

Journal

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

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President's Message

By Lea Tate, Psy.D., President, Board of Psychology



Welcome to the fall 2024 Board of Psychology newsletter!

I am pleased to announce the reappointment of Julie Nystrom to the California Board of Psychology. She has provided sound advice and invaluable observations during her tenure on the Board. Her reappointment will continue to support the California Board of Psychology mission.

The fee structure has been a topic of discussion for psychologists throughout California for the past several months. The Board of Psychology continues to field questions regarding the fee structure. If you have questions, please access the informational fee webinar here www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdgM0vwYE2w.

Additionally, for a synopsis of the fee changes, go to www.psychology.ca.gov/images/24-073_psychology_fee_alert.jpg.

As of January 1, 2024, all Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements must fall within these four categories: Professional Activities, Academic, Sponsored Continuing Education, and Board Certification. Please continue to diligently document attendance information pertaining to the four areas of development. If you continue to have CPD questions, please refer to the Board of Psychology CPD FAQs located at: www.psychology.ca.gov/licensees/cpd_faqs.shtml.

Please continue to join us at Board meetings. We welcome your comments and enjoy having new faces in the audience!

I want to share what is upcoming for the California Board of Psychology legislative schedule. The Board of Psychology will be preparing for our sunset review scheduled for 2025. There will be sunset hearings in spring 2025 and a final report to the Legislature in winter 2024.

The next Board meeting is in San Diego on November 7–8. The Board is looking forward to our next meeting and we hope to see you there!

Warmly,

Lea Tate, Psy.D.

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Living With an Open, Awakened Heart

By Shacunda Rodgers, Ph.D., Vice President, Board of Psychology

Greetings, dear colleagues. I am writing to share a bit about my own mindfulness practice as of late with the hope that it resonates with wherever you may

be on your own personal and professional paths these days. In the last newsletter, we explored the ways in which we can engage the felt sense in our bodies as a pathway toward healing. This time, I'd like to explore how the practice of mindfulness can help us live with an open, awakened heart.

The true goal of mindfulness and meditation, if there is a goal at all, is to awaken—awaken our minds, bodies, and hearts, so that we might be free from our suffering. It is also to awaken us from the slumber of disconnection. Increasingly, it seems that the faster the world moves these days, the more disconnected we have become from ourselves, from one another, and even this very planet we call home. With protracted periods of disconnection and detachment, we can find ourselves simply going through the motions of life, almost as if we're in a trance of some kind.

The kind of trance we might be in varies for all of us—but it can feel like a dreamlike state filled with stories and narratives that tell us how we are different from and separate from the world around us. Perhaps it's a trance that has developed because of burnout, reducing our capacity to be connected to others, or a trance of unworthiness, the trance of shame, the trance of trauma and how it impacts

us, or a trance of some other kind. Or perhaps we're in a trance in our present day lives because we are fixated on the past, or busy forecasting the future. No matter what it is that has us on autopilot, mindfulness helps us to return to a state of presence by returning to the present moment and can help awaken and open our hearts to what's right here, right now.

In her book, "Radical Compassion," meditation teacher Tara Brach notes that there are three features of presence that can bring us out of trance: wakefulness, openness, and tenderness. What do each of these three qualities feel like for you somatically? How do you truly know when the heart is awakened, open, and tender? Conversely, what's the felt sense when the heart is closed off and hardened? How does that show up in the body?

I have noticed in my own life that when my heart is closed, what I notice somatically is a generalized tension marked by tightness, constriction, and holding throughout my body. Rather than judging this physical and emotional sense of being closed off, I try to bear witness to my experience in a way that is kind, nonjudgmental, and compassionate instead. By being gentle in holding what's present, it creates enough space for me to get curious instead of being critical about the fact that I am closed off. This, I believe, is how we can slowly begin to loosen the grip of suffering. In "A Path With Heart," Jack Kornfield writes,



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“The patterns of holding in our body and mind are like knots of energy that have bodily contraction, emotions, memories, and images all intertwined. In this practice, [“Opening Through the Center”], we carefully direct our awareness to each level of a knot, feeling into the very center of the pattern. In doing so, we can release our identification with it and discover a fundamental openness and well-being beyond the contraction.”

