



President's Bulletin

CAROL WEITZMAN, MD

December 17, 2020

Dear Members, Trainees & Friends,

The days continue to get shorter and in the part of the country where I live, colder and snowier. Our country continues to grapple with the unimaginable fallout of COVID-19 and political unrest. In the midst of this darkness, it is remarkable how many religious and cultural activities this time of year bring light into our lives. Diwali, Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and many others all use light to highlight our ability to triumph over adversity and showcase miracles, great and small. As I celebrate Chanukah this year, I appreciate how the light grows brighter each night thanks to the helper candle which is used to share its light with the other candles. Although some days it seems like the only light we experience is the glow from our computer screens, these holidays can teach us something... we can move beyond darkness and despair - we can bring light into our lives and share our own special light with others. We can appreciate the miracles great and small in our lives and make miracles too! Although it seems that this is going to be a long and difficult winter for our country, we have reasons to be hopeful...the COVID vaccine is being given at lightning speed! So, I hope you will all shine bright, push through the darkness and COVID fatigue and help our families and kids get through this.

Now on to some SDBP updates!

As I mentioned in my last bulletin, the SDBP board along with a group of nimble writers and I authored a statement entitled, "*Recommendations for the Biden-Harris Government in the Service of Children and Families*" that outlines our priorities for the coming administration illustrated by the use of narrative stories

which you can access [here](#).

We are excited to report that it will be published in JDBP! So, keep an eye out for that so you can reference it and please share it widely, with legislators, on social media and with other key stakeholders. **Make our voices heard!!**

Our Advocacy Committee will be doing a series of SDBP Connects tentatively on January 6 and February 3 to walk us through state and local advocacy, and coalitions and action planning. More details to come as we get closer to those dates.

December 16 was match day for DBP. Congratulations to many of the DBP programs! There were 32 applicants (up from a significant dip last year of 24) and a total of 42 positions in 32 programs. (2 programs withdrew). In total, 24 programs filled. So, the fill rate is improved over past years, but the number of positions offered and the number of active programs is lower than what it has been for the past 4-5 years. So overall, an improvement from last year, and maybe gentle growth since 2011. We still need to focus on workforce development!

As the year 2020 draws to a close, I hope you all stay safe, enjoy some quality time, make time for celebrations, find opportunities to connect (yes more Zoom!) and get ready for brighter days ahead. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your president. **Shine bright!**

Sincerely,
Carol Weitzman, MD
President, SDBP
