STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Credential Committee **Date:** January 28, 2011

FROM: Lavinia F. Snyder
Licensing/Registration Coordinator

SUBJECT: Discuss Educational Requirements of Model Licensing Acts

Attached for your review are excerpts of the licensure requirements of the Model Licensing Act from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and the American Psychological Association.

American Psychological Association – Model Licensing Act

D. Requirements for Licensure

There is a core of basic theory, principles, and accumulated knowledge that all professional psychologists should possess. Each practitioner must also master the specific skills and knowledge appropriate for the competent performance of psychological practice. The language of the model requires the Board to specify its criteria for acceptable professional education in psychology. In this regard, the Board will be guided by national standards.

All applicants for licensure must minimally be graduates of a regionally accredited institution of higher education, or a Canadian university that is provincially or territorially chartered, and must have completed a planned program of study which reflects an integration of the science and practice of psychology. A formal training program accredited by the American Psychological Association or Canadian Psychological Association is required. For areas of psychology where APA or CPA program accreditation does not exist, psychology programs must meet all the requirements listed below (D1).

The law recognizes that new doctoral programs may be developed in newly or already recognized specialties of professional psychology. In such instances, the law affords those programs an eight-year period in which to achieve accreditation or to meet the standards described in D1, during which the graduates of those programs may sit for licensure.

1. Educational requirements

The Act recognizes the doctorate as the minimum educational requirement for entry into professional practice as a psychologist.

Applicants for licensure shall possess a doctoral degree in psychology from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or from a Canadian university that is provincially or territorially chartered. The degree shall be obtained from a recognized program of graduate study in psychology as defined by the rules and regulations of the Board.

Applicants for licensure shall have completed a doctoral program in psychology that is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) or where APA or CPA program accreditation does not exist for that area of professional psychology, then the applicant must show that his or her doctoral program in psychology meets all of the following requirements:

1. Training in professional psychology is doctoral training offered in a regionally accredited institution of higher education. A regionally accredited institution is an institution with regional accreditation in the United States or an university that is provincially or territorially chartered in Canada.

2. The program, wherever it may be administratively housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a psychology program. Such a program must specify in pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate and train professional psychologists.

3. The psychology program must stand as a recognizable, coherent organizational entity within the institution.

4. There must be a clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines.

5. The program must be an integrated, organized sequence of study.

6. There must be an identifiable psychology faculty sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its responsibilities and a psychologist responsible for the program.

7. The program must have an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in that program for a degree.

8. The program must include supervised practicum, internship, field or laboratory training appropriate to the individual's chosen area of practice of psychology.

9. The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of three academic years of full time graduate study and a minimum of one year's residency or the equivalent thereof at the educational institution granting the doctoral degree. The core program shall require every student to demonstrate competence in each of the following substantive areas. Some content areas may appropriately be taught by integrating content across the curriculum, or this requirement may be met through substantial instruction in each of these foundational areas, as demonstrated by evidence of an integrated curriculum or a minimum of three graduate semester hours, 4.5 or more graduate quarter hours (when an academic term is other than a semester, credit hours will be evaluated on the basis of fifteen hours of classroom instruction per semester hour), or the equivalent:

a. scientific and professional ethics and standards; b. research design and methodology; c. statistics; d. psychometric theory; e. biological bases of behavior: such as physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, sensation and perception, physical ergonomics, or psychopharmacology; f. cognitive-affective bases of behavior: such as learning, thinking, motivation, emotion, memory, cognitive information processing, or social cognition; g. social bases of behavior: such as social psychology, group processes, organizational and systems theory; and h. individual differences: such as personality theory, human development, personnel psychology, or abnormal psychology.

10. All professional education programs in psychology shall include course requirements in developed practice areas/specialties.

11. The program must demonstrate that it provides training relevant to the development of competence to practice in a diverse and multicultural society.

