

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
May 9, 2025

Wright Institute  
2729 Durant Avenue, Room 109/110  
Berkeley, CA 94704

**Board Members Present**

Lea Tate, PsyD, President  
Sheryll Casuga, PsyD, CMPC  
Marisela Cervantes, EdD, MPA  
Seyron Foo  
Mary Harb Sheets, PhD  
Julie Nystrom  
Stephen Phillips, JD, PsyD  
Ana Rescate

**Board Members Absent**

Shacunda Rodgers, PhD, Vice President

**Board Staff**

Jonathan Burke, Executive Officer  
Stephanie Cheung, Licensing Manager  
Jacklyn Mancilla, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Analyst  
Troy Polk, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Coordinator  
Shelley Ganaway, Legal Counsel

Friday, May 9, 2025

**Agenda Item #1: Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum**

Dr. Tate called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was present and due notice had been sent to all interested parties.

**Agenda Item #2: President's Welcome**

a) Mindfulness Exercise

This item was not taken up.

**Agenda Item #3: Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

Dr. Tate called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

**Agenda Item #4: Discussion and Possible Approval of the Board Meeting  
Minutes: February 27-28, 2025**

It was (M)Foo(S)Phillips(C) to approve the February 27-28, 2025, Board Meeting minutes with any technical, non-substantive amendments.

Dr. Tate called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

Votes

7 ayes (Casuga, Cervantes, Foo, Nystrom, Phillips, Rescate, Tate) 0 noes

**Agenda Item #5: Discussion and Possible Approval of the Board Meeting  
Minutes: April 17, 2025**

It was (M)Phillips(S)Foo(C) to approve the April 17, 2025, Board Meeting minutes with any editorial changes made prior to the vote.

Dr. Tate called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

Votes

7 ayes (Casuga, Cervantes, Foo, Nystrom, Phillips, Rescate, Tate) 0 noes

**Agenda Item #6: President's Report**

a) Meeting Calendar

Dr. Tate provided the update on this item, found on page 17 of the meeting materials.

Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

No Board comment was offered.

Dr. Tate called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

**Agenda Item #7: Executive Officer's Report**

89 a) Personnel Update

90  
91 Mr. Burke provided the update on this item, starting on page 37 of the hand-carry  
92 meeting materials.

93  
94 Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

95  
96 No Board comment was offered.

97  
98 Dr. Tate called for public comment.

99  
100 No public comment was offered.

101  
102 **Agenda Item #8: DCA Update**

103  
104 Dr. Harb Sheets arrived and joined the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

105  
106 Mr. Burke provided the update on this item, starting on page 38 of the hand-carry  
107 materials.

108  
109 He commented that DCA sent a note of recognition and thanks to the Board Members  
110 during Public Service Recognition Week. He commented on the proposed  
111 reorganization of the Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

112  
113 Dr. Tate called for public comment.

114  
115 No public comment was offered.

116  
117 **Agenda Item #9: Enforcement Report**

118  
119 Mr. Burke provided the update on this item, starting on page 18 of the meeting  
120 materials.

121  
122 Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

123  
124 No Board comment was offered.

125  
126 Dr. Tate called for public comment.

127  
128 No public comment was offered.

129  
130 **Agenda Item #10: Budget Report**

131

132 Mr. Polk provided the update on this item, starting on page 41 of the hand-carry  
133 materials.

134

135 Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

136

137 No Board comment was offered.

138

139 Dr. Tate called for public comment.

140

141 No public comment was offered.

142

143 **Agenda Item #11: Licensing Report**

144

145 Ms. Cheung provided the update on this item, starting on page 26 of the meeting  
146 materials.

147

148 Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

149

150 Dr. Casuga asked how staff would address the anticipated seasonal increase in  
151 applications.

152

153 Ms. Cheung commented that staff were being offered overtime if the volume of  
154 applications coming in was too high to effectively redistribute the work among staff.

