

# Reimagining the Future: Implications for Clinical Health Psychology Training

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# Learning Objective

- Participants will be able to describe three drivers of change that have implications for clinical health psychology training

# DREAM BUILDERS

“TIMES AND CONDITIONS  
CHANGE SO RAPIDLY THAT  
WE MUST KEEP OUR AIM  
CONSTANTLY FOCUSED  
ON THE FUTURE.”

-Walt Disney

# Why now?

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## **Unmet societal needs**

- Long-standing significant untreated and undertreated mental/behavioral health concerns
- COVID-19 pandemic
- Health inequities

## **Psychology workforce can/must be prepared to lead**

- Improve population health
- Advance psychological science
- Develop EDI foundation for psychology discipline & profession

## **Align education/training and evolution of the profession**

- Ensure workforce is prepared to meet societal needs

## **Clarify roles and value of doctoral psychologists in changing conditions**

- Independent of and in relation to other providers, including HSP masters' graduates



## Incremental or Transformational Change?

- **Incremental** change – small, to adapt to challenges
- fine-tuning current practices
- **Transformational** change refers to a dramatic evolution
- fundamental change to extant structures



# Drivers of Change

Population health

Assembly on the Value  
and Distinction of the  
Doctoral Degree

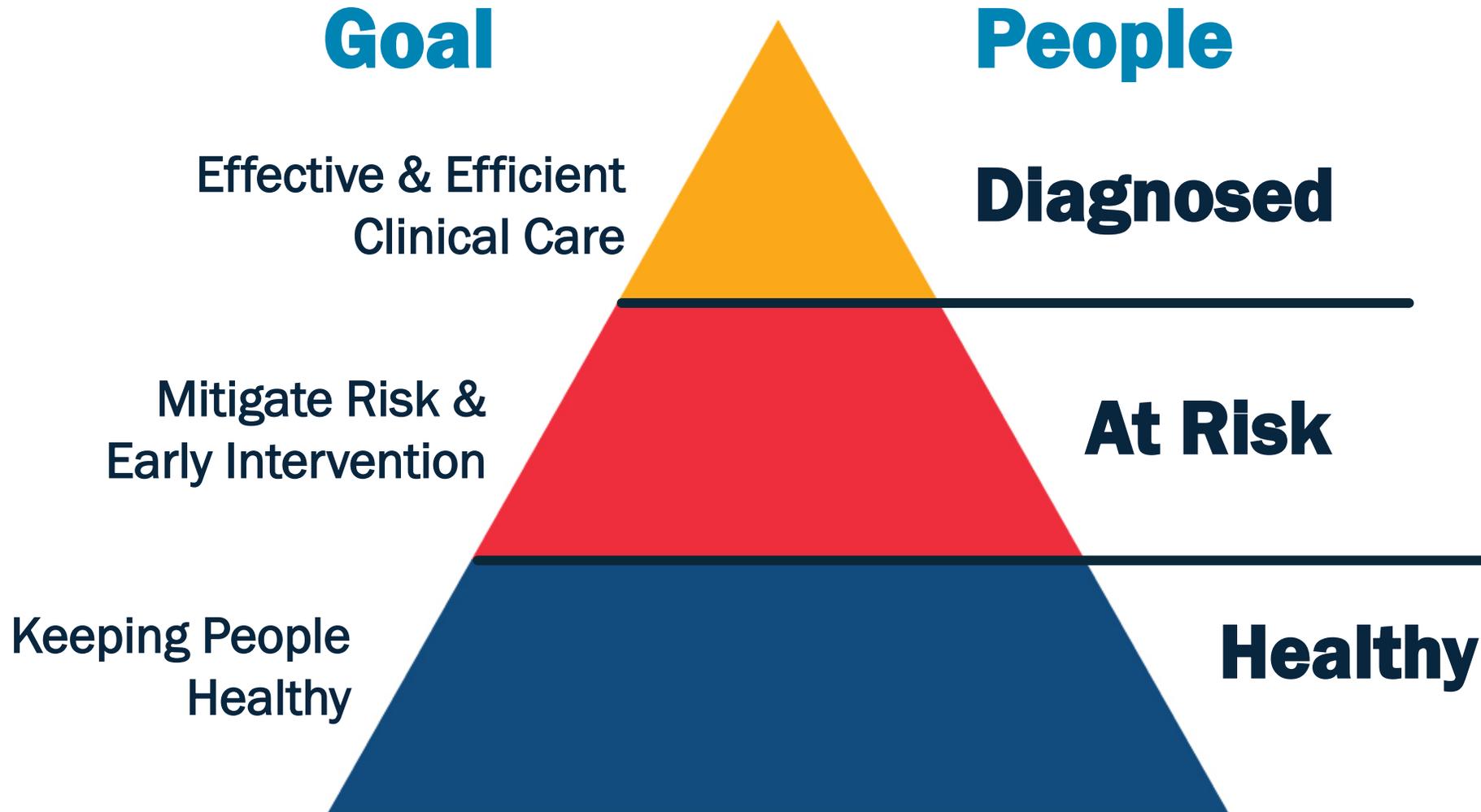
Summit on the Future  
of Education and  
Practice

