primary or integrated care settings, and subsequently have implications for the education and training of psychologists. The American Psychological Association, the APA Practice Organization, and SPTAs are working to secure psychology’s place at the table in patient care as new delivery systems and health care financing mechanisms are evolving and being tested.

This presentation will illuminate the factors driving health care reform, describe the essential elements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how it will impact the delivery system and financing of behavioral healthcare, articulate the specific skills that psychologists bring to integrated care delivery systems, explain the opportunities for and challenges to psychological practice under the ACA, describe the role of Medicaid and Health Insurance Exchanges under the ACA, and inform participants about the importance of psychology’s advocacy regarding health care reform.

Katherine C. Nordal, PH.D., Executive Director for Professional Practice, American Psychological Association/APA Practice Organization. Dr. Nordal, APA’s Executive Director for Professional Practice since April 2008, was in full time independent practice for 28 years. She is a fellow of the APA and Mississippi Psychological Association and has served in numerous governance positions in her SPTA and the APA, including APA’s Board of Directors and the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice. She has been a Trustee of the APA Insurance Trust, an APA Congressional Fellow, and served on Mississippi’s psychology licensing board. Dr. Nordal is a recipient of APA’s Karl F. Heiser Presidential Award for Advocacy, and in 2009 she was recognized by APA’s Division 31 as the Outstanding Psychologist in a State, Provincial or Territorial Psychological Association. She is a Distinguished Psychology Practitioner in the National Academies of Practice. Dr. Nordal has been honored by the MPA with the Kinlock Gill Outstanding Professional Psychologist Award, the Distinguished Practitioner Award, and the Distinguished Fellow Award. Her clinical interests included: learning, behavioral, and emotional disorders in children and adolescents; neuropsychological assessment; brain injury in children and adults; and, civil forensic psychology.
Joe Thompson, M.D., MPH
Arkansas Innovations in Health System Transformation (1.0 CE)

Years of work on the part of Arkansas health care providers, payers and associations, along with policymakers, academics, consumers and other stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, have culminated in a shared vision for a transformed health care system. Working together, Arkansans are well along the way to realizing a health care system that improves lives through greater access, improved quality and contained cost.

Arkansas Innovations in Health System Transformation provides an overview of the key components of this initiative with a focus on progress made toward improving access to health care through the Arkansas Health Care Independence Program (Private Option) and changes to the health care delivery system via the Arkansas Health Care Payment Improvement Initiative. Both provide opportunities and challenges to the practice of medicine in Arkansas and have garnered considerable national attention as pioneering efforts.

Dr. Joe Thompson’s work is centered at the intersection of clinical care, public health and health policy. He is Surgeon General for the State of Arkansas and Director of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement. In addition, Dr. Thompson is a pediatrician and professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Jay Bradford, Arkansas Insurance Commissioner
The Affordable Care Act and its Effects to Arkansas Consumers and Providers (1.0 CE)

This presentation is to help psychologists, as mental health providers, to understand the Arkansas Private Option under the Affordable Health Care Act. He will review the essential health benefits related to behavioral health so we as providers can be clear about what services are covered for Arkansans under these policies. He will also discuss the effects of the November elections on Arkansas health care to help us know the political climate around health care and mental health care.

Jay Bradford was appointed Arkansas Insurance Commissioner on January 15, 2009, by Governor Mike Beebe. Bradford brings to the Department more than four decades of experience in the insurance industry, including thirty years as founder, chairman, and former shareholder of First Arkansas Insurance Group, a statewide network of independent property and casualty agencies. Customer service and consumer protection have been hallmarks of his career. Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Bradford served for two years as the Director of the Division of Behavioral Health Services within the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Commissioner Bradford served in the Arkansas Legislature for twenty-four years where he was chosen both Speaker Pro Tempore of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate. He also served as Chair of the Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee in both bodies. Some of the highlights of his service in the Arkansas Legislature include serving as chief sponsor of the Tobacco Settlement Funding Bill, legislation which resulted in Arkansas being the only state in the nation to mandate all the settlement monies be used for healthcare. He also served as lead Senate sponsor of breast care legislation which resulted in millions of dollars being made available for the prevention and treatment of breast cancer. He has achieved numerous honors and awards during his service to the citizens of Arkansas, including the 2006 Arkansas Business Executive of the Year and the 2005 Libertarian of the Year from the American Civil Liberties Union. He is active in various community and political affairs. In 2011, Commissioner Bradford was named to the Arkansas Business Power List and was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Alliance Research Academy. A graduate of Subiaco Academy, Commissioner Bradford holds a BA in Economics and Psychology from Henderson State College and has also been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of that institution, now known as Henderson State University. He is a Certified Insurance Counselor (C.I.C.) and holds an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Jay is married to Dr. Robbie Thomas-Knight, a Little Rock psychologist. They have three daughters.
Ana Bridges, Ph.D.
Integrating Psychologists into Primary Care Settings (1.0 CE)

