PATH
PSYCHOLOGICAL ALLIANCE FOR TRANSPARENCY AND HUMANITY
AWARENESS • PREPAREDNESS • COMPASSION

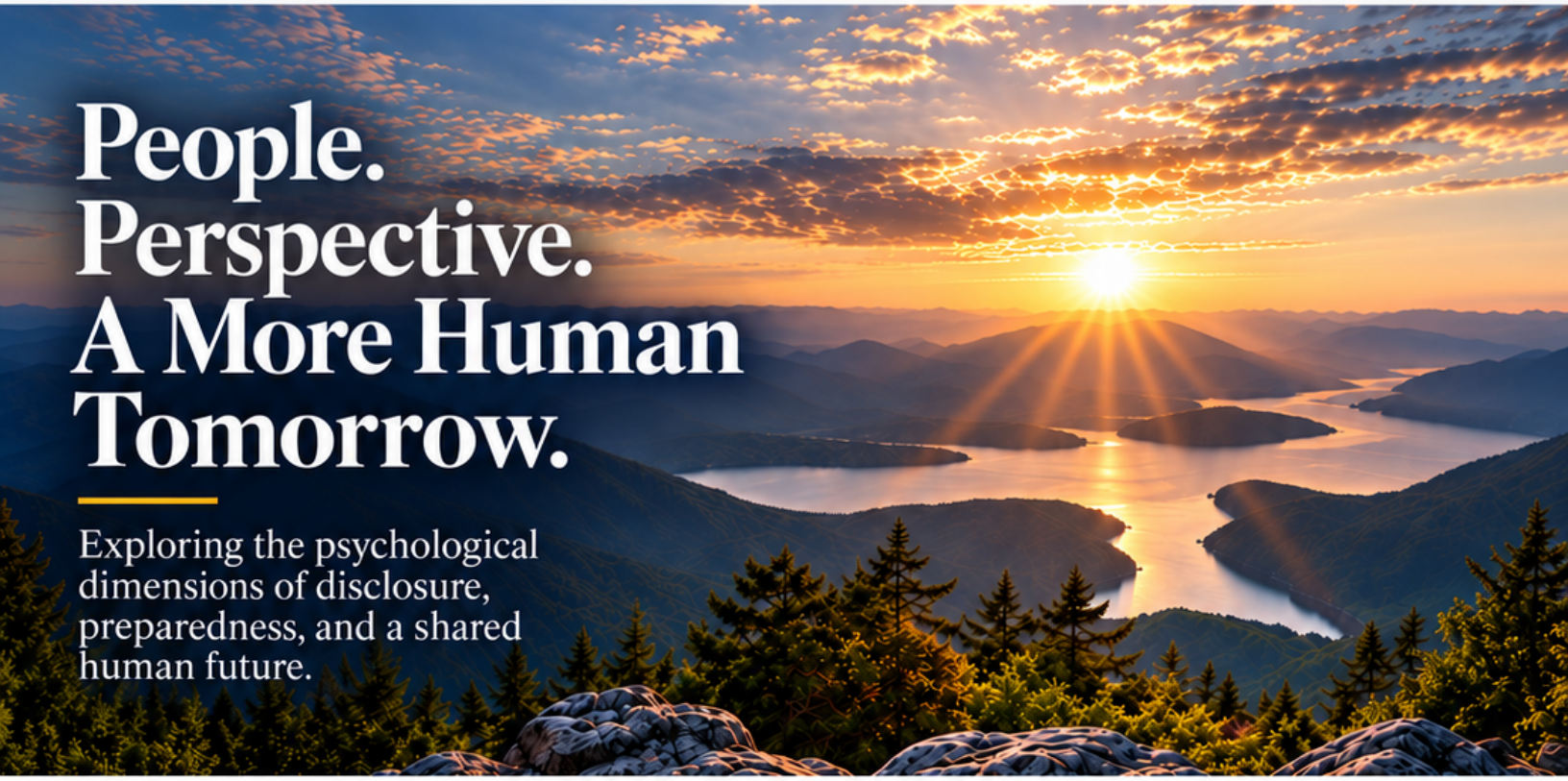
THE PATH AHEAD

Quarterly Member Newsletter of the Psychological Alliance for Transparency and Humanity

FALL 2026

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 1

EDITED REGULARLY BY ANTHONY PANTALENO, PH.D., AND JOSEPH S. VOLPE, PH.D., CO-FOUNDERS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS.