When a new area of professional psychology is recognized as being a developed practice area and within the accreditation scope of the APA, doctoral programs within that area will be afforded a transition period of eight years from their first class of students to the time of their accreditation. During that transition period, graduates of such programs may sit for licensure examination whether or not the program has been accredited. The same principle applies as well to new doctoral

programs in traditional practice areas previously recognized within the scope of APA accreditation.
Applicants trained in institutions outside the United States shall meet requirements established by the Board.
Psychologists trained in an area that falls outside the scope of APA accreditation (e.g., experimental, developmental, social) and who intend to practice in a traditional or developed practice area must complete a retraining program and/or appropriate supervised experience (e.g., internship in the developed practice area). Similarly, psychologists trained in HSP programs who intend to practice in general applied psychology non-exempt areas and psychologists trained in general applied psychology areas who intend to provide health services must first acquire the appropriate training and supervision.

2. Experience requirements
APA recommends that legislation requires the equivalent of two full-time years of sequential, organized, supervised, professional experience prior to obtaining the license. This training may be completed prior or subsequent to the granting of the doctoral degree. For applicants prepared for practice in the health services domain of psychology, one of those two years of supervised professional experience shall be a predoctoral internship which may be completed as a part-time intern over a two-year period provided that the total experience is the equivalent of one year of full-time experience. By seven years post adoption of these regulations, all licensure applicants prepared for practice in the health services domain must minimally have completed an APA or CPA accredited (or equivalent) predoctoral internship. For applicants prepared for practice in the general applied (non-HSP) domain of psychology, whose graduate programs may not have formal internships, the option to obtain all supervision post doctorally should be available. In rules and regulations, the Board must define acceptable supervised experience at the predoctoral and postdoctoral levels as well as mechanisms for evaluation of this experience. Boards are encouraged to create definitions that are flexible and capture the variety of training and supervisory models that are appropriate for both HSP and GAP practice. Psychologists are required to limit their practice to their demonstrated areas of professional competence. Experience should be compatible with training.

To obtain licensure, applicants shall demonstrate that they have completed the equivalent of two full-time years of sequential, organized, supervised professional experience. For applicants prepared for practice in the health services domain of psychology, one of those two years of supervised professional experience shall be an APA or CPA accredited (or equivalent) predoctoral internship. For applicants prepared for practice in the general applied domain of psychology, whose graduate programs may not have formal internships, the option to obtain all supervision post doctorally should be available. The criteria for appropriate supervision shall be in accordance with regulations to be promulgated by the Board. Experience shall be compatible with the knowledge and skills acquired during formal doctoral and/or postdoctoral education in accordance with professional requirements and relevant to the intended area of practice. General

Applied (non-HSP) Psychologist trainees may be supervised by an appropriate licensed psychologist outside the supervisee's place of employment so long as (a) the supervisee's employer engages the licensed supervisor to provide the required supervision; and (b) the supervisor assumes responsibility for the training of the supervisee. Applicants shall be required to show evidence of good character, e.g., that they have not been convicted of a criminal offense that bears directly on the fitness of the individual to be licensed.

3. Examinations

APA recommends that the Act specify the requirements for examination and the conditions under which the Board is authorized to waive examination. All examinations serve the purpose of verifying that a candidate for licensure has acquired a basic core of knowledge in the discipline of psychology and can apply that knowledge to the problems confronted in the practice of psychology within the applicant's area of practice as a health service provider or general applied psychologist. While written examinations typically evaluate the applicant's basic core of knowledge, any additional examinations such as oral examinations or work samples shall be representative of the applicant's area of practice. Boards should clearly specify the conditions under which the endorsement of another license will be granted.

The Board shall administer examinations to qualified applicants on at least an annual basis. The Board shall determine the subject matter and scope of the examination and shall require a written, and may require an oral, examination of each candidate for licensure. The written examination shall evaluate the basic core of knowledge in the discipline of psychology necessary to practice while any oral exams or work samples shall be representative of the applicant's area of practice as either a health service provider or general applied psychologist. The Board at its discretion, according to rules and regulations promulgated by the Board, may waive said examination of candidates for licensure. It is recommended that individuals applying for licensure be eligible to sit for the examination upon completion of all the requirements of the doctoral degree.

4. Prior credentials

APA recommends that the Act provide for continued licensure of persons already licensed as a psychologist at the time of enactment of a new law.

