

# Journal

\*\*\*\*\* The California Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Psychology Newsletter \*\*\*\*\*

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## President's Message



SEYRON FOO, PRESIDENT

*Seyron Foo, Board of Psychology*

Our fall “Journal” is the Board's last newsletter for 2020, closing a chapter on a difficult year as we continue to tackle the challenges of a worldwide pandemic that has tested our spirits, resolve, and health systems. I've been inspired by the stories of perseverance, community spirit, and creativity that are the hallmarks of our state.

Throughout the pandemic, the Board has continued its mission of protecting consumers of psychological services by licensing psychologists, regulating the practice of psychology, and supporting the evolution of the profession. We have also done this recognizing the need to facilitate the continued provision of care to individuals affected by coronavirus, including examining and requesting temporary waivers to existing regulations in light of the need for physical distancing to successfully slow the spread of COVID-19. This included requesting nine waivers to the Department of Consumer Affairs, covering topics such as waiving the live continuing education course requirement and requesting additional time for supervised professional experience for psychological assistants (regardless of their time on the 72-month limitation).

The Department approved our request for some waivers, including the Board's request to relax the requirement of face-to-face supervision to virtual means for a psychological trainee. The Board also took action to allow for the restoration of licenses of psychologists whose licenses were cancelled without requiring the Board's law and ethics exam, as well as the ability of a psychological trainee to request an extension on time limits to accrue pre-doctoral and post-doctoral hours. You can view the status of waivers on our website at: [www.psychology.ca.gov/covid/index.shtml](http://www.psychology.ca.gov/covid/index.shtml).

The Board continues to review and identify obstacles to consumer protection and the provision of care in consideration of the evolving nature of state and local public health orders issued to protect the health and safety of Californians. We are able to do so with an almost-full complement of Board members and we are grateful to the Governor's Office for its attentiveness in recognizing the importance

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[www.psychology.ca.gov](http://www.psychology.ca.gov)



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To verify a license: [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov)

To update address of record or email address: [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov)

Contact us: [bopmail@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bopmail@dca.ca.gov)

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of the Board's ability to conduct business. On June 15, Governor Gavin Newsom reappointed Dr. Mary Harb Sheets, vice president of the Board, and Dr. Stephen Phillips, president emeritus of the Board. I am also immensely grateful to the governor for my re-appointment to the Board, joining Dr. Harb Sheets and Dr. Phillips for a four-year term.

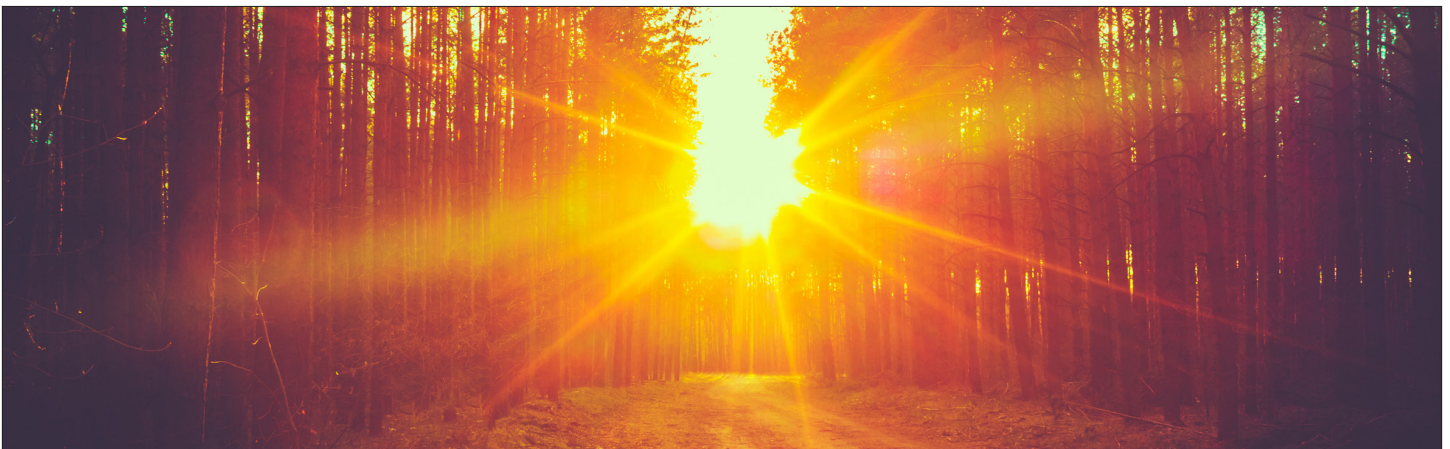
Dr. Harb Sheets is a psychologist in private practice and a senior consultant and staff psychologist at Workplace Guardians, Inc. In addition to her vice presidency on the Board, Dr. Harb Sheets chairs the Licensure Committee, which creates and maintains a clear and efficient framework for licensure, examination processes, and continuing professional development through the Board's statutes and regulations to ensure licensees meet the qualifications necessary to practice safely and ethically. She has also shared her expertise by teaching courses in advanced law and ethics at the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University in San Diego. An engaged member of the profession, she is the former chair of the Ethics Committee of the California Psychological Association. Dr. Harb Sheets earned a Master of Science degree and Doctor of Philosophy degree in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology.