What might it be like to truly feel into the spaces where we are tight and contracted, closed off, and in a veritable knot, by going right into the center of it all? Can we allow awareness to gently untangle all of the stories, emotions, and sensations present, and truly listen to the wisdom that emerges? What might the heart reveal about what it needs most? Where can you offer deep, abiding care to yourself? What do you find beneath the hard edges of contraction, once you allow yourself to soften? What’s waiting to be discovered? And, more importantly, can you be with whatever it is?

In this process of exploration, we see that there is wisdom not only in the contraction itself, but also in what the contraction is covering. Mindful awareness helps us hold both with lovingkindness. After all, both are our teachers. Kornfield summarizes it this way, “We must inquire what ... is asking for acceptance and compassion, and ask ourselves, ‘Can I touch with love whatever I have closed my heart to?’”

In your own life, are there areas of tension, holding, and constriction that are calling you to open and awaken the heart? If so, what might be possible? More ease, spaciousness, or freedom? My deepest wish is that these practices can help us know peace on our own paths of healing so that we can help others continue their own paths as well.

Until next time, colleagues, take gentle care.





EPPP Pass Rates in California

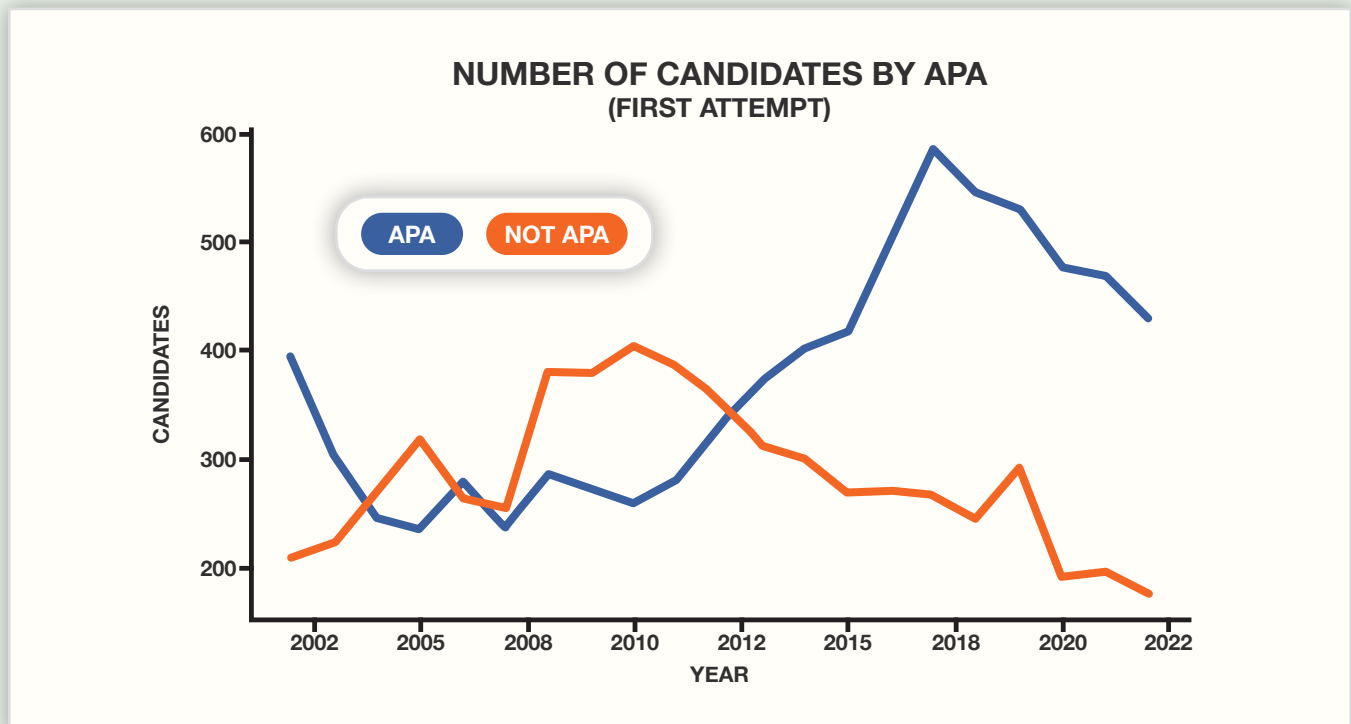
By Marisela Cervantes, Ed.D., MPA, Board Member, Board of Psychology

