

NEW DIVISION OF COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGY ADVANCES BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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In response to the critical need for behavioral health practitioners, Rivier has established a new Division of Counseling and Psychology and appointed **Dr. Ralph Sperry** as its Dean. Dr. Sperry will also serve as the Director of the Doctor of Psychology in Counseling and School Psychology program and oversee the University's psychology, human services, clinical mental health counseling, school counseling, and school psychology degree programs.

"National research indicates that more than 21% of Americans experience a mental health condition annually, yet there are only enough therapists to support 7% of the population," shares **Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, Rivier's President**. "Millions suffering from mental illness are challenged with long wait times or left without treatment completely. The trend is increasing, and the need for new practitioners is great. Rivier University and Dr. Sperry will play a critical role in educating and building the behavioral health workforce."



Dr. Ralph Sperry is a licensed clinical psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist, and one of only 51 psychologists who has achieved the American Board of Professional Psychology's Board Certification in Organizational and Business Psychology. He has held CEO and other key leadership positions at prestigious behavioral health organizations.

Most recently, he was the Executive Director of Elliot Hospital's and Southern New Hampshire Hospital's Behavioral Health Services, where he led efforts to establish a new 144-bed behavioral health hospital to reduce the extended wait times in their emergency departments.

Among his many accomplishments, he has led initiatives that pioneered research in behavior analysis as the standard of treatment for autism and disseminated this research globally. He was appointed as an expert speaker and consultant to the U.S. State Department and has advised countries around the world in the development of training programs for clinicians and national systems of care. ■