Dr. Phillips is a clinical and forensic psychologist. On the Board, he chairs the Enforcement Committee, which protects the health and safety of consumers of psychological services through the active

enforcement of the statutes and regulations governing the safe practice of psychology. Dr. Phillips also brings his experience as Board president emeritus and the longest-serving member on the Board for the Sunset Review Committee and the Telepsychology Committee. In addition to his practice, Dr. Phillips has been a faculty member at the Wright Institute Los Angeles and Alliant International University. Prior to his Board service, Dr. Phillips served as the president of the Los Angeles County Psychological Association. He earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Chicago Law School and a Doctor of Psychology degree in clinical psychology from Alliant International University, California School of Professional Psychology.

We invite you to participate in our Board meetings, held virtually through the duration of "stay-at-home" health orders. You may learn more about our Board and committee meetings on our website by clicking on "Meeting Calendar" under the "About Us" tab.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I applaud and commend our fantastic staff members, led by Executive Officer Antonette Sorrick, and our affiliates in the Department of Consumer Affairs' Legal Affairs Division, SOLID Training and Planning Solutions, and other partners that enable the Board to carry out its mission of consumer protection. Despite these difficult environs, Board staff and associates continue to answer the calls of innovation, comity, and public service.





## How to Update Your Address of Record

*Diana Brown, Central Services Technician, Board of Psychology*

Along with checking the batteries in your smoke detectors and other devices to make sure they are in top working order, you may want to check your address of record that you have on file with the Board. For our licensees and registrants, an important aspect of maintaining their licensure is to inform the Board of any change of their address of record as this is the address to which the Board will send important documents or letters.

### California Code of Regulations section 1380.5

Each person holding a license as a psychologist shall file with the Board his or her address of record, which shall be used as the mailing address for the licensee and shall be disclosable to the public. The licensee may provide a post office box number or other alternate address as his or her address of record; however, the licensee shall also provide a physical address or residential address for the Board's internal administrative use and not for disclosure to the public. Each applicant and licensee who has an electronic mail address shall provide to the Board that electronic mail address and shall maintain a current electronic mail address, if any, with the Board. Within **30 days after** a change any address above, the applicant or licensee shall report to the Board any and all changes, giving both his or her old and new address(es). **Failure to comply with the requirements of this section may subject the licensee to an enforcement action.**

The Board utilizes the address of record for all communications with its licensees and registrants; therefore, it is very important to keep your address of record current with the Board. The United States Postal Service does not forward government mail, such as the Board's correspondences, to forwarding addresses. So even if you have submitted the forwarding notice at the Post Office, any correspondence from the Board will not be forwarded to you. You will need to contact the Board directly to submit an address change.

### As a psychologist, there are two ways that you can update your address with the Board:

- You can update your address yourself using the BreZE online system.
- You can complete and submit the fillable change of address form located on the Board's website at [www.psychology.ca.gov/licensees/change\\_address.pdf](http://www.psychology.ca.gov/licensees/change_address.pdf).

**Note:** Psychological assistants and registered psychologists must use the fillable form and submit it to the Board.

To change your address in the BreZE online system, you will need to log in to your BreZE account and select the "Manage Information" section to make your address change.

### How to access BreZE:

- 1) Access the BreZE website at [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov).
- 2) If you are new to BreZE, click on "BreZE Registration" under "New Users." If you are a returning user, sign in to BreZE.
- 3) Once logged in, go to the "Manage Information" section to update your address of record.

