

1 MINUTES OF LICENSURE COMMITTEE MEETING
2 AUGUST 8, 2025
3

4 **Primary Location (Members/Staff):**

5 Department of Consumer Affairs
6 1625 N. Market Blvd., El Dorado Room
7 Sacramento, CA 95834
8

9 **Teleconference Locations / Additional Locations at Which the Public Could**
10 **Observe or Address the Committee and Where Members Were Present:**

11 12803 Pimpernel Way
12 San Diego, CA 92129
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14 2888 Eureka Way, Ste. 200
15 Redding, CA 96001
16

17 **Committee Members**

18 Mary Harb Sheets, PhD, Chairperson
19 Julie Nystrom
20 Lea Tate, PsyD
21

22 **Committee Members Absent**

23 None
24

25 **Board Staff**

26 Jonathan Burke, Executive Officer
27 Sandra Monterrubio, Assistant Executive Officer
28 Stephanie Cheung, Licensing Manager
29 Cynthia Whitney, Central Services Manager
30 Troy Polk, CPD/Renewals Coordinator
31 Mai Xiong, Licensing/BreEZe Coordinator
32 Susan Hansen, Examination Coordinator
33 Shelley Ganaway, Board Counsel
34

Friday, August 8, 2025

35
36 **Agenda Item #1: Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum**
37

38 Dr. Harb Sheets called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A quorum was present and
39 due notice had been sent to all interested parties.
40

41 **Agenda Item #2: Chairperson's Welcome and Opening Remarks**
42

43 Dr. Harb Sheets offered opening remarks and welcomed all participants.
44

45 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

46

47 No public comment was offered.

48

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

50

51 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

52

53 No public comment was offered.

54

55 **Agenda Item #4: Review and Possible Approval of Licensure Committee Meeting**
56 **Minutes: January 31, 2025**

57

58 It was (M)Tate(S)Nystrom(C) to adopt the January 31, 2025, Licensure Committee
59 meeting minutes.

60

61 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

62

63 No public comment was offered.

64

65 Votes

66 3 ayes (Harb Sheets, Nystrom, Tate), 0 noes

67

68 **Agenda Item #5: Staff Reports**

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70 **a. Licensing Report**

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72 Dr. Harb Sheets introduced Ms. Xiong to provide the Licensing Unit report, starting on
73 page 18 of the meeting materials.

74

75 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

76

77 No Committee comment was offered.

78

79 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

80

81 Three commenters requested clarification on where to access the meeting materials,
82 and were given guidance.

83

84 No further public comment was offered.

85

86 **b. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Renewals Report**

87

88 Dr. Harb Sheets introduced Mr. Polk to provide the update on this item, starting on page
89 28 of the meeting materials.

90

91 Dr. Harb Sheets commented that it would be interesting to compare this year and last to
92 illustrate the various channels through which people were obtaining CPD.

93
94 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comments.

95
96 No Committee comment was offered.

97
98 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

99
100 Dr. Zyanya Mendoza commented that, though she had been selected for an audit, and
101 had successfully completed it, she did point out that the PDF form was difficult to use,
102 and that it somewhat hindered the input of the requested information.

103
104 Dr. Harb Sheets concurred that the form was difficult to use, and staff were working to
105 make it more user-friendly.

106
107 Dr. Adrian Casadaban asked for clarification on the audit process, and whether every
108 licensee was audited.

109
110 Mr. Polk explained the process, clarifying that staff audits approximately 2% of all
111 approved renewals. He added that the aforementioned PDF form is merely offered as a
112 convenience, and is not required to be submitted as part of the audit process.

113
114 Dr. Leslie Snyder commented that she appreciated the move from the Continuing
115 Education (CE) model to CPD, adding that she expects it will help increase her own
116 involvement in Board business.

117
118 No further public comment was offered.

119
120 c. Examination Report

121
122 Dr. Harb Sheets introduced Ms. Hansen to provide the update on this item, starting on
123 page 34 of the meeting materials.

124
125 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

126
127 No Committee comment was offered.