155

156 Mr. Foo asked Ms. Cheung to describe the common deficiencies on the applications in  
157 terms of supporting documents that might cause the processing time to increase.

158

159 Ms. Cheung commented that a checklist is provided online to illustrate all the materials  
160 which must be completed before the application packet is sent to the board. She noted  
161 that materials submitted without fees attached are not assigned to the queue.

162

163 Mr. Foo asked Ms. Cheung to comment on the expected increase in processing times.

164

165 Ms. Cheung provided a current estimate of two to three weeks in waiting time for  
166 applications. She added that this estimate was contingent upon receiving complete  
167 application materials, submitted in a timely manner.

168

169 Dr. Tate called for further Board comment.

170

171 No further Board comment was offered.

172

173 Dr. Tate called for public comment.

174

175 No public comment was offered.

176  
177 **Agenda Item #12: Examination Report**  
178

179 Ms. Cheung provided the update on this item, starting on page 36 of the meeting  
180 materials.

181  
182 Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

183  
184 Dr. Harb Sheets commented that some states only allow an examinee a limited number  
185 of attempts to pass the examination, which might be having an impact on the  
186 comparative number of repeat test-takers between California and other jurisdictions.

187  
188 Dr. Phillips asked for an explanation as to why California test-takers did worse on  
189 average taking the Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP)  
190 than in other jurisdictions.

191  
192 Ms. Cheung commented that the previous broad authority regarding educational  
193 requirements could be a contributing factor.

194  
195 Dr. Casuga commented that there was great variability in testing content between  
196 jurisdictions, partly as a result of the text examiners in different areas giving emphasis to  
197 more localized factors. She added that these and other factors pointed to an issue that  
198 was more nuanced than California simply having test takers of poor quality.

199  
200 Dr. Harb Sheets commented that information shared last year by OPES in its  
201 presentation reflected a diminishing success rate the more times an examinee retook  
202 the EPPP. She added that this statistic could be pulling the pass rate down.

203  
204 Dr. Phillips asked whether the percentage of test takers that were coming from non-  
205 American Psychological Association (APA)-accredited programs was greater in  
206 California than in other states.

207  
208 Ms. Cheung replied that this was the case according to OPES.

209  
210 Dr. Phillips commented that graduate programs may not be as selective about the  
211 students they admit to their programs as they used to be, and so the quality of test taker  
212 may be contributing to the falling pass rate.

213  
214 Mr. Foo commented that the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards  
215 (ASPPB) posts a list of passage rates of various doctoral programs relative to each  
216 other.

217  
218 No further Board comment was offered.  
219

220 Dr. Tate called for public comment.

222 No public comment was offered.

224 **Agenda Item #13: Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Renewals**

226 Mr. Polk provided the update on this item, starting on page 44 of the meeting materials.

228 Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

230 Dr. Casuga commented that she was pleased to see attendance at a Board meeting as  
231 a qualifying activity for CPD credit.

233 No further Board comment offered.

235 Dr. Tate called for public comment.

237 Ward Ashman asked for clarification on who was considered a 'peer' when using Peer  
238 Consultation to satisfy CPD requirements.

240 Mr. Polk replied that a licensed mental health professional would count as a peer for this  
241 purpose.

243 No further public comment was offered.

245 **Agenda Item #19: Update and Discussion on the Development of the Integrated**  
246 **Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology**

248 Dr. Tate introduced Hao Song, PhD, Associate Executive Director of Examination  
249 Service at ASPPB, to provide the update on this item, starting on page 168 of the hand-  
250 carry materials. The slideshow she presented was also available as a separate hand-  
251 carry item.

253 Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

255 Dr. Casuga asked for an explanation of the process used to appoint the members of the  
256 Job Task Analysis Task Force (JTA).

258 Dr. Song replied that when calling for volunteers to participate in the JTA, a survey went  
259 out to prospective members to identify the various jurisdictions, practice settings, and  
260 specialties to provide a pool of candidates across a wide range of backgrounds.  
261

Dr. Phillips commented that the validity of a licensing examination is measured differently than a psychometric assessment instrument and he asked Dr. Song to address that.

