
**NEW JERSEY:
CRADLE OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD AND
ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY**

The very first meeting of child psychiatrists, at which the decision to form a separate organization for our profession was made, occurred in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 24, 1952 (See AACAP poster for details). The resolution was as follows:

“[It is] resolved that this group of psychiatrists now in session in Atlantic City, N.J. on February 24, 1952 organize a medical society to be known as The American Academy of Child Psychiatry”.

The following day a committee of thirteen members met to discuss qualifications of members of the Academy, as this was the most controversial topic. A committee meeting was held in Asbury Park on April 5, 1952. A general meeting was called for May 12, 1952 in Atlantic City at which 53 members appeared by invitation. One of these was Abraham Barhash, a New Jersey child psychiatrist working in Newark. He spoke at the meeting where the thorny issue of qualifications was once again being discussed, pointing out that between 1942 and 1948 many psychiatrists had only one year of training in clinics because of the war situation. Later he also suggested that the organization committee of seventeen be considered an acting council until the Annual Meeting to be held in Cleveland in February 1953. The first set of officers could then be voted on. His suggestion was adopted. A second New Jersey psychiatrist, Stanley Harcourt Peppard, also appears on the original list of members.

The organizational committee met again in Asbury Park, New Jersey on November 15, 1952. Following the first annual meeting in Cleveland, a further committee was held on November 13, 1954, and another on May 9, 1955. Subjects included membership, constitution, the formation of a research committee and general meetings. A further annual business meeting was held in Atlantic City in May 1960.