**Please note:** A new pocket license is NOT automatically generated when these changes are put into the system. The replacement pocket license can be ordered by utilizing the BreZE system or by completing the "Application for Duplicate Wall Certificate and/or Pocket Card" form on the Board's website. Please follow the instructions completely and submit the form or online order with the processing fee. Orders placed without providing payment will not be filled until payment is received.

Additional tutorials for BreZE can be found here: [www.psychology.ca.gov/about\\_us/breeze.shtml](http://www.psychology.ca.gov/about_us/breeze.shtml).





## Child Custody Implementation Plan Update

*Stephen C. Phillips, J.D./Psy.D., Chair, Enforcement Committee, Board of Psychology, and Sandra Monterrubio, Enforcement Program Manager, Board of Psychology*

In recent years, issues have been raised by the Center for Judicial Excellence and others regarding the handling of child custody matters and the role of child custody evaluators. Subsequently, in September 2018, the Board of Psychology and the Board of Behavioral Sciences held a Child Custody Stakeholder meeting in Sacramento. Stakeholders were invited to participate in the meeting to discuss concerns from the Center for Judicial Excellence.

In attendance were the Board of Psychology, Board of Behavioral Sciences, Department of Consumer Affairs' Executive Office, Department of Consumer Affairs' Legal Office, Judicial Council of Family Law, Senate Judiciary Committee, Assembly Business and Professions Committee, Office of the Attorney General, and Center for Judicial Excellence.

At the Stakeholder meeting, attendees discussed and triaged issues raised by the Center for Judicial Excellence and determined under which attending office's jurisdiction each issued resided. After the meeting, the Board met and reviewed the issues that reside within the Board's jurisdiction. Below is the Child Custody Implementation Plan that has been reviewed and approved by the Board at its July 10 board meeting.

ITEM	ACTION ITEMS	HOW TO IMPLEMENT	TIMEFRAME
1	Mandate Child Abuse/ Domestic Violence Education for Subject Matter Experts	Child Custody Subject Matter Experts will be required to take 6 hours of continuing education in child abuse and 6 hours in domestic violence every 3 years (contract term for experts).	2020/2021
2	Screen Child Custody Subject Matter Experts Who Subscribe to Parental Alienation Syndrome	The Expert Application will include the following question: "Do you believe parental alienation syndrome should be included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual? Why or why not?" Depending on the answer given, further review will be undertaken on a case-by-case basis.	2020/2021
3	Educate Public on the Clear and Convincing Evidence Standard	A definition of clear and convincing evidence is provided on the Complaint Fact Sheet, which will be posted on the Board's website. In addition, the Board will post a link to Senior Assistant Attorney General Gloria Castro's presentation on clear and convincing evidence.	2019
4	Create a Complaint Fact Sheet	The committee amended the Complaint Fact Sheet, which will be posted on the Board's website by early November.	2019
5	Review and Consider Statutory Language Related to Documentation Considered for Child Custody Complaints	This item is on the agenda for the Enforcement Committee and will be presented at a future Board meeting.	2021

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The five items addressed in the table represent an important aspect of the Board's commitment to its continued mission to protect consumers of psychological services by licensing psychologists, regulating the practice of psychology, and supporting the evolution of the profession.

In response to the concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the responsiveness of the Board to complaints filed in child custody matters while

maintaining the fairness of the system for all concerned, the Board has implemented procedural and informational changes to increase the Board's efficacy in investigating and, where appropriate, prosecuting complaints if sufficient, credible evidence exists to satisfy the clear and convincing evidence standard of proof. The Board appreciates the tireless efforts of child custody reform advocates to raise their concerns with the Board.







## Responding to the Pandemic—California Health Corps

*Mary Harb Sheets, Ph.D., Vice President, Board of Psychology*

On March 31, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a request for California licensed health care workers to help the state address the mental health impacts from the pandemic. To assist in this need, he established the California Health Corps (<https://covid19.ca.gov/healthcorps/>). This program is an opportunity for licensed health care providers

to help our fellow Californians. Registrants are paid and provided with malpractice insurance coverage. As of mid-June, 1,191 psychologists, approximately 6% of California's current licensed psychologists, had signed up to participate in the program. To apply or find additional information, please visit the Health Corps website.