Dr. Song provided an example of licensing someone to drive demonstrates that the person has the basic skills to drive, but licensure is not a predictor of whether that person will be a good driver. She commented that it is similar with professional licensure, where licensure is granted once a certain threshold has been met to enter practice, but this does not predict whether that licensee might later have disciplinary action taken against them. She added that the JTA utilized a combination of the published educational and psychological testing standards of the American Psychological Association (APA), the American Educational Research Association (AER), and the National Council on Assessment in Education.

Dr. Harb Sheets commented that the Board has given a lot of attention to eliminating barriers to licensure, and that many states struggle to license enough mental health professionals. She asked Dr. Song whether states would be able to make their own decisions as to when a candidate would be eligible to take the EPPP, since the position of ASPPB supports having the examination applied when the candidate is ready for licensure.

Dr. Song replied that the JTA would consider whether a candidate should be eligible to take the examination upon completion of their doctoral program and internship, or as soon as possible upon completion of coursework. She added that ASPPB factors in whether examination performance is better if it is taken shortly after the completion of coursework. She commented that to complete the knowledge-based exam before starting on the internship would not be recommended, since the integrated exam calls on both areas of experience.

Dr. Harb Sheets commented that the development costs of the new examination would work their way through the system and put up a new barrier to licensure for some candidates, especially to those who take it more than once.

Dr. Song responded that JTA would work closely with various stakeholders, including the Board, especially if the length, and therefore the cost to the test-taker, were to increase as expected.

Dr. Harb Sheets commented that, when reviewing the sample questions, she was unable to determine the ethnicity of the test taker, which left her unable to assess the validity of the examination with different ethnic groups.

Dr. Phillips commented that, in his own training, one needed to know the client's clinical information to be able to interpret the test results when doing an assessment. He added that, given the differences in results on a particular scale between different ethnic

groups, there should have been at least a little background on the client to account for spikes in comparison to other scales.

Mr. Foo asked Dr. Song whether there would be a transitional period in the implementation timeline to allow the various jurisdictions to update their regulatory language. He also asked whether there would be overlap between the EPPP Part One and the new IEPPP, where both would be offered simultaneously.

Dr. Song replied that there would probably be some overlap, since many candidates would already have signed up and paid their fees to take the EPPP Part One. She added that the purpose of discussing the roadmap was to allow jurisdictions some time to start their legislative work in anticipation of the examination going live.

Dr. Phillips commented that the Board had previously gone through all the preparatory legislative and regulatory work to prepare for implementation, and he emphasized the importance of allowing sufficient lead time.

Dr. Song replied that she did not anticipate too many legislative changes being necessary.

Dr. Harb Sheets commented that the Board was already aware of the fee increase associated with the new examination, but there were still many details that needed to be worked out with ASPBB, such as when a candidate would be eligible to take the examination.

Dr. Phillips commented that, given all of the work and time necessary to run through all the layers of government to approve the Board's statutory and regulatory business, he wanted assurance the Board would be given enough lead time to move forward in a thoughtful way.

Mr. Foo commented that the Board moves very quickly on policy when called for but emphasized that the Board was not the reason it takes years to get policy changes in place. He wanted guarantees that there would not be a lot of changes at the legislative level that would come down, especially while the Board was currently in its Sunset Review.

Mr. Burke commented that the timeline for 2027 was very short, and that there would need to be regulatory changes, which at this time could not be considered without knowing about fees for the new examination. He added that there would need to be contract discussions with the testing centers. He said that even if some of these considerations were less difficult to overcome, there was the potential appearance of raising additional barriers to licensure.



Dr. Harb Sheets asked why the competency-based examination was needed in the first place.

Dr. Song replied that ASPPB's decision to implement the new examination arose out of a consensus that developed over the years since the early 2000's. She added that ASPPB could publish more articles to keep the discussion in front of the profession but said that Boards often have vacancies that are filled by new Members who do not have the background that other Members brought to the discussion.