Integrated behavioral health care (IBHC) or primary care psychology is a model of mental health care service delivery that seeks to reduce stigma and service utilization barriers by embedding mental health professionals into the primary care team. Two-thirds of people with a mental health diagnosis receive primary care, but not specialty mental health, services. Approximately 15% of primary care patients have depression, 18% have an anxiety disorder, 20% have an alcohol use disorder, and most chronic diseases are best managed with behavior or lifestyle changes (Halverson, 2004). However, the majority of patients with mental health problems are not identified by primary care physicians (Mitchell et al., 2009). Psychologists working in primary care settings therefore have a unique opportunity to have a large impact on the behavioral health of a community.

Dr. Bridges is the director of the Interpersonal Systems Laboratory in the Department of Psychological Science at the University of Arkansas, where for the past seven years she has conducted innovative work in cultural factors relating to experiences of victimization and help-seeking among domestic violence victims and enhancing service utilization of recent Latino immigrants by embedding clinical services into primary care settings. Her research in health disparities focuses on increasing access to mental health services for underserved populations. She designed and consults for an integrated behavioral health program at a primary care clinic serving primarily recent Latino immigrants. Her federally funded (USDHHS) training program in integrated behavioral health care has received national recognition: she was invited to present at the annual meeting of the Council of Clinical Health Psychology Training Programs (CCHPTP), the annual American Psychological Association’s (APA) Education Leadership Conference, and the midwinter meeting of the Council for University Directors of Clinical Programs (CUDCP) on her model doctoral training program for integrated primary care. Dr. Bridges has also served on the director’s board of a local domestic violence shelter and developed a clinical clerkship at the shelter, helping women and children who are victims of domestic violence receive mental health treatment. In addition to her work in health and service utilization disparities, Dr. Bridges is a recognized national leader in the arena of sexually explicit media and violence against women.

Lunch and Learn
Drs. Adam Benton, Rebekah Evans, Liv Miller
ArPA Social Media Update (1.0 CE)

Late in 2013, ArPA dove into the world of social media. A social media team was created and has actively provided update information on local programs, news, and information for psychologists in various roles across the state.

Rebekah Evans received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Tulsa. She completed her internship training at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She is affiliated with MidSouth Health Systems, Inc. and has special interest in parent training, trauma, and anxiety disorders. Currently, she conducts psychological evaluations for children and adolescents and trains clinicians in evidence-based practices for childhood disruptive behavior disorders.

Liv E. Miller, Psy.D., ABPP-CN is a board certified, clinical neuropsychologist who received her doctorate degree from the Georgia School of Professional Psychology. She also completed her internship at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System and a two-year post-doctoral residency in clinical neuropsychology at the West Virginia School of Medicine. Dr. Miller is currently a staff neuropsychologist and assistant director of internship training with the VA and in private practice at the Arkansas Neuropsychology and Behavioral Health in Little Rock. Dr. Miller specializes in neuropsychological evaluations and interventions of conditions that affects cognition, mood, and behavior in adults.

Adam Benton, Ph.D. is a psychologist specializing in child, adolescent and family problems at Arkansas Families First, LLC. He conducts psychotherapy and psychological testing to address an array of childhood problems. He has specialized training in child trauma and maltreatment, as well as in treating ADHD and behavior disorders. In addition, Dr. Benton has developed programs for children and teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder and frequently works with children struggling with anxiety and depression. He provides training and consultation to clinicians around the state of Arkansas in Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavior Therapy. Dr. Benton has conducted research on juvenile delinquency treatment and Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for children and adolescents.