## Jeffrey K. Thomas— In Memoriam

In August, the Board of Psychology lost Assistant Executive Officer Jeffrey K. Thomas. Mr. Thomas worked for the Board for 33 years. To those that crossed paths with him, Mr. Thomas was a wealth of historical knowledge, a kind and patient leader, and a man with a great sense of humor. He is survived by his beloved Scottish terrier Roscoe as he joins the love of his life, Mitchell L. Putman. The staff, the Board, and all those associated with Mr. Thomas join in mourning his loss.



## COVID-19 Updates

*Antonette Sorrick, Executive Officer, Board of Psychology*

On March 4, the Board of Psychology began operations under the state's declared emergency. Board staff transitioned to telework and seamlessly processed applications, renewals, and complaints via secure cloud-based systems. Board meetings have been held by teleconference and WebEx, and the Board's office alternated between being open and closed to the public. In response to inquiries regarding challenges meeting the statutory and regulatory mandates for training and licensure, the Board submitted several waivers. Some additional waivers have been initiated by both the Department of Consumer Affairs as well as outside organizations. For a current list of waivers, see the links provided:

### **Board of Psychology Waivers**

[www.psychology.ca.gov/covid/waivers.shtml](http://www.psychology.ca.gov/covid/waivers.shtml)

### **Department of Consumer Affairs Waivers**

[www.dca.ca.gov/licensees/dca\\_waivers.shtml](http://www.dca.ca.gov/licensees/dca_waivers.shtml)

The Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee also looked at additional ways to improve communications with stakeholders, reviewed statutory authority for future emergencies, and discussed considerations for Board meetings during an emergency. All measures taken by the Board during this time have been done in the context of the Board's values: transparency, integrity, fairness, responsiveness, and professionalism.



## Explanation of Disciplinary Language and Actions

**Gross negligence:** An extreme departure from the standard of care.

**Incompetence:** Lack of knowledge or skills in discharging professional obligations.

**Public letter of reproof:** Formal discipline that consists of a reprimand of a licensee that is a matter of public record for conduct in violation of the law.

**Accusation:** A formal, written statement of charges.

**Stipulated settlement of decision:** The case is formally negotiated and settled prior to hearing.

**Surrender:** To resolve a disciplinary action, the licensee has given up his or her license, subject to acceptance by the Board of Psychology.

**Suspension from practice:** The licensee is prohibited from practicing or offering to provide psychological services during the term of suspension.

**Revoked:** The right to practice has ended due to disciplinary action.

**Revocation stayed, probation with terms and conditions:** “Stayed” means the revocation is postponed. Professional practice may continue so long as the licensee complies with specific probationary terms and conditions. Violation of any term of probation may result in the revocation that was postponed.



## Administrative Citations:

April 1 to June 30, 2020

**Bryna Susan Siegel, Ph.D.**  
Unlicensed, Redwood City

On May 27, a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$5,000 was issued to Bryna Susan Siegel for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology by conducting exams that are psychological in nature, offering psychological expert opinions, making conclusions regarding diagnoses of autism, and misrepresenting herself as a “psychologist” in writing, advertising, and in her own personal statements, when she was never licensed by the Board.

## Disciplinary Actions:

April 1 to June 30, 2020

### SURRENDER

**Gareth Charles Houghton, Ph.D.**  
Psychologist License No. PSY 10624, Sanger

Dr. Houghton stipulated to the surrender of his license after an Accusation was filed alleging he committed gross negligence by failing to provide informed consent to a patient, and in the manner in which he administered hypnosis to a patient. The surrender took effect April 2.

**Emma J. McManus, Psy.D.**  
Psychological Assistant  
Registration No. PSB 94020275,  
Sacramento

Dr. McManus stipulated to the surrender of her registration after an Accusation was filed alleging she engaged in false advertising during her care and treatment of a patient by allowing marketing materials to be made that failed to indicate her status as a registered psychological assistant; practiced outside her scope of qualifications and abilities by providing medication instructions for a patient who was detoxing from alcohol; provided psychological services without appropriate supervision; collected referral fees from an inpatient drug treatment program; failed to obtain informed consent that she would not provide therapy at the inpatient treatment facility unless her professional fees were paid separately; and attempted to engage in an exploitative financial relationship when she offered a \$10,000 loan to cover a patient’s inpatient treatment fee. The surrender took effect April 25.