Mr. Foo commented that existing statute dictates the timing by which a candidate may take an examination, and that it was not clear what impact this might have on implementation. He added that the regulation package the Board previously put together was developed with a two-part examination in mind, not a single integrated one. He asked Mr. Burke to clarify whether the exact dollar amount to take the examination was set out in regulation, because a fee increase for the new examination would appear to conflict with the regulations.

Mr. Burke commented that the fees associated with taking the examination are not specifically stated, and that this would not cause a conflict with regulations. He added that the bigger consideration was that the Legislature would question how the Board could justify a fee increase. He said that it would be difficult to request legislation that appeared to raise additional barriers to licensure.

Mr. Foo asked for a grace period to be built into the implementation timeline, during which time both examinations would be offered simultaneously. He said this would allow the Board the time it required to make changes through legislation and regulations.

Mr. Foo commented on recent controversy with a different state licensing body which used AI to generate the questions for its examination. He asked whether AI was used to generate any of the questions on this new examination.

Dr. Song replied that the examination currently under development relied on human experts, nor did she anticipate that AI would be used in the short term. She added that, while AI would certainly be able to generate a large volume of material very quickly, the quality would possibly be lacking.

Mr. Foo commented that he would want the Board to be kept updated when and if ASPPB decided to start using AI to generate test questions. He asked the Board whether they should draft a letter to ASPPB describing their concerns regarding the implementation timeline, especially if it would be a helpful instrument to capture the spirit of the discussion that took place at this meeting.

It was (M)Foo(S)Phillips to communicate with ASPPB about the needs of the Board's jurisdiction with regard to an implementation timeline of 2027.

Dr. Cervantes requested that the motion be amended to include a request for justification from ASPPB as to the use of AI.

Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

Dr. Casuga commented that the letter to ASPPB needed to be clear on the point about the eligibility requirements to take the examination, and to justify the need for a competency-based exam.

The motion did not carry, and therefore was not implemented.

Dr. Phillips commented that competency was essential to consumer protection. He added that the discussion needed to await a clarifying response from ASPPB. He said that the issues of competency in health care and consumer law have been moving towards demonstration of competency. He cautioned about the Board being seen as downplaying the importance of competency, because it is critically important for consumer protection.

Dr. Casuga commented that this current discussion was about trying to find better ways to assess competency.

It was (M)Foo(S)Harb Sheets(C) to communicate to ASPPB about the implementation needs associated with an integrated EPPP and the role of artificial intelligence in test creation and quality assurance/control and to delegate to the Executive Officer and the Board President any changes necessary involved in drafting this letter.

Dr. Tate called for public comment.

Dr. Winkelman of CPA commented on CPA's opposition to integration of the two EPPP examinations into one, stating that it created a substantial and unnecessary burden to applicants. She added her appreciation that the Board hoped to send a representative to the ASPPB meeting.

Janet Ferrell from San Diego Psychological Association commented that she would like to see a proposal to have the Licensure Committee communicate with their counterparts in other jurisdictions about developing their own alternative examinations to the integrated examination.

The next public commenter, a licensed clinician, expressed concerns about the use of AI in generating future test questions. He added that there have been significant issues created by implementing AI into the examination process, pointing for reference at difficulties experienced by applicants to the State Bar. He echoed other comments

about raising barriers to licensure, especially to historically-underrepresented populations.

Votes

8 ayes (Casuga, Cervantes, Foo, Harb Sheets, Nystrom, Phillips, Rescate, Tate) 0 noes

**Agenda Item #18: Discussion and Possible Action of Proposed Changes to Language and Licensure Application Forms Related to AB 282**

Ms. Mancilla provided the update on this item, starting on page 166 of the hand-carry materials.

Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

No Board comment was offered.

