

**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION TO STUDY THE
IMPACT OF INSURER
PAYMENTS ON ACCESS TO
HEALTH CARE**

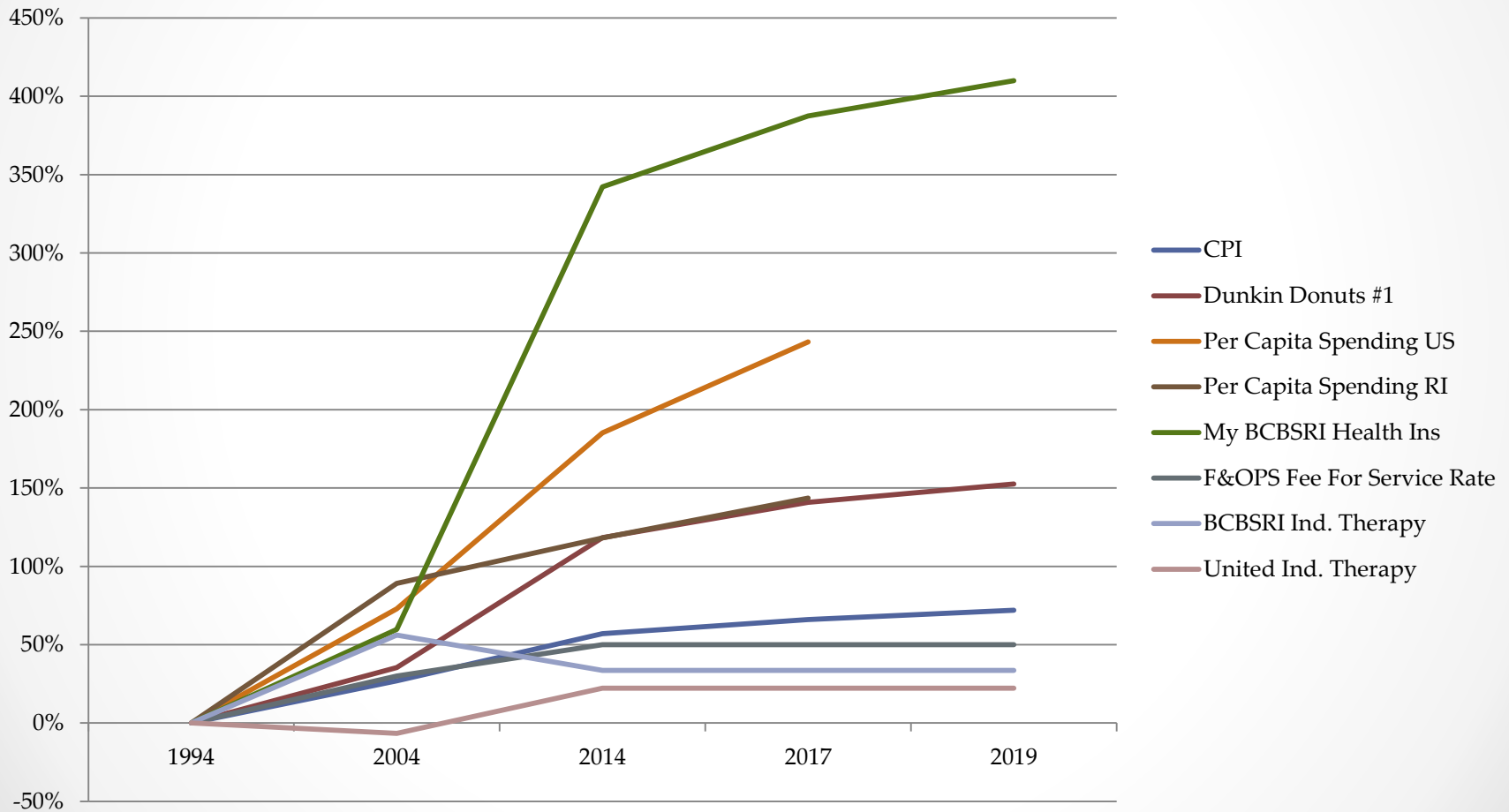
January 29, 2020

Peter M. Oppenheimer, Ph.D.

Director of Professional Affairs

Rhode Island Psychological Association

Change in Costs and Reimbursement 1994-2019



CPT Panel Composition

- AMA House of Delegates
 - 122 Medical Specialties
- Healthcare Professionals Advisory Committee (HCPAC)
 - 15 Allied Health Societies
- CPT Editorial Panel
 - 17 Voting Members
 - › 13 Appointed by AMA Board
 - › 2 from BC/BS Assn, AHIP, AHA, CMS
 - › 2 Voted on by HCPAC
 - Psychologist (AP), until 06.01.2016, now Optometrist
 - Occupational Therapist