CCTC Social  
Responsiveness Toolkit

# Population health

- “improving the health, health equity, safety, and wellbeing of entire populations, including individuals within those populations”

# Population Health Approach



# Three Pillars of APA's Population Health Strategy

**Engaging in  
Advocacy**

**Serving as  
a Convener  
and  
Resource**

**Building  
Consensus  
among APA  
Membership**

# Population Health Leadership Curriculum

- Pilot program
- Collaboration with Well-being Trust and Harvard Empower Program

# Program Participants

- State mental health program directors (recruited via National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors – NASMHPD)
- State alcohol and substance use directors (recruited via National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors – NASADAD)

# Goals for Participants

- ❖ Explain the relevance and utility of a population health approach for the different challenges they face as system administrators
- ❖ Describe operational skills to implement an array of population health strategies
- ❖ Identify the unique leadership skills necessary to elevate the overall health of their communities

# Proposed APA Policy on Population Health

- Society for Health Psychology (Division 38) lead
- New Business Item (NBI) for the February 2022 Council of Representatives (CoR) meeting

# Key Considerations

- All of psychology must come together if we are advance population health and wellbeing
- Will require investment in education of psychologists and students/trainees in all settings, specialties, and communities

## **APA Assembly on the Value/Distinctiveness of the Doctoral Degree in Health Service Psychology**

- Questions Considered:

How is the doctoral degree/license in psychology distinctive and add value to our multi-tiered profession, beyond the master's degree?

What are psychology's contributions to population health and society vis-à-vis other mental health professions?

How will/should psychology education and practice be different in the future to address emerging demands?

# Assembly Themes

- **The doctoral degree/license adds significant value within our multi-tiered profession.**
- Evaluation, specialty practice, leadership, interprofessional teamwork
- Areas that include and go beyond direct service provision
- Multiple tiers within the profession may be important to advance population health, wherein doctoral psychologists' practice with a scope of greatest complexity in both breadth and depth.

## **Science characterizes and distinguishes psychology, and it undergirds all education and practice.**

- Doctoral professionals are adept at understanding and utilizing science to make complex decisions to improve the health of the people and communities we serve.

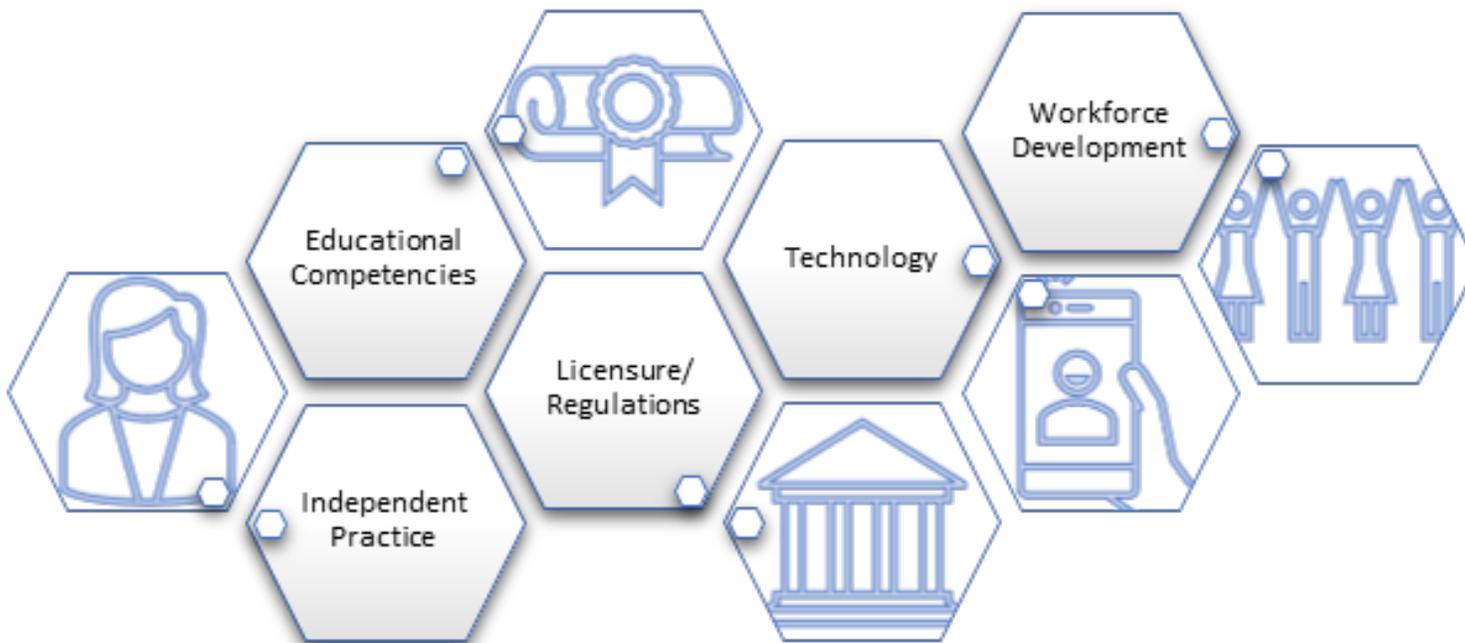
## **Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is foundational to psychology and effective health care.**