According to a review of the pass rates of the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) in 2023, the overall pass rate within the state is 39.22%, with an overall first-time pass rate of 59.88%. The highest pass rate for 2023 was in March, at 51.20%, while the lowest pass rate was in October, at 30.94%. Due to the low pass rates for the EPPP, the Board expressed concern, and wanted to learn more about factors contributing to test-takers' performances. As a result, The Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) of the Department of Consumer Affairs analyzed factors affecting the California pass rates for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and presented those findings at the February 2024 Board of Psychology meeting.

OPES studied the following variables to determine the degree to which these may have impacted overall

pass rates: American Psychological Association (APA) accreditation, school used to qualify for the EPPP, age of the candidate at the time of testing, and degree earned (Ph.D., Psy.D., or Ed.D.). Our plan is to share a series of articles highlighting specific findings from OPES in this and subsequent newsletters this year.

OPES examined data on Californians completing the EPPP between 2002–2022, to understand how the population of applicants for a psychology license are performing on the examination over time. The analysis revealed that the number of candidates taking the examination has increased during this period, while the pass rate has decreased. The number of first-time test takers peaked in 2018, at nearly 900. The average score for the examination has decreased over time, however; nearly 85% of candidates eventually pass the EPPP.



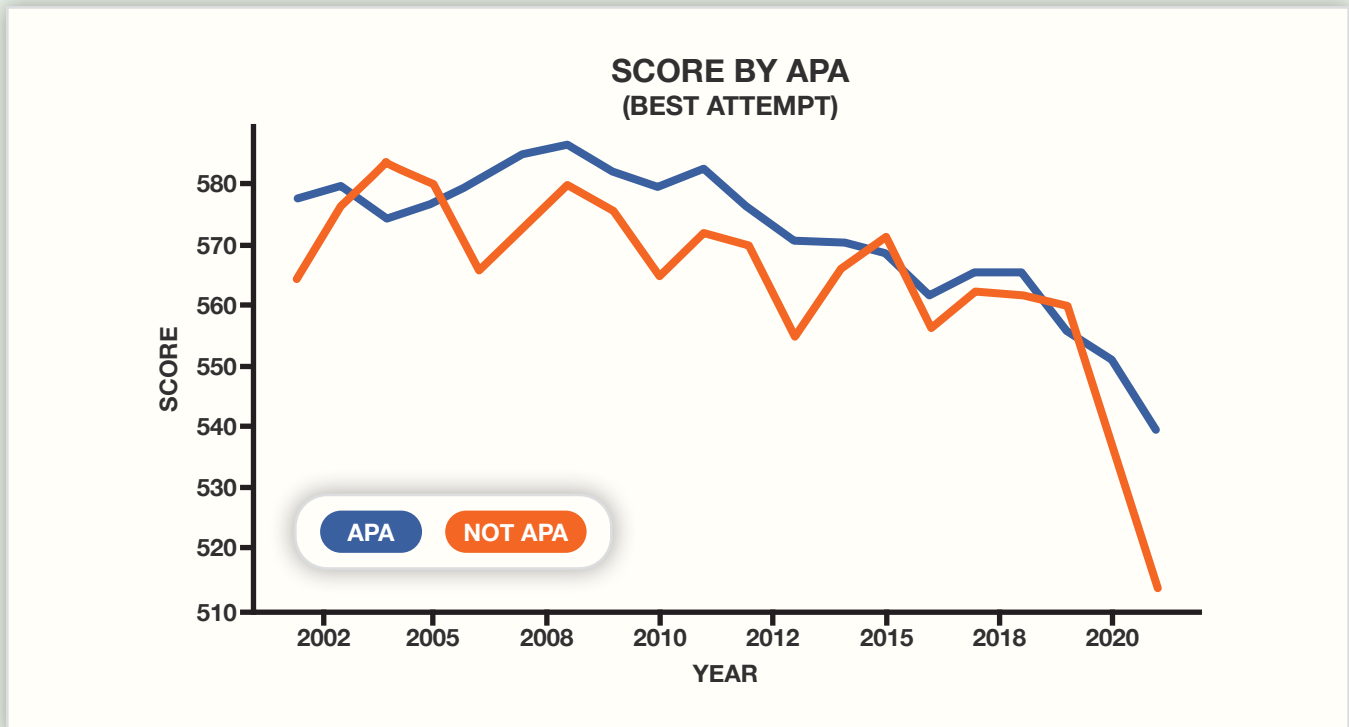
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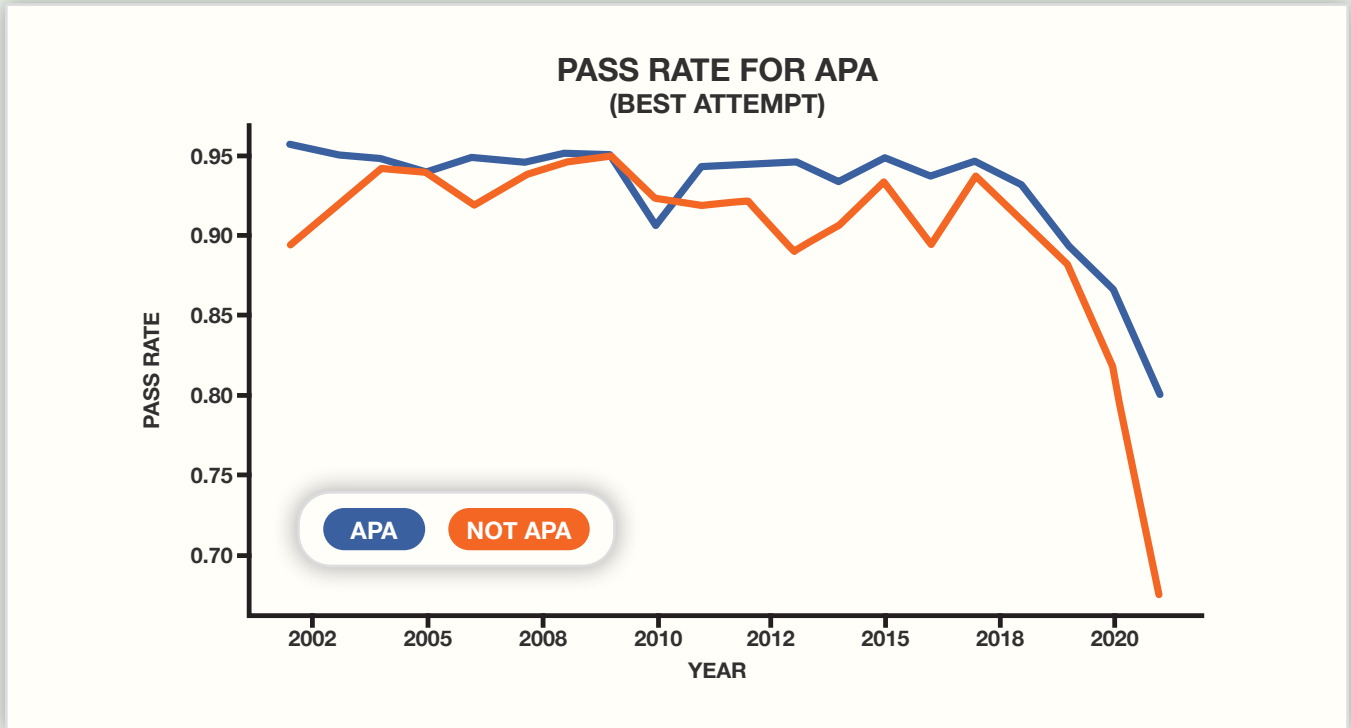
In California, applicants for a psychology license may complete a program that is accredited by the APA, but it is not required. The Board accepts applications for licensure from regionally accredited programs, which often reflect the diverse communities where these programs are based. In 2002, 394 applications from APA-accredited programs were received, compared to 209 from regionally accredited programs. By 2022, the number of applications received from APA-accredited programs was 431, compared to 176 from regionally-accredited programs. Since 2012, the number of applicants taking the EPPP for the first time from APA-accredited programs, has consistently exceeded the number of applicants who attended non-APA-accredited programs.