### REVOCATION

**Senia Lynae Vitale, Ph.D.**  
Psychologist License No. PSY 14809, Solana Beach

Dr. Vitale’s license was revoked after a decision was entered following the filing of an Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation that alleged she failed to comply with the conditions of probation and committed

acts warranting further license discipline. The decision and order took effect May 7.

### PROBATION

**Angie Maez, Ph.D.**  
Psychologist License No. PSY 12363, Santa Barbara

Dr. Maez’s license was placed on probation for one year, with a 10-day suspension, after a decision was entered following the filing of a First Amended Petition to Revoke Probation that alleged she failed to comply with the terms and conditions of probation including that she failed to call in for possible testing; failed to notify the Board that she had ceased practicing; and failed to notify the Board of an arrest within 72 hours. The decision and order took effect April 10.

### PUBLIC LETTER OF REPROVAL

**Leyla T. Brusatori, Ph.D.**  
Psychologist License No. PSY 23080, Lodi

Dr. Brusatori stipulated to the issuance of a public letter of reproof against her license, with terms, after an Accusation was filed that alleged she violated the regulations duly adopted when she failed to provide proof of completion of continuing education attendance certificates to the Board upon request for an audit. The order took effect April 8.





## Legislative/Regulatory Update

*Jason Glasspiegel, Central Services Manager,  
Board of Psychology*

### REGULATORY UPDATE

Below are the Board's pending regulatory changes, and their status in the formal rulemaking process.

#### **1. Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 1391.1, 1391.2, 1391.5, 1391.6, 1391.8, 1391.10, 1391.11, 1391.12, 1392.1—Psychological Assistants**

**Status:** Initial review phase. This phase includes reviews by the Department of Consumer Affairs and Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency before formal Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

This regulatory package does the following:

Conforms the California Code of Regulations to statutory changes made in Senate Bill 1193 (Hill, Chapter 484, Statutes of 2016), which requires psychological assistants to obtain a single registration with the Board of Psychology,

to be renewed annually. This registration will be independent from their supervisor(s) or employer(s) but does not remove the requirement that psychological assistants practice only under supervision. Additionally, the proposed regulatory language is to avoid duplication as to who pays the psychological assistant registration fee, as this is already specified in statute.

#### **2. Title 16, CCR section 1396.8—Standards of Practice for Telehealth**

**Status:** Notice with OAL and hearing.

This regulatory package does the following:

Establishes standards of practice for telehealth by licensed California psychologists and psychology trainees to an originating site in this state, to a patient or client who is a resident of California temporarily located outside of this state, and to clients or patients who initiate psychological health care services while in this state but who may not be a resident of this state, to improve access to psychological care for underserved populations and to support clients or patients between regularly scheduled office visits or while they are temporarily located outside of this state.

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**3. Title 16 CCR sections 1381.9, 1397.60, 1397.61, 1397.62, 1397.67—Continuing Professional Development**

**Status:** Initial review phase. This phase includes reviews by the Department of Consumer Affairs and Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency before formal Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action with the Office of Administrative Law.

This regulatory package does the following:

Changes the continuing education guidelines and requirements that must be completed by licensed psychologists from the continuing education (CE) model to the broader continuing professional development (CPD) model.

**4. Title 16 CCR sections 1381.9, 1381.10, 1392—Retired License, Renewal of Expired License, Psychologist Fees**

**Status:** Initial review phase. This phase includes reviews by the Department of Consumer Affairs, and Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency before formal Notice of Public Hearing with the Office of Administrative Law.

This regulatory package does the following:

Adopts section 1381.10 in Division 13.1 in the Board of Psychology’s regulations to be titled “Retired Status,” and amends the other sections cited. This proposal would allow a licensee to apply to have their license placed in a retired status.

**5. Title 16 CCR sections 1394, 1395, 1395.1, 1392—Substantial Relationship Criteria, Rehabilitation Criteria for Denials and Reinstatements, Rehabilitation Criteria for Suspensions and Revocations**

**Status:** Final departmental review. This phase includes submitting the completed regulatory package to the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, and the Department of Finance for their review and approval, before the package is filed with the Office of Administrative Law for final review.