Dr. Tate called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

**Agenda Item #14: Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee Update**

Dr. Casuga, Chair of this committee, introduced this item, and Mr. Burke provide the update, starting on page 46 of the hand-carry materials.

a) Legislative Proposals

1) Sunset Review Report

No Board or public comment offered.

b) Review of Bills for Review and Consideration for Action Position Recommendation to the Board

Ms. Mancilla provided the update on this item, starting on page 149 of the hand-carry materials.

1) SB 775 (Ashby) Board of Behavioral Sciences

It was (M)Phillips(S)Tate(C) to support SB 775 if amended to incorporate the Board's remaining requests that were submitted in the Sunset Report.

Dr. Casuga called for Board comment.

480 No Board comment was offered.

481

482 Dr. Casuga called for public comment.

483

484 Dr. Winkelman of CPA voiced strong opposition to the Board's proposed language  
485 regarding psychotherapist patient privilege for this legislation, adding that including this  
486 language would erode psychotherapist and patient privilege. Regarding proposed  
487 cleanup language for Business and Professions Code (BPC) 2913, she questioned the  
488 current reference to preliminary doctoral exams, which the Board had decided it would  
489 remove.

490

491 Mr. Burke commented that the Board did agree to those changes at the April 17, 2025,  
492 Board Meeting, though the changes were not reflected in the meeting materials.

493

494 No further public comment was offered.

495

496 Votes

497 7 ayes (Casuga, Cervantes, Foo, Harb Sheets, Phillips, Rescate, Tate), 1 Recusal  
498 (Nystrom), 0 noes

499

500 2) SB 470 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing

501

502 Ms. Mancilla provided the update on this item, starting on page 51 of the meeting  
503 materials.

504

505 It was (M)Tate(S)Cervantes(C) to adopt a support position on SB 470.

506

507 Dr. Casuga called for Board discussion.

508

509 No Board discussion was offered.

510

511 Dr. Casuga called for public comment.

512

513 No public comment was offered.

514

515 Votes

516 7 ayes (Casuga, Cervantes, Foo, Harb Sheets, Phillips, Rescate, Tate), 1 Recusal  
517 (Nystrom), 0 noes

518

519 3) SB 641 (Ashby) Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Real Estate:  
520 states of emergency: waivers and exemptions

521

522 Ms. Mancilla provided the update on this item, starting on page 90 of the meeting  
523 materials.

524  
525 Dr. Casuga asked how many licensees had been affected by the state of emergency  
526 declared under Executive Order N-15-25 resulting from the Los Angeles wildfires.  
527  
528 Mr. Burke commented that to date there had been 13 licensees who had come forward  
529 to avail themselves under the terms of the Order, but others have come forward  
530 requesting to pay on-cycle rather than to defer their renewal.  
531  
532 It was (M)Tate(S)Harb Sheets(C) to adopt a position of support for SB 641.  
533  
534 Dr. Casuga called for Board comment.  
535  
536 No Board comment was offered.  
537  
538 Dr. Casuga called for public comment.  
539  
540 No public comment was offered.  
541  
542 Votes  
543 7 ayes (Casuga, Cervantes, Foo, Harb Sheets, Phillips, Rescate, Tate), 1 Recusal  
544 (Nystrom), 0 noes  
545  
546 4) SB 579: (Padilla) Mental health and artificial intelligence working group  
547  
548 Ms. Mancilla provided the update on this item, starting on page 114 of the meeting  
549 materials.  
550  
551 It was (M)Harb Sheets(S)Phillips(C) to adopt a position of support for SB 579.  
552  
553 Dr. Casuga called for Board comment.  
554  
555 No Board comment was offered.  
556  
557 Dr. Casuga called for public comment.  
558  
559 Tyler Rinde of CPA commented that, as one of SB 579's co-sponsors, CPA appreciated  
560 the Board's support of the bill. He added that CPA would be glad to include a  
561 psychologist in the discussion with the bill's author.  
562  
563 No further public comment was offered.  
564  
565 Votes  
566 7 ayes (Casuga, Cervantes, Foo, Harb Sheets, Phillips, Rescate, Tate), 1 Recusal  
567 (Nystrom), 0 noes

c) Bills with Active Positions Taken by the Board

1) AB 489 (Bonta) Health care professions: deceptive terms or letters: artificial intelligence

Ms. Mancilla provided the update on this item, starting on page 137 of the meeting materials.