Scores on the EPPP have decreased over time; however, applicants from APA-accredited programs score slightly higher in their first attempt than those from regionally-accredited programs. In 2002, the average score for applicants in the first attempt from an APA-accredited program was 564, compared to 556 for applicants from a regionally-accredited program. In 2022, the gap increased. The average score for applicants in the first attempt from an APA-accredited program was 519, compared to 496 for applicants from a regionally-accredited program. The passing score has remained 500 throughout the timeframe.



It is important to note that pass rates are very similar for applicants from APA-accredited and regionally-accredited programs over time; however, the performance has been decreasing for both groups.

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How to Become an Exam Expert

By Susan Hansen, Examinations Coordinator, Board of Psychology

The Board of Psychology actively recruits subject matter experts (SMEs) for the development of the California Professional Laws and Ethics Examination (CPLEE) every year. The work of our SMEs is important as they are the selected representatives of the psychology profession, and their contribution determines the quality of the law and ethics exam that will be administered to individuals who are on the path to become licensed psychologists.

The Board, along with the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES), works with qualified SMEs through six different workshops annually where our SMEs gather to write and review new items, construct four new forms of the CPLEE, and establish passing scores for each form of the exam. Specifically, the item writing and item review workshops are administered remotely, while the other four workshops are conducted in-person at the OPES office in Sacramento.

SMEs receive honorarium compensation for their service. Lodging and travel costs are compensated at state rates. To qualify, SMEs must:

- Maintain a license in good standing.
- Maintain a current and active license.
- Be currently working in the field of psychology and have up-to-date skills.
- Not be involved in instructing or supervising graduate level psychology students.

- Have no conflict of interest with current or past employment with the government.
- Not be a Board member or committee member.

Serving as a SME for exam development also allows a licensed psychologist to earn CPD hours where one hour of service is equal to one hour of CPD credit. The regulations allow a maximum of 12 hours of CPD to be credited for activity relating to exam SMEs for each renewal period.

We welcome all interested psychologists to apply. To ensure a well-rounded perspective, if you are a licensed psychologist who has been licensed five years or less, the Board strongly encourages you to apply.

Recruitment of SMEs takes place each spring. Applications are sent to approximately 1500 randomly selected licensees, as well as to those who have expressed interest in participating. Applications are then reviewed and qualified SMEs are scheduled for each workshop. The Board aims to staff workshops with participants that represent the profession in terms of geographic area, practice specialty, ethnicity, and gender. Selected participants are required to submit the necessary documents to be contracted to work as an SME. If you are interested in being placed on a list of interested parties to participate as an SME for the CPLEE development workshops, please email BOPEXAM@dca.ca.gov.





Health Profession Education Foundation Recipient Profile

My journey into the realm of health care began with the foundational influence of my parents, who instilled in me the values of service and compassion from a young age. Their support led me to pursue medicine, equipped with a scholarship that enabled me to study in Europe and earn my M.D. Physician degree without the burden of debt. This initial phase of my career was driven by a desire to make a tangible impact in the lives of those who needed it most.

Upon returning to India and later moving to the U.S. to practice, I was confronted with the reality of health care delivery: brief patient interactions that barely scratched the surface of their needs. This realization was particularly stark in my work with vulnerable communities, where the complexities of their situations demanded more than just medical interventions.

Driven by a deep-seated belief in the importance of comprehensive care, I transitioned from medicine to clinical psychology. This shift was motivated by my experiences in community services, where I saw firsthand the critical need for accessible mental health support. My new path allowed me to engage with individuals on a deeper level, addressing not only their immediate health concerns but also the underlying psychological and emotional challenges.

My grounding practices, rooted in the traditions of yoga and meditation from my upbringing in India, have been invaluable in this work. They have provided me with the resilience and balance necessary to support