This regulatory package does the following:

Brings the Board into compliance with the changes to the law and, to the extent possible, maintains adequate consumer protections by ensuring Board licensees are fit to practice independently with potentially vulnerable consumer populations.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

For up-to-date bill status information, visit the Board’s website at [www.psychology.ca.gov/laws\\_regs/legislation.shtml](http://www.psychology.ca.gov/laws_regs/legislation.shtml).

**SPONSORED LEGISLATION**

**SB 275 (Pan)—Psychologist: prohibition against sexual behavior**

As originally introduced, this bill would add sexual behavior to the offenses in Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 2960.1 that require a proposed decision to contain an order of revocation when the finding of facts prove that there were acts of sexual behavior between a psychologist and their client or former client. As a result of changes in the legislative schedule, this bill was amended on June 17, 2020, and now relates to the Health Care and Essential Workers Protection Act: personal protective equipment. The Board is no longer a sponsor of the bill.

**LEGISLATION WITH ACTIVE POSITIONS**

The Board takes positions on legislation after review by its Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee and at its Board meetings.

**SB 53 (Wilk)—Open meetings**

This bill modifies the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene) to require two-member advisory committees of a “state body” to hold open, public meetings if at least one member of the advisory committee is a member of the larger state body, and the advisory committee is supported, in whole or in part, by funds provided by the state body.

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This bill would require the Board's two-person committee meetings to be noticed, public meetings. This structure is utilized in a limited number of circumstances when necessary. This structure may be used due to concerns for employee safety, for a collaborative discussion of confidential information that could not be discussed in depth during a public meeting, or for collaborative working group meetings of limited duration and scope where the committee's task is drafting iterative versions of legislatively mandated reports, drafting letters, or providing expert analysis.

The Board is also concerned that SB 53 would curb the Board's ability to effectively perform advocacy activities and limit Board outreach and education activities. Specifically, each year the Board organizes meetings with some or all members of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee and the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee to inform legislators and legislative staff on issues impacting consumer protection, Board operations, and the profession of psychology. The Board does not believe that it is the intent of the bill to impact activities outside of committee meetings,

but this bill would create additional barriers to effective advocacy and outreach activities intended to enhance consumer protection and educate the public.

**Board Position:** Oppose

**SB 66 (Atkins)—Medi-Cal: federally qualified health center and rural health clinic services**

This bill would allow Medi-Cal reimbursement for a patient receiving both medical and mental health services at a federally qualified health center (FQHC) or rural health clinic (RHC) on the same day.

**Board Position:** Support

**Assembly Bill 1145 (Garcia, Christina)—Child abuse: reportable conduct**

For the purposes of the Child Abuse Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA), this bill revises the definition of sexual assault to no longer include any acts under Penal Code sections 286 (sodomy), 287 or former section 288a (oral copulation), and section 289 (sexual penetration), if committed voluntarily and if there are no indicators of abuse, unless the conduct is between a person 21 years of age or older and a minor who is under 16 years of age.

**Board Position:** Support

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**AB 1263 (Low)—Contracts: consumer services: consumer complaints**

This bill would prohibit a contract or proposed contract involving the provision of a consumer service by a licensee regulated by a licensing board from including a provision limiting the consumer's ability to file a complaint with that board or to participate in the board's investigation into the licensee. The bill would specify that a waiver of these provisions is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable. The bill would provide that a violation of these provisions by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct subject to discipline by the licensee's regulatory board.

**Board Position:** Support

**AB 2028 (Aguiar-Curry)—State agencies: meetings**

This bill would, except for closed sessions, require that meetings noticed pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act include all writings or materials provided for the noticed meeting to a member of the state body by staff of a state agency, board, or commission, or another member of the state body that are in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at the meeting. The bill

would prescribe requirements to be satisfied in order for these writings or materials to be distributed or discussed by the members of the state body. The bill would generally require that these writings and materials be made available on the body's website no later than the first business day after they are provided to members of the state body or at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, whichever is earlier, and to be provided to members of the public immediately upon written request. If the writings or materials are provided to the members of the state body by another state body after this 48-hour deadline, the bill would require that they be posted on the body's website no later than the first business day, but prior to the meeting of the state body, following the dissemination of the writings and materials to the members of the state body, and made available immediately upon written request. The bill would except writings or materials relating to matters to be discussed in a closed session and state financial materials, as defined, that put the treasurer at a competitive disadvantage in financial transactions from its requirements. The bill would authorize a state body to post and provide additional time-sensitive materials related to certain active legislation, as specified, and changing financial market conditions as they become available, as

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specified. Upon receipt of a written request, the bill would require that these writings or materials be provided immediately.