People. Perspective. A More Human Tomorrow.

Exploring the psychological dimensions of disclosure, preparedness, and a shared human future.

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GREATER AWARENESS. DEEPER UNDERSTANDING.

A MORE COMPASSIONATE HUMAN FUTURE.

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Be skeptical… but have a plan.

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Edited by Anthony Pantaleno, Ph.D., and Joseph S. Volpe, Ph.D.
Psychologists and co-founders

Big questions. Human responses.

What would you say if someone asked, "How do we prepare for something that could change how we see our place in the universe?" Welcome to The PATH Ahead, the quarterly newsletter of the *Psychological Alliance for Transparency and Humanity*. This is a place to explore big questions, share useful ideas, and bring the human side of potential disclosure into focus.

From the blog: Would disclosure cause panic?

PATH's July 5 blog article examines a familiar assumption: that extraordinary news would inevitably cause mass panic. Research on emergencies offers a more varied picture, including cooperation and mutual assistance. It cannot predict how people would respond to confirmation of non-human intelligence, but it gives us better questions to ask. How clearly is evidence explained? Where can people find dependable updates? Who can they turn to for support? Our feature on page 6 explores what preparedness can learn from these findings—and where the comparison ends.

How to read this issue

News items draw on linked public sources reviewed October 3, 2026. The principal reporting period is July–September 2026; earlier developments are labeled as background. External organizations speak for themselves, and their inclusion does not imply a partnership with PATH.

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ALLIANCE NEWS

Your next step starts here

What is new at PATH | Read, connect, and contribute

Pull up a chair

PATH's membership page welcomes professionals, affiliates, and community supporters. It currently lists no membership dues for new members. Membership does not require agreement about the origin or nature of unexplained phenomena; it asks for a commitment to responsible inquiry and psychological preparedness.

Open the PATH resource shelf

The PATH documents page features *Psychological First Aid for Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) Disclosure: A Trauma-Informed Preparedness and Response Field Guide*, by Joseph S. Volpe, Ph.D., and Anthony Pantaleno, Ph.D. It also lists public guidance, clinical perspectives, and a media reference sheet.

Two questionnaires are explicitly described as experimental and unvalidated: the *NHI Brief Adult Questionnaire* and the *Media Professionals Attitudes Toward NHI Disclosure Questionnaire*. They should not be presented as validated clinical assessments. Members can consult the documents page for current versions and use conditions.

Explore PATH publications

Bring your expertise to the table

Members could help review educational language, identify research worth discussing, or prepare a brief account of how their profession handles uncertainty. A small resource-review group could examine whether each handout is clear about its audience, purpose, evidence, and limitations.

Another useful project would be a shared directory of public educational resources. Each entry could include its author, date, intended audience, and the specific question it prompts readers to consider. These are editorial proposals, not announced PATH programs.

Ideas for next quarter

What would you like PATH members to discuss next? Send a question about communicating uncertainty, suggest a resource worth reviewing, or describe a challenge from your professional setting. Your perspective can help shape a future newsletter contribution or member conversation.

Join PATH or review membership categories

Start with one resource

Choose a PATH publication and bring one question to colleagues: Who is it for, what does it help someone do, and what remains uncertain? A short reflection on those questions can become a useful contribution to the next issue.

ORGANIZATION WATCH

Who is preparing for disclosure?

Public-source updates from the Disclosure Foundation and uNHIdden

Disclosure Foundation

July 30, 2026: The Foundation published a policy brief proposing a National Disclosure Preparedness Task Force. The brief, authored by Jennice Vilhauer, Carlos Eire, and Christopher K. Mellon, recommends a multidisciplinary strategy addressing psychological and societal readiness. This is an organizational recommendation; the publication itself does not establish a federal task force.

Read the national preparedness policy brief

September 16, 2026: Its public index highlights a call for government-funded UAP records to enter the National Archives collection. A September 18 interview with Executive Director Jordan Flowers discusses the latest records release and the need for supporting data. These items connect records access with the quality of public explanation.

Foundation news, policy, media, and public forums

Background, June 24: The Foundation announced a review of NASA archival material to identify anomalies warranting further investigation. An announced review is not a finding about the origin of any anomaly.

uNHIdden

Background, June 8, 2026: *uNHIdden published Preparing for Disclosure: A Public Health Framework for Paradigm-shifting Revelations.* Its official page links the report, launch video, health needs assessment, and a related preprint. The framework treats potential disclosure as a public-health preparedness question.