- The psychology workforce must diversify and reflect the U.S. population.
- Developing and maintaining competence in EDI is essential across the professional lifespan of the psychology practitioner.

# Summit on the Future of Education and Practice

- Goal: to develop a shared vision and roadmap for the future of health service psychology , including alignment of education and practice around that future vision
- Over 130 individuals participated and represented multiple diverse identities
- Planning for the summit was a multi-year process and included significant input from a summit steering committee

# Summit Structure

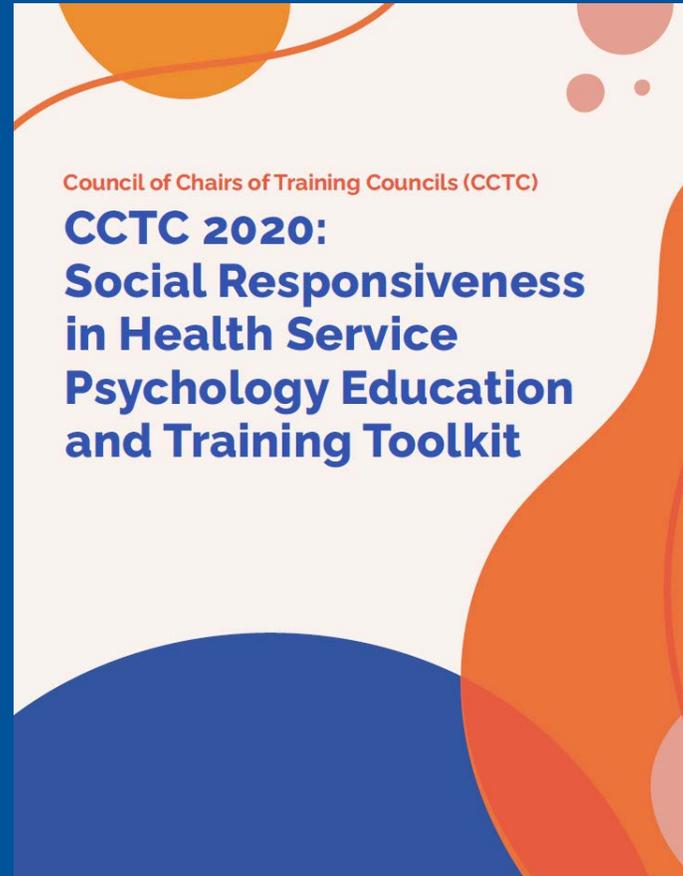


- Five pillars
- Areas of health service psychology that are both urgent and important to prepare the profession for the future
- Reflect the profession's commitments to contemporary matters such as population health and health equity, social justice, high-quality and accessible services, marketplace relevance
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and psychological science are foundational to all pillars and the profession

# Summit – Vision for Moving Forward

- Inclusive
  - Master's practitioners
  - Interprofessional collaborative practice
- Expansive
  - New roles, responsibilities, services
- Representative
  - Increased diversity in the workforce
  - What we teach, how we teach, our science
- Responsive
  - Continuous quality improvement efforts

# CCTC Social Responsiveness Toolkit



# **CCTC Social Responsiveness Toolkit**

- Module 1: Diversifying the HSP pipeline
- Module 2: Revisiting Our Program Structures With Increased Shared Governance
- Module 3: Liberating and Transforming Our Curriculum Toward Social Responsiveness Across All Levels of Training
- Module 4: Moving Toward Socially Responsive HSP Research Training
- Module 5: Socially Responsive Ethics and Professionalism
- Module 6: Social Justice and Advocacy
- Module 7: Community Engagement
- Module 8: Socially Responsive Evaluation of Students, Faculty and Supervisors
- Module 9: Lifelong Learning

# Closing thoughts

- Health service psychology is at an inflection point in its history
- To what extent are we comfortable embracing changes to education (and practice)?



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PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

# Thank you!

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