In practice, the bill would severely affect the ability of the Board to conduct its consumer protection mission in a fair and equitable way. The Board understands and agrees with the importance of transparency. Currently, the Board will make available documents that the Board has received the same day to stakeholders in attendance so that attendees have access to this information. However, this bill unintentionally harms the ability of the Board to protect consumers of California and lacks understanding of basic operations.

**Board Position:** Oppose

**AB 2112 (Ramos)—Suicide prevention**

This bill would authorize the state Department of Public Health to establish the Office of Suicide Prevention within the Department and would specify authorized responsibilities of the office if established, including, among other things, providing strategic guidance to statewide and regional partners regarding best practices on suicide prevention and reporting to the Legislature on progress to reduce rates of suicide. The bill would authorize the office to apply for and use federal grants.

**Board Position:** Support

**AB 2253 (Low)—Professional licensure**

This bill would clarify that experience that constitutes qualifying experience for licensure, or experience required for licensure, as applicable, is determined by reference to the act regulating the profession.

**Board Position:** Support

**AB 2360 (Mainschein)—Telehealth: mental health**

This bill would require health care service plans and health insurers, by January 1, 2021, to establish a telehealth consultation program that provides providers who treat children and pregnant and postpartum persons with access to a psychiatrist, as specified, in order to more quickly diagnose and treat children and pregnant and postpartum persons suffering from mental illness. The bill would require the consultation to be done by phone or telehealth video, and would authorize the consultation to include guidance on providing triage services and referrals to evidence-based treatment options, including psychotherapy. The bill would require health care service plans and insurers to communicate information relating to the telehealth program at least twice a year in writing. The bill

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would require health care service plans and health insurers to maintain records and data pertaining to the utilization of the program and the availability of psychiatrists in order to facilitate ongoing changes and improvements, as necessary. The bill would exempt certain specialized health care service plans and health insurers from these provisions.

**Board Position:** Support

**AB 2630 (Flora)—Criminal history information: subsequent arrest notification**

This bill would provide that the department is authorized to submit fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), where they will be retained for the purpose of being searched against future submissions to the FBI, as specified. This bill would authorize the department to search latent fingerprint images against all retained fingerprint submissions. This bill would also authorize the department to collect fees for federal subsequent notification services and remit the fees to the FBI.

**Board Position:** Support

**AB 2704 (Ting) Healing arts: licensees: data collection**

This bill would require all boards that oversee healing arts licensees to collect at the time of electronic application for a license and license renewal, or at least biennially, specified demographic information and to post the information on the websites that they each maintain. The bill would also require each board, or the Department of Consumer Affairs on its behalf, beginning on July 1, 2021, to provide the information annually to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The bill would require these boards to maintain the confidentiality of the information they receive from licensees and to only release information in aggregate form.

**Board Position:** Support

**AB 3045 (Gray)—Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses**

This bill would require boards not subject to the temporary licensing provisions in Business and Professions Code section 115.6 to issue licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States or is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States, as provided. The bill would require an application for a license to include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all requirements for a license.

Based on the language, it is unclear whether the verification is to be created and provided by the licensed state or the applicant. It is unreasonable to assume that either the licensed state or the applicant is qualified to determine whether other states standards required for licensure are similar to California. In addition, while the legislative digest for this bill does reference the payment of fees, the bill language is absent any specific mention of fees being remitted for the Board for the issuance of the license.

**Board Position:** Oppose

**SB 1474—Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee**

Relative to the Board of Psychology, existing law provides for the January 1, 2021, repeal of provisions creating the Board of Psychology.

This bill would extend the operation of those provisions to January 1, 2022, and make conforming changes relating to the appointment of an executive officer, as applicable.

**Board Position:** Support





**TAKE THE  
CENSUS TODAY!**

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## Board Members

- Seyron Foo (President)
- Mary Harb Sheets, Ph.D. (Vice President)
- Alita Bernal
- Sheryll Casuga, Psy.D.
- Marisela Cervantes
- Stephen Phillips, J.D., Psy.D.
- Shacunda Rodgers, Ph.D.
- Lea Tate, Psy.D.

## Meeting Calendar

### 2020 Board Meetings

November 20                      Sacramento