A person who is licensed as a psychologist under the provisions of (cite relevant section(s) of previous licensing law) as of the effective date of this Act shall be deemed to have met all requirements for licensure under this Act and shall be eligible for renewal of licensure in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

5. Applications from individuals licensed in other jurisdictions

Jurisdictions are strongly encouraged to adopt regulations to facilitate the mobility and portability of licensure. Jurisdictions may set criteria to determine conditions under which verification of education, experience, and examination requirements will be waived. These criteria may include holding a credential that

verifies education and experiences of individuals (e.g. American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards' Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (ASPPB's CPQ)), or Board determination that the criteria of the other jurisdiction are comparable to the Board's criteria, or other specified mechanism.

An individual applying for licensure with the Board who holds an active psychology license in another jurisdiction and shows evidence of good character is considered an eligible candidate for licensure in the jurisdiction. The Board may waive verifying the education, experience, and examination requirements for individuals who meet these criteria and for whom the Board's mechanism for verifying comparability of education, experience, and examination requirements is met. The Board retains the right to administer any required jurisdiction-specific examinations (written, oral, jurisprudence) prior to awarding the license.

Association for State and Provincial Psychology Board - Model Act for Licensure

VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

A. **GENERAL** AN APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE SHALL BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE AND OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER.

B. **EDUCATION** AN APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE MUST POSSESS A DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM A PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM, AS DEFINED IN THIS ACT AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD. THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE DISTANCE EDUCATION, BUT A MINIMUM OF ONE CONTINUOUS YEAR (AS DEFINED IN THE REGULATIONS) OF THE PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST OF RESIDENCY. PROGRAMS THAT USE PHYSICAL PRESENCE (AS DEFINED IN THE REGULATIONS), INCLUDING FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT FOR DURATIONS OF LESS THAN ONE CONTINUOUS YEAR, (E.G. MULTIPLE LONG WEEKENDS AND/OR SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSIONS) OR THAT USE VIDEO TELECONFERENCING OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL PRESENCE AT THE INSTITUTION IN ORDER TO MEET THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT ARE DEEMED NOT TO BE ACCEPTABLE FOR LICENSURE. AN APPLICANT TRAINED IN AN INSTITUTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES OR CANADA MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD THAT HE/SHE POSSESSES A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR WHICH SHALL HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY AS DEFINED IN THIS ACT.

C. **EXPERIENCE**
AN APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT HE/SHE HAS COMPLETED TWO YEARS OF SUPERVISED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, ONE YEAR OF WHICH MAY BE AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, AND ONE YEAR OF WHICH SHALL BE POSTDOCTORAL. BOTH YEARS OF SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE BOARD AND COMPLY WITH THE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES SET OUT IN THE BOARD'S RULES AND REGULATIONS.

D. **EXAMINATIONS**
1. THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING EXAMINATIONS.

2. AN APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE MUST PASS THE EXAMINATION FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN PSYCHOLOGY (EPPP) AT THE ASPPB PASS POINT.
3. AN APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE MUST PASS ANY OTHER WRITTEN AND/OR ORAL EXAMINATION(S) PRESCRIBED BY THE BOARD IN ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS.
4. THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING REEXAMINATION OF FAILED APPLICANTS.

E. **WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT(S)**
THE BOARD MAY ISSUE A LICENSE TO ANY PSYCHOLOGIST WHO HAS BEEN LICENSED IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION IF IT IS THE BOARD'S DETERMINATION THAT THE PSYCHOLOGIST WAS LICENSED UNDER REQUIREMENTS EQUAL TO, OR EXCEEDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE IN THIS JURISDICTION.