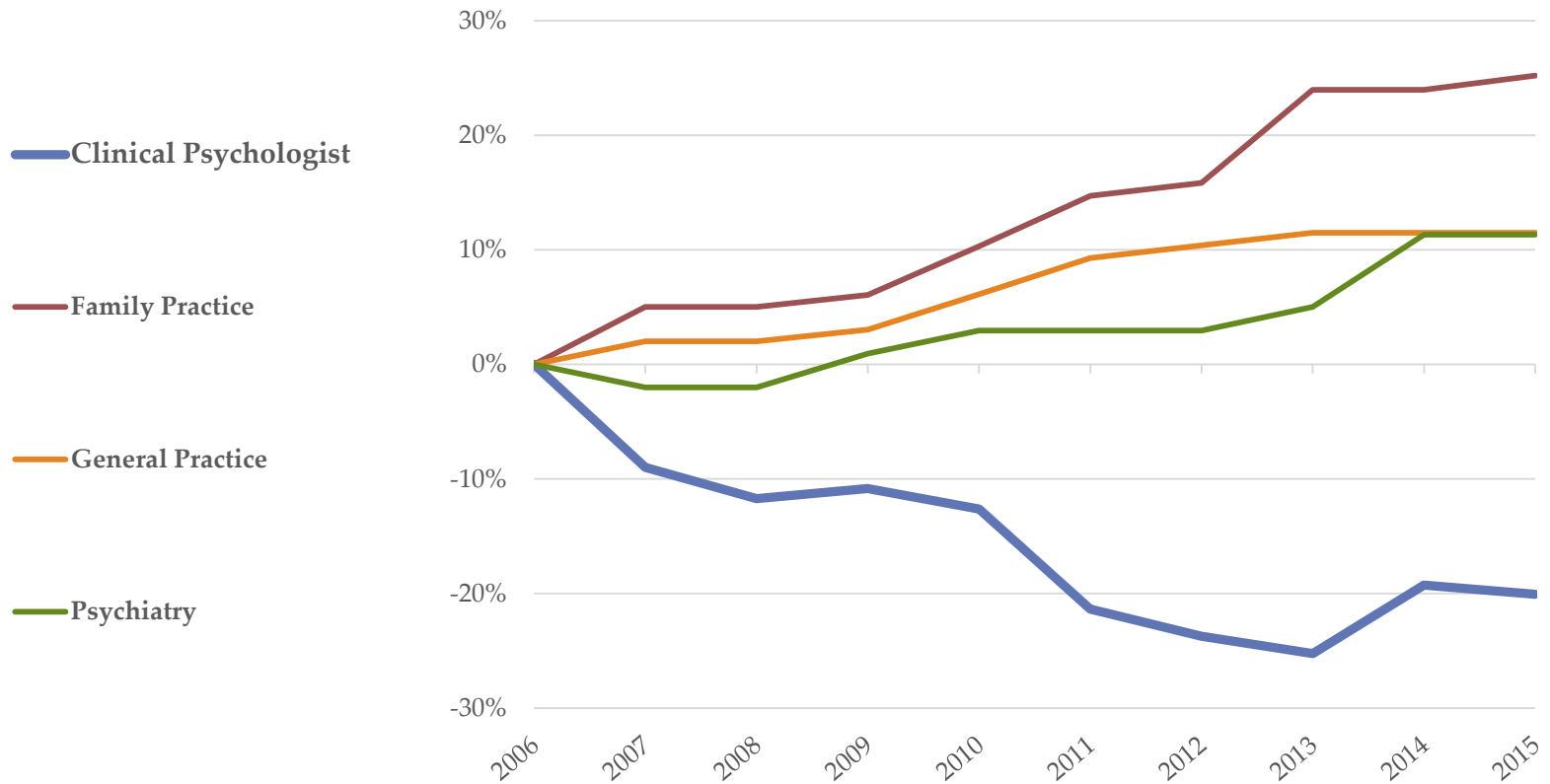
Stephen Gillaspay, Ph.D., American Psychological Association(2019)

RUC Panel Composition

- AMA/Specialty Society RVS Update Committee (RUC)
 - 31 Voting Members
 - › 21 of its 31 members appointed by major national medical specialty societies
 - 4 Rotating Seats – 1 primary care, 2 internal medicine subspecialty, 1 other
 - 6 remaining seats – RUC Chair, RUC HCPAC Co-Chair, Chair of Practice Expense Review Committee & representatives from AMA, CPT® Editorial Panel and AOA
 - AMA Board of Trustees selects RUC Chair & AMA representative
- RUC Healthcare Professionals Advisory Committee (HCPAC)
 - 12 limited license practitioners and allied health professionals
 - 3 RUC members – Representatives from RUC, AMA, & AMA Alternate

Stephen Gillaspy, Ph.D., American Psychological Association(2019)

Cumulative Percentage Change in Medicare Reimbursement Rates Since 2006



Source: CMS Medicare Part B Physician Fee Schedules.

Barriers to Access

1. Low reimbursement
2. Reimbursement and other contract terms dissuades professionals from participating as providers in some plans.
3. Large groups of insured can change insurance carriers relatively frequently and with insufficient notice.
4. It is difficult staff credentialed in a timely manner.
5. Current coding does not account for all that behavioral health clinicians can and need to do to collaborate and integrate with physicians.
6. Behavioral health is not included in value based payment programs.
7. Independent psychologists cannot participate in straight Medicaid.
8. Utilization Review procedures.
9. Outpatient behavioral health professionals cannot communicate with the IT systems the hospitals and physicians are using.



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