128
129 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

130
131 Dr. Dertsakyan expressed concern about the pass rate of the Examination for the
132 Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP), adding that she and many of her
133 colleagues struggle to pass the exam. She asked whether there were anything the
134 Board could do to provide a better outcome.

135
136 Dr. Harb Sheets commented that there was concern among Board Members that the
137 difficulty many test-takers have in passing the examination could potentially point to it
138 being a barrier to licensure.

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Dr. Araceli Lopez-Arenas agreed with the previous speaker.

Dr. Harb Sheets commented that she herself had the same difficulties in passing, and that the Board was taking a look at the matter. She recommended asking California Psychological Association (CPA) for professional guidance.

Dr. Jose Corena asked whether there was currently discussion about extending the six-year limit to complete the examination process for licensure.

Mr. Burke commented that no such discussion was currently taking place.

Dr. Jason Frye commented on his own repeated attempts to pass the EPPP, and that for him and others, the six-year limit to complete the exam raises the possibility of losing employment since the examination is so difficult to pass.

Dr. Sarah Roche commented that she had herself recently passed the EPPP, but noted that the very format of the test makes it so difficult. She added that even highly competent people struggle with the examination because of the lack of clarity in many of the questions themselves.

No further public comment was offered.

Agenda Item #6: EPPP Update

Dr. Harb Sheets provided the update on this item, starting on page 36 of the meeting materials. She asked Mr. Burke to speak about the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) town hall meeting scheduled for September 18, 2025.

Mr. Burke commented that staff would launch an outreach campaign regarding current ASPPB actions. The town hall meeting on the 18th is directed to students and license certification candidates to explain what is new, what to expect, as well as a portion for questions and answers. He added that this information would be on social media, too.

Dr. Harb Sheets asked Mr. Burke to share information about the Board's earlier efforts to craft an alternative to the EPPP.

Mr. Burke explained that several years ago, the Board had studied the feasibility of developing a statewide examination as an alternative to the EPPP. However, given the high development costs, as well as the potential impacts on license portability and reciprocity, the Board decided not to pursue this process further.

Dr. Harb Sheets commented that there was also a concern that there might be a year or so during which time no licenses would be issued. She added that ASPPB had just recently sent out a survey to licensees asking for their input.

Mr. Burke commented that the email survey that ASPPB sent out arrived too late to be included in the meeting materials, but that more would be known for the August 22,

187 2025, Board Meeting. He explained that ASPPB was conducting a job task analysis
188 survey, and is asking all the various boards to assist in distributing this survey to
189 licensees. He said that more would be posted on social media.

190
191 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

192
193 Dr. Tate referenced the meeting materials, pointing out the Board's recent letter to
194 ASPPB regarding the EPPP.

195
196 Dr. Harb Sheets commented that the Board is engaged and aware of the concerns of its
197 candidates regarding EPPP pass rates, even if the Board's efforts are not always seen.

198
199 Mr. Burke commented that while the letter has only recently reached ASPPB, he has
200 already had a productive discussion with Dr. Mariann Burnetti-Atwell, Chief Executive
201 Officer of ASPPB, about implementation concerns that were specific to California,
202 including the challenge of getting everything in place for the relatively short regulatory
203 and legislative timeframes ahead of a 2027 implementation.

204
205 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

206
207 Dr. Araceli Lopez-Arenas asked how stakeholders might obtain this information outside
208 of the Board's social media or email subscriber list.

209
210 Mr. Burke provided information on how to subscribe to receive emails from the Board
211 detailing upcoming meetings and other critical developments. He also pointed to the
212 Board's newsletters, released quarterly and found on the Board's website under the
213 Publications tab.

214
215 Commenter Janelle spoke of her own unsuccessful attempts to pass the EPPP and
216 concurred with an earlier comment about the examination itself being structurally flawed
217 and often incomprehensible. She expressed concerns about ASPPB controlling all
218 aspects of an examination that consistently yields such a low passing rate.