Preparedness plan and associated resources

The organization describes itself as medically led and focused on reducing stigma and improving support for people affected by UAP-related experiences. Its British and international perspective raises useful questions about public trust, professional education, and access to care.

An invitation to exchange

PATH could invite both organizations to discuss how preparedness resources communicate uncertainty and reach different communities. No collaboration or joint event has been confirmed for this issue.

A question for members

Who might a preparedness framework overlook? Consider how people outside professional networks would access it, ask questions, and help shape the discussion. Which voices should your organization hear?

CONGRESSIONAL WATCH

Capitol Hill: what comes next?

Burchett, Burlison, and Luna | Dated developments and open questions

Representative Tim Burchett

Background, May 17, 2024: Burchett's office announced introduction of the UAP Transparency Act. That announcement is evidence of a legislative proposal, not proof that the proposal became law or that an underlying claim about non-human intelligence was verified.

UAP Transparency Act announcement

The House Oversight Committee currently lists Burchett as a member of its Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets. A specific July–September 2026 UAP statement or next step from his office was not verified in the sources reviewed for this issue. This is a reporting gap, not a finding that no activity occurred.

Official task force roster

Representative Eric Burlison

July 22, 2026: An official release indexed by his office reports House adoption of his UAP disclosure framework amendment. House adoption is a legislative stage; this newsletter does not claim final enactment.

Official House-adoption announcement

September 21, 2026: His office's indexed release announces publication of a previously unavailable 1952 UAP recording. The full release could not be retrieved during review, so the newsletter reports only the dated announcement and does not characterize the recording's contents or evidentiary significance.

Official recording-release announcement

Representative Anna Paulina Luna

Background, April 1, 2026: The House Oversight Committee published Luna's request for specified UAP video records in a letter to the department secretary. The release connects the request to the task force's September 9, 2025 hearing. It documents an oversight request, not completion of the requested production.

Official committee release and linked letter

A later quarter-specific response, new hearing date, or completed production was not verified here. Allegations cited by witnesses or lawmakers remain attributed claims unless independently substantiated.

Why this matters for PATH

Public communication benefits from distinguishing a request, a release, a proposal, and an established finding. For PATH, those distinctions help members discuss trust and uncertainty without promising what the evidence cannot yet support. Preparedness includes helping audiences understand both new information and its limits.

THE FEATURED PROFILE

Jennice Vilhauer, Ph.D.

The human side of disclosure | This issue's featured psychologist

What happens when a debate about evidence becomes a conversation about how people imagine their future? That is one reason a psychologist belongs in a multidisciplinary discussion of potential disclosure. This issue's profile introduces Dr. Jennice Vilhauer through her published biography and recent work; it is not an interview.

Background and contribution

The Disclosure Foundation identifies Vilhauer as a Los Angeles clinical psychologist, developer of Future Directed Therapy, and author of Think Forward to Thrive. Her biography describes work on expectations, emotional well-being, and future-directed action, alongside leadership of outpatient psychotherapy programs at Emory Healthcare and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Official professional profile

July 12, 2026: The Foundation announced her appointment to its advisory board, emphasizing the psychological and social dimensions of disclosure. The announcement places that expertise alongside the organization's policy, legal, and public-education work.

Advisory-board appointment announcement

Work with direct relevance to PATH

Vilhauer is a co-author of the Foundation's July 30 preparedness policy brief. Its proposal for a multidisciplinary national task force connects psychological readiness with institutional planning. PATH members may find the proposal useful as a starting point for discussion, while evaluating its assumptions and recommendations on their merits.

National preparedness framework

Agreement, uncertainty, and debate

The editorial point of connection is the importance of considering human responses before decisions are made about public communication. Open questions include how to study those responses without overstating predictions, whose perspectives are represented, and how preparedness can remain proportionate when the nature of future information is unknown.

A professional biography or an advisory appointment does not establish the truth of a UAP claim. Likewise, support for planning does not imply agreement about the likelihood, timing, or content of any future disclosure. These distinctions allow a useful discussion across different viewpoints.

PATH's question

"What should mental health professionals and communities be doing now?"

Questions for future discussion: How can public messages acknowledge uncertainty without becoming evasive? What would responsible evaluation of a preparedness program look like? Which communities should participate in its design? How can clinicians support a person without endorsing an unverified explanation?