F. **MASTER'S LICENSURE**
IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT SOME JURISDICTIONS LICENSE INDIVIDUALS TO PRACTICE WITH A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY, AND THAT SUCH PRACTICE MAY BE WITH OR WITHOUT SUPERVISION, DEPENDING ON THE JURISDICTION. FOR THOSE JURISDICTIONS, THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE FOR MASTER'S LEVEL LICENSURE IS RECOMMENDED:
SUBJECT TO VI F (1) AND F(2), NOTHING IN THIS ACT PROHIBITS THE BOARD FROM LICENSING INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY WHO HAVE A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY ACCEPTABLE TO THE BOARD AND WHO HAVE MET ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AS SPECIFIED IN THE REGULATIONS.
FOR THOSE JURISDICTIONS THAT LICENSE AT THE MASTER'S LEVEL FOR SUPERVISED PRACTICE THE "SUBJECT TO" SECTIONS WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:
VI F (1): SUCH INDIVIDUALS SHALL USE THE TITLE "PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE".
VI F (2): SUCH INDIVIDUALS SHALL WORK UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSED FOR PRACTICE IN THIS JURISDICTION.
FOR THOSE JURISDICTIONS THAT LICENSE AT THE MASTER'S LEVEL FOR UNSUPERVISED PRACTICE, THE FOLLOWING "SUBJECT TO" SECTIONS WOULD APPLY:
VI F (1): SUCH INDIVIDUALS SHALL USE THE TITLE "PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE".
VI F (2): SUCH INDIVIDUALS SHALL RESTRICT* THEIR PRACTICE AS OUTLINED IN THE * *COMMENT: THERE MAY BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON PRACTICE IN SOME JURISDICTIONS IN WHICH CASE VI F (2) WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:*

V I F (2): SUCH INDIVIDUALS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL OF THE SAME RULES AND REGULATIONS AS APPLICABLE TO A LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST UNDER THIS ACT.

G. **ASPPB CERTIFICATE OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY (CPQ)**

THE BOARD SHALL ACCEPT THE CERTIFICATE OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY (CPQ) ISSUED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND PROVINCIAL PSYCHOLOGY BOARDS OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION AS EVIDENCE THAT THE APPLICANT HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE EXCEPT FOR ANY LOCAL JURISDICTIONAL EXAMINATION(S).

H. **PROVISIONAL LICENSURE**

1. A *PROVISIONAL SUPERVISED LICENSE* IS ISSUED TO AN APPLICANT FOR PERMANENT LICENSURE WHO IS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING THE POSTDOCTORAL SUPERVISED WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST FOR LICENSURE. THE APPLICANT SHALL HAVE MET ALL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY AS DEFINED IN VI -B OF THIS ACT AND PRE-DOCTORAL SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE, TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PROVISIONAL LICENSE.

a) THE PROVISIONAL SUPERVISED LICENSE SHALL SET FORTH THAT THE LICENSEE'S PRACTICE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SUPERVISION AND THAT THE LICENSE SHALL BE APPLICABLE ONLY TO WORK PERFORMED UNDER SUCH SUPERVISION.

b) A PERSON PRACTICING WITH A PROVISIONAL SUPERVISED LICENSE IS SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS OF PRACTICE, CODES OF ETHICS AND ANY OTHER GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD, AS WELL AS DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE BOARD.

c) THE PROVISIONAL SUPERVISED LICENSEE MAY SIT FOR THE EPPP DURING THE POSTDOCTORAL SUPERVISION YEAR.

d) THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT SPECIFY THE TIME LIMITS OR CONDITIONS (E.G., FAILURE OF REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS) UNDER WHICH THE PROVISIONAL SUPERVISED LICENSE SHALL BE WITHDRAWN.

2. SUBJECT TO THE RESTRICTIONS SET OUT BELOW, THE BOARD MAY ISSUE A PROVISIONAL INDEPENDENT LICENSE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR TO A PSYCHOLOGIST WHO IS LICENSED IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION AND WHO HAS APPLIED FOR A LICENSE TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY IN THIS JURISDICTION, PROVIDED THAT:

a) IN THE BOARD'S DETERMINATION THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE IN THE FORMER JURISDICTION ARE EQUAL TO, OR EXCEED, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE IN THIS JURISDICTION; AND

b) THE APPLYING PSYCHOLOGIST MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION PROCESS IN THIS JURISDICTION; AND

c) THE APPLYING PSYCHOLOGIST IS NOT THE SUBJECT OF A PAST OR PENDING DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION; AND
d) THE APPLYING PSYCHOLOGIST HAS NOT BEEN DENIED LICENSURE IN THIS JURISDICTION; AND
e) DENIAL OF LICENSURE TERMINATES THIS AUTHORIZATION