

Dear American Psychotherapy Association members:

The American Psychiatric Association has invited the American Psychotherapy Association to help in the revision of the DSM-5, the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. We are asking for your input. The current draft of the DSM-5 is available for public viewing at [www.dsm5.org](http://www.dsm5.org).

The DSM-5 was developed by the American Psychiatric Association, which has worked extensively to develop an online version that not only provides descriptions of draft criteria for proposed and existing diagnoses, but one that details the empirical justifications behind each revision, proposals for how to integrate diagnostic severity into the nosology, and companion DSM-IV diagnostic descriptions to aid viewers in making side-by-side comparisons for assessing magnitude of change. In addition, the site gives an exhaustive description of DSM-5 development, including the international research planning conferences that served as the initial foundation for work group discussions, frequently asked questions about DSM in general, and an archive of media press releases about DSM activity.

The most notable feature of DSM5.org is its interactive capability, which provides viewers with the opportunity to submit comments and questions to key development personnel at the APA. This includes feedback related to specific disorders and their proposed criteria as well as to general, overarching issues in psychiatric diagnosis (e.g., use of the multi-axial system, proposals for the integration of dimensional assessments, etc.). While the work group members are unable to respond to each individual inquiry, I can assure you that every comment is reviewed. Much of the feedback—particularly that from professional and advocacy groups such as yours—will potentially play an important role in work group decisions about how to further refine the proposed criteria in preparation for field trial testing, set to begin this summer.

Please note that the window for commenting is limited; **visitors of the site will only be able to provide feedback until midnight on Tuesday, April 20, 2010.** After that time, the site will remain available for viewing, but comments cannot be submitted. Once initial field trial testing is complete, we anticipate having another period of public comment in mid-2011.

Thank you to David Fair for letting us know about this opportunity.

With best regards,

**Karen Hope**

Interim Chief Association Officer  
American Psychotherapy Association  
2750 E. Sunshine Street  
Springfield MO 65804  
1-800-205-9165 ext. 126  
Fax: 417-823-9959