PATH hopes to explore these questions with psychologists and other professionals in future issues.

FROM THE PATH BLOG / RESEARCH FEATURE

Would disclosure cause panic?

What research suggests—and what it cannot predict

Would people panic if credible evidence of non-human intelligence were announced? PATH's July 5 article asks readers to examine that familiar assumption. Fear, surprise, disbelief, and curiosity are possible responses, but they should not be treated as interchangeable with mass panic. Preparing for a difficult public conversation begins with making those distinctions.

What emergencies can teach us

Disaster research challenges the picture of people automatically abandoning cooperation when danger appears. Studies of the World Trade Center evacuation and the 2005 London bombings describe people seeking information, assisting others, and responding through existing or newly formed social connections. Drury, Cocking, and Reicher's research on the London attacks examined collective resilience and helping among survivors. These findings make cooperation part of the planning picture, alongside distress and practical needs.

Where the comparison stops

Research on evacuations cannot tell us exactly how people would respond to confirmation of non-human intelligence. A physical emergency and an announcement about humanity's place in the universe differ in timing, meaning, and demands. Responses could also vary with the evidence presented, the credibility of the messenger, personal beliefs, cultural context, and whether the information suggests any immediate threat. Disaster findings offer a useful comparison, not a forecast.

Clear communication

PATH's article emphasizes clarity about what is known and what remains unresolved. Applied to a disclosure scenario, that means explaining the evidence in accessible language, identifying unanswered questions, and telling people where subsequent updates will appear. An announcement should not imply that every uncertainty has been settled simply because one important finding has been established.

For a school, practice, or community organization, the first task might be modest: identify the original source, agree on who will communicate with members, and establish a reliable place for questions. Avoid promising that everyone will respond calmly, or suggesting that distress is inevitable. People need room for different reactions.

Questions worth asking

A practical discussion can begin with three questions: What has actually been established? What does the information mean to the person asking? What support or further information would be useful? These questions keep factual assessment connected to human concerns without turning personal meaning into scientific evidence.

The takeaway for PATH is a measured one. Neither inevitable panic nor effortless adjustment should be assumed. Preparedness means communicating carefully, supporting connection, and revising plans as evidence changes. It is work worth doing without predicting either a disclosure event or a uniform public response.

Adapted from PATH Insights, July 5, 2026. Research: Averill et al. (2005), NIST NCSTAR 1-7; Drury, Cocking, & Reicher (2009), 27, 66–95.

Read the PATH article and its references

VOICES FROM PATH / MEMBER OPINION

Can we disagree and still listen?

"A person can be curious without being convinced."

When people disagree about an extraordinary claim, the conversation can become a test of loyalty. Are you with us or against us? Do you believe, or do you dismiss? I would like PATH's member conversations to leave more space between those positions. A person can be curious without being convinced. Another can question an explanation while still caring about the person who finds it meaningful. That space is where thoughtful dialogue can begin.

Listening is often mistaken for agreement. In a difficult conversation, however, I may want to understand what someone heard, why it matters to them, and what question they are trying to answer. None of that obliges me to endorse their interpretation. It does oblige me to avoid pretending that I understand before I have listened. A respectful question can make a discussion more precise: Which part feels most important to you, and what information would help you evaluate it?

The distinction matters when a public announcement reaches a family. One person may see an intriguing scientific puzzle; another may connect it with questions about religion, safety, or trust. It would be easy to answer all of them with the same reassurance. I would instead begin by finding out which conversation we are having. Sometimes the question concerns evidence. Sometimes it concerns meaning. Sometimes the person simply wants to know whether it is acceptable to remain uncertain.

Critical thinking belongs in that conversation, but it need not arrive as a verdict on someone's character. We can examine the date of a source, the difference between an observation and an explanation, and the possibility that a quotation has lost its context. We can also ask what would change our own minds. That last question is a useful discipline because it makes scrutiny reciprocal. It keeps skepticism from becoming a label we apply only to other people.

Compassion needs similar precision. It is not compassionate to supply certainty that we do not possess merely because certainty feels comforting. Nor is it helpful to make fear the expected response to every unfamiliar idea. I would prefer language that leaves room for varied reactions: Here is what the source says; here is what it does not establish; and here is a way we can return to the question when better information is available.