Dr. Casuga called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

d) Watch Bills

1) AB 81 (Ta): Veterans: mental health

2) AB 257 (Flora) Specialty care networks: telehealth and other virtual services

3) AB 277 (Alanis) Behavioral health centers, facilities, and programs: background checks

4) AB 346 (Nguyen) In-home support services: licensed healthcare professional certification

5) SB 518 (Weber Pierson) Descendants of enslaved persons: reparations

6) AB 742 (Elhawary) Licensing: applicants who are descendants of slaves

7) AB 479 (Tangipa) Criminal procedure: vacatur relief.

8) AB 985 (Ahrens) Anesthesiologists assistants

9) AB 677 (Solache) Professions and vocations: license examinations: interpreters

Dr. Casuga called for Board comment.

No Board comment was offered.

Dr. Casuga called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

**Agenda Item #15: Legislative Items for Future Meeting**

Dr. Casuga introduced this item.

Dr. Casuga called for Board comment.

No Board comment was offered.

Dr. Casuga called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

**Agenda Item #16: Regulatory Update, Review, and Potential Consideration of Additional Changes**

Dr. Casuga provided the update on this item, starting on page 268 of the meeting materials.

Dr. Casuga called for Board comment.

No Board comment was offered.

Dr. Casuga called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

**Agenda Item #17: Consideration and Possible Action on ASPPB Norma P. Simon Regulatory Service Award Nomination**

Dr. Phillips introduced this item, starting on page 157 of the hand-carry materials.

It was (M)Phillips(S)Foo(C) to approve a letter by the Board President recognizing the state, national, and international contributions of Dr. Jacqueline Horn, and to nominate her for the Norma P. Simon Regulatory Service Award.

Dr. Phillips called for Board comment.

No Board comment was offered.

Dr. Phillips called for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

Votes

7 ayes (Cervantes, Foo, Harb Sheets, Nystrom, Phillips, Rescate, Tate), 1 Recusal (Casuga), 0 noes

**Agenda Item #20: Recommendations for Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings**

Dr. Tate called for Board comment.

Dr. Casuga recommended that Dr. Rodgers lead a mindfulness activity.

No further Board comment was offered.

656  
657 Dr. Tate called for public comment.  
658

659 Dr. Ferrell requested an update on the Board's communications with the  
660 Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council  
661 regarding that state's work on developing their own alternative test to the EPPP.  
662

663 No further public comment was offered.  
664

665 **Special Mention: A Departure**  
666

667 In her closing remarks, Dr. Tate recognized the departure of Dr. Stephen Phillips from  
668 the Board of Psychology.  
669

670 It was resolved that the Board of Psychology and Department of Consumer Affairs  
671 Director, on behalf of the State of California, acknowledged with deepest gratitude his  
672 wisdom, leadership, excellence, dedication, valuable contributions, and exemplary  
673 service during his long tenure with the Board.  
674

675 The Board Members and Mr. Burke then each expressed their own well-wishes and  
676 gratitude.  
677

678 Dr. Tate called for public comment.  
679

680 Drs. Song and Winkelman expressed how much they would miss him and thanked him  
681 for his years of service.  
682

683 Dr. Phillips expressed what a privilege it had been to serve the Board. He thanked all in  
684 attendance for their thoughts and kind words.  
685

686 **CPD Credit for Meeting Attendance**  
687

688 Mr. Polk commented that attendance at the meeting today provided 6 hours of CPD  
689 credit under Category 1.  
690

691 **ADJOURNMENT**  
692

693 The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.  
694