219
220 Dr. Roxanne Upah Crenshaw expressed concern that the EPPP acted as a gatekeeper
221 to licensure in that it was preventing qualified candidates from practicing based on their
222 training. She commented that the purpose of licensure was to protect the public, but that
223 EPPP does not serve that purpose.

224
225 Dr. Janet Farrell requested that the Committee recommend to the full Board that Mr.
226 Burke be delegated to communicate with the Executive Officer of the Texas State Board
227 of Examiners regarding an alternative to the EPPP. She requested that the Board
228 develop specific questions for Mr. Burke to bring up in those discussions. She
229 commented that this interaction could lead to reciprocity between California and Texas,
230 and alleviate the shortage of licensed practitioners.

231
232 Dr. Jessica Silsby concurred with previous comments about having a dialogue with
233 Texas about alternatives to the EPPP, and increasing the opportunities for reciprocity.

234

235 Dr. Jason Frye commented on statistics showing a dramatic decrease in EPPP pass
236 rates between 2012 and 2023.

237

238 Dr. John K. Roberts asked about the EPPP pass rate in California as compared to other
239 states. He also commented that he would like to see a way for long-time licensees to be
240 grandfathered in if they need to apply for relicensure, so as not to have to take the
241 EPPP at a late stage in their life and career.

242

243 Ms. Hansen provided statistics on recent pass rates.

244

245 Dr. Chanel Batiste echoed previous comments about reaching out to other state boards
246 to develop an alternative to the EPPP.

247

248 Dr. Anna McCarthy commented that the EPPP was poorly constructed, with questions
249 that were needlessly vague or overly specific, having little bearing on the practice of
250 psychology.

251

252 The next commenter spoke about the administration of the EPPP, and expressed
253 concern that the emphasis was on content rather than the process of taking and
254 passing the examination.

255

256 Peter Fernandez asked for clarification on whether the current discussion involved the
257 EPPP or the EPPP2.

258

259 Dr. Harb Sheets directed Mr. Fernandez to the meeting materials for historical
260 background and status of the examinations.

261

262 Dr. Jennifer Callahan echoed concerns from previous comments about the dramatic
263 decrease in EPPP pass rates since 2012. She commented that it was important to
264 understand how trends in teaching practices have evolved over time to be able to
265 understand this decline.

266

267 Dr. Kent Coleman concurred with Dr. Callahan about the need for metrics to understand
268 the change in pass rates.

269

270 Dr. Charles Pilavian commented that the key question at the heart of this discussion is
271 whether the EPPP demonstrates a clinician's knowledge, or their potential competence
272 as a practitioner.

273

274 No further public comments were offered.

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276 **Agenda Item #7: Barriers to Telehealth Survey Follow-Up: Telehealth Best**
277 **Practice – Reference Document**

278

279 Dr. Harb Sheets introduced Ms. Cheung to provide the update on this item, starting on
280 page 44 of the meeting materials.

281

282 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

283
284 No Committee comment was offered.

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286 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

287
288 No public comment was offered.

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290 **Agenda Item #8: Stakeholder Meeting Preparation: Update**

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292 Ms. Cheung provided the update on this item.

293
294 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

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296 Dr. Tate commented appreciation that the meeting had been delayed, thus allowing
297 adequate time to prepare for a fruitful discussion.

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299 Ms. Nystrom concurred with Dr. Tate's comment.

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301 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

302
303 No public comment was offered.

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305 **Agenda Item #9: Recommendations for Agenda Items for Future Licensure**
306 **Committee Meetings**

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308 This item was not taken up.

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310 **CPD Credit for Meeting Attendance**

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312 Mr. Polk commented that attendance at the meeting provided two hours of CPD credit
313 under Category 1.

314
315 **Agenda Item #10: Closed Session – The Licensure Committee Met in Closed**
316 **Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(2) and Business and**
317 **Professions Code Section 2949 to Discuss and Consider Qualifications for**
318 **Licensure.**

319
320 **CLOSED SESSION**

321
322 Closed session commenced at 11:51 a.m.

323
324 **ADJOURNMENT**

325
326 The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm without reconvening open session.

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