A member discussion group could practice this approach by taking one short public statement and writing three versions of a response. The first would summarize the established facts. The second would identify unresolved questions. The third would invite people to discuss what the information means to them without turning those meanings into factual claims. Comparing the versions could reveal how easily the categories become mixed, even when everyone is acting in good faith.

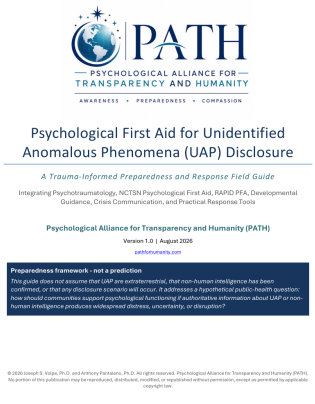
For me, the strongest reason to do this work is not the possibility of a dramatic announcement. It is the quality of the relationships we build while considering difficult questions. Curiosity asks us to remain open to learning. Careful reasoning asks us to respect the evidence. Compassion asks us to remember the person in front of us. A useful conversation can make room for all three, without demanding that everyone leave with the same conclusion.

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT / EVENTS DESK

Put preparedness into practice

Read the field guide. Bring a question. Share what you learn.

The PFA manual



59 PAGES • VERSION 1.0 • AUGUST 2026

Joseph S. Volpe, Ph.D.
Anthony Pantaleno, Ph.D.

Where can a preparedness conversation become practical? This 59-page PATH manual brings psychological support, crisis communication, and response planning into one field guide.

Inside are PFA and RAPID frameworks, developmental guidance, communication tools for families and schools, responder self-care, and practical worksheets and checklists.

Use it to start a team discussion, review a response plan, or identify a tool to explore with colleagues.

Read or download the PFA manual

An educational preparedness framework, not a prediction, a validated UAP-specific protocol, or a substitute for professional judgment. The manual does not assume that non-human intelligence has been confirmed.

Events & member dispatches

Members are invited to submit relevant conferences in psychology, public health, anthropology, religious studies, science communication, and public policy. Include an organizer-hosted announcement so the events desk can verify the listing.

A relevant earlier public forum appears in the Disclosure Foundation's June 2026 coverage. The Foundation's June 29 recap concerns the completed Disclosure Forum; it is background reading, not an upcoming event. A member account of attendance would be welcome.

Disclosure Foundation forum coverage

Who is attending?

Planning to attend a relevant event? Send the editors its official link, your name, and whether you would like to connect with other members. Contact details should be shared with other attendees only with your permission.

Dispatches from the room

After an event, send a 150–250-word report: What question mattered most? What did you learn? What remains unsettled? Add the event's date and title, and distinguish your interpretation from a speaker's documented statement.

Send an event suggestion or member dispatch

Discuss the page 6 blog feature with colleagues. Which assumption about public reactions deserves closer examination? Send your question to PATH.

CLOSING / THE QUARTER AHEAD

The next byline could be yours

Bring a question. Share a perspective. Help shape The PATH Ahead.

What should the rest of PATH hear about? A workshop question, a fresh reading of a public document, or an experience communicating uncertainty could become our next feature. Send a proposal, suggest a profile subject, or introduce an event. Your perspective can help shape the next issue.

The next issue

Trust, uncertainty, and the conversations that matter. Looking toward Winter 2027, contact the editors with topic ideas and questions about submission timing.

Possible angles include helping families discuss uncertainty; questions of meaning and identity; public trust; and what preparedness looks like across professional and cultural settings. A strong contribution should leave readers with a clear question, insight, or practical consideration.

Publication desk

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Edited by Anthony Pantaleno, Ph.D., and Joseph S. Volpe, Ph.D.
Psychologists and co-founders

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Member essay guidelines

Submit 500–800 words and a 40–60-word author biography. Include your professional role or relevant background and sources for factual claims. Clearly identify opinion, interpretation, and speculation. Protect client confidentiality; avoid identifying details and obtain any permissions required for material you did not create.

Essays may offer professional perspectives, reflections, or constructive disagreement. Engage ideas respectfully and distinguish unverified claims from facts. Signed essays express their authors' views, not necessarily PATH's position.

Other ways to take part

Offer a short event report, review an educational resource, recommend a public source, or express interest in a proposed working group. Include your preferred contact method and the contribution you would like to make.

Membership information and application

Contact PATH and submit an editorial inquiry

Before you send

Include a working title, your name and role, a short biography, and source links. Tell the editors whether your piece has appeared elsewhere.