

MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 29, 2018
TO	Board Members
FROM	<i>Stephanie Cheung</i> Stephanie Cheung Licensing Manager
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 18(b) – Psychological Assistant #1 Consideration of Licensing Committee Recommendations Regarding an Extension of the 72-Month Registration Period Limitation for Registered Psychological Assistant Pursuant to Section 1391.1(b) of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations

Background:

California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 1391.1 provides in part:

(b) Registration as a psychological assistant shall be limited to a cumulative total of six years (72 months). Each registration shall be subject to annual renewal pursuant to section 1391.12.

For any psychological assistant registered prior to the effective date of this subdivision, subsequent renewals or registrations shall be limited to a cumulative total of six years (72 months) from the date of the psychological assistant's next registration or renewal, whichever occurs first.

Upon showing of good cause as determined by the Board, these specified time limitations may be reasonably modified.

Psychological Assistant (PSB) #1 – Request for an 18-month Extension of the 72-month registration period

PSB #1 was issued a total of seven psychological assistant registrations with the first registration issued on August 4, 1998. Six out of the seven have since expired or cancelled. PSB #3's current registration was issued on December 22, 2016 and will expire on October 19, 2018 according to the 72-month limitation rule with the genesis date beginning on October 23, 2011.

As stated on the Verification of Experience form, PSB #1 has accrued 1,789 hours of pre-doctoral supervised professional experience (SPE). PSB #1 will need to accrue 1,500 hours of post-doctoral SPE to meet licensure requirements.

PSB #1 stated in an email that due to the death of their former supervisor, they were not able to provide services beginning October 13, 2016. PSB #1 also stated they resumed providing services under their new supervisor on January 2, 2017.

BreEZe indicates PSB #1 did not cancel their registration until November 18, 2016 and was issued the most recent registration on December 22, 2016.

PSB #1 is requesting an extension to the psychological assistantship to accrue the required post-doctoral hours towards licensure due to challenges faced in completing their degree.

Attachment:

A: Letter of Request

Action Requested:

Review and consider the Licensing Committee's recommendation to grant the 18-month extension request of the 72-month limitation for the psychological assistant registration.

To: California Board of Psychology, Licensing

Attn: Stephanie Cheung

From: [REDACTED]

Re: Request for extension to complete required Psychological Assistant hours

Date: August 23, 2017

Having just completed my dissertation and passed my oral exams, I applied myself to the task of assessing my pre and post-doctoral Psychological Assistant requirements. While reviewing information on the Board's website it came to my attention that there was a 72 month limit on accruing hours that was instituted 10/11/2011. I will not be able to complete 1,500 post-doctorate hours by 12/22/2017; the date that my current registration expires. During a conversation with your office I was advised to request an extension and provide an explanation of circumstances. The following is a description of the challenges I have faced in completing my degree in a timely manner in addition to my commitment to pursuing and receiving clinical training and experience.

I had completed coursework and began submitting dissertation proposals at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in 2001. After many months of the Institute's changing requirements of that initial proposal I discovered that the two cohorts ahead of me were facing the same barriers; there were many complaints to the Post Secondary Education Commission, law suits had been filed and no other students had been able to complete their dissertation. After much consideration, I applied and was accepted to [REDACTED] University in 2003. I had to complete 58 units prior to "beginning" my candidacy essays and subsequent dissertation. This was a huge setback.

My progress at [REDACTED] was halted in 2008 when I faced a financial crisis and was advised by the Associate VP for Academic Services to take a Financial Leave of Absence. After months of unreturned phone calls I discovered that the Associate VP no longer worked there and that my request had been denied (no one had informed me). I was readmitted in 2012 (and reimbursed for

tuition I had paid, but for which I had not received academic services; all documented). My candidacy essays were done and ready for review in 2009. One had been submitted and approved. The second was had been submitted however the faculty member tragically died. The third had been submitted, but went unread/unreturned for years. There were additional (documented) delays from 2012-2017. The dissertation was approved and my oral defense passed 6/27/2017.

In terms of clinical experience that I have gathered during those years---I began aggressively pursuing quality internships in 1996. The first was as a Guidance Counselor at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] (4 years), followed by a CAIPEC approved internship at [REDACTED] [REDACTED], 1997-1998. My first Psychological Assistanceship was with the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] corporation in 1998; I have kept my registration and supervision requirement current to date, under subsequent supervisors. From 1999-2001 I did an internship at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] services, where I gained experience with severely disturbed adolescents in addition to learning and performing written psychological assessments. From 2003-2006 I provided clinical services to individual Deaf children, their families and teachers as the Program Director for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Though none of these hours of experience were accumulated in post doctorate status, there are well over 3,000 cumulative hours that reflect a solid commitment to the profession.

In addition to direct clinical experience, from 1999-2001 I attended week long intensive trainings (once a year) with [REDACTED] and from 1999-2004 I participated in annual week-long “Art of Psychotherapy”/[REDACTED] clinical trainings. I’ve also gone to numerous professional conferences and seminars including “The Evolution of Psychotherapy’ and “International Association for the Study of Dreams.”

I understand that the time constraints were placed on Psychological Assistanceships to prevent people from practicing without a license; I think that the above description of my situation reveals that this has never been my intent. I would like to request an additional 12-18 months to complete 1,500 hours of post-doctorate clinical experience as a Registered Psychological

Assistant. The opportunity to complete my requirements and pursue licensure, in the field to which I am deeply committed, would be greatly appreciated.