

Southern California  
**PSYCHIATRIST**  
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SCPS Newsletter - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PSYCHIATRIST  
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### **President's Column: Welcome to the Conversation**

*by Patrick Kelly, MD*

As summer draws to a close and we transition into fall, I hope we all feel re-energized and ready for the year ahead.

September traditionally serves as a pivotal month—children return to school, organizations prepare for their final quarterly push, and we all trade shorts for sweaters (though admittedly, less so in Southern California!). This seasonal shift is no less significant in the world of psychiatry, particularly around advocacy.

Late summer brought considerable activity in mental health policy, presenting both encouraging developments and concerning uncertainties that demand our attention:

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## Civil Commitment in California: Then and Now

by Kayla Fisher, MD

The history of commitment in California stretches back over a century, marking a shift in how we conceptualize mental illness and the delicate balance between protecting individual rights and addressing broader societal concerns around treatment and public safety. The advent of state hospitals in the mid-19th century heralded the beginning of civil commitment. During this era, family members or physicians could petition for commitment with minimal court oversight. Once committed, patients could remain hospitalized indefinitely as treatment emphasized custodial care rather than rehabilitation. This limitation was, at least in part, due to fewer therapeutic options available at that time. By the 1950s, critics raised concerns of overcrowding and neglect.

The 1960s, marked by the civil rights movement, also saw a growing awareness of potential abuses in mental institutions, leading to a call for reform. In California, this culminated in the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act, passed in 1967 and implemented in 1969. This landmark legislation aimed to overhaul the state's civil commitment laws by introducing due process protections and limiting the use of involuntary confinement. Under the LPS Act, a person could only be involuntarily committed if, due to mental illness, they posed a danger to themselves or others, or were gravely disabled.

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An advertisement banner with a yellow and white background. On the left, the word "Psychiatrists" is written in a white script font, followed by "More elevated care." in a bold white sans-serif font. On the right, there is a logo for "CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES" with a small globe icon. Below the logo is a rounded rectangular button with the text "Learn more" in white.

## SCPS Private Practice Committee Updates: and One Big Announcement

by Matthew Goldenberg, DO

This March I wrote about the importance of APA developing a Private Practice Component. While many APA components

currently touch on private practice issues, none focuses on the practice of medicine, the legal, scope and other issues that directly impact psychiatrists in private practice.

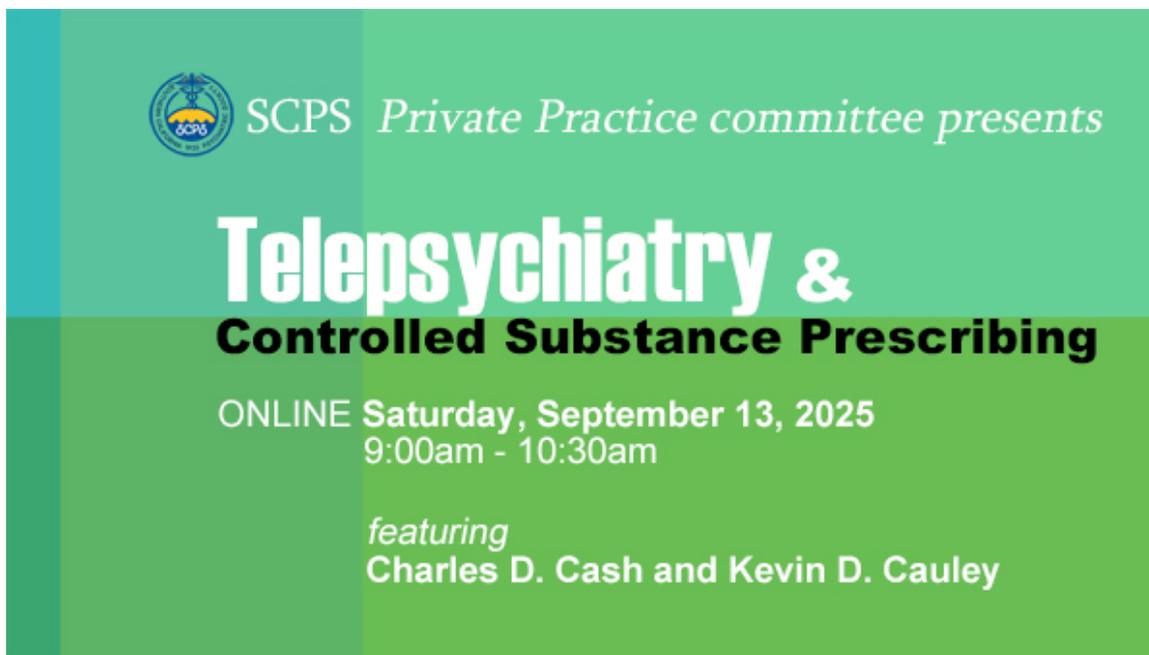
This April I wrote about the important aspect of the new APA Council on Private Practice will be to identify those members who are in private practice to coordinate their efforts and experiences to shape APA positions and advocacy efforts. The new component will become a valuable member benefit for APA members, and future members, who work in Private practice.

In the coming months, SCPS will continue our outreach to the APA and to the APA assembly expressing the importance of a Council on Private Practice Psychiatry.

***The big announcement is that the SCPS Private Practice Committee has an exciting upcoming event, which is open to all SCPS members!***

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 SCPS *Private Practice committee presents*

# Telepsychiatry & Controlled Substance Prescribing

ONLINE Saturday, September 13, 2025  
9:00am - 10:30am

*featuring*  
Charles D. Cash and Kevin D. Cauley



## Welcome New SCPS Members!

**Young Susan Chung, MD** – General Member - Semi Retired  
**Nicole Smith, MD** – General Member

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## George L. Mallory Diversity, Culture and Social Justice Award

Please see the following guidelines to apply for the George L. Mallory Diversity, Culture and Social Justice Award.

Please send materials to [socalpsychiatric@gmail.com](mailto:socalpsychiatric@gmail.com)

***Award Description:*** The Diversity and Culture committee is very excited to announce the George L. Mallory Diversity, Culture and Social Justice Award. This award recognizes a Southern California psychiatrist for their exceptional contribution to advocacy, teaching, research and/or leadership aimed at countering structural racism and advancing our understanding of culture and diversity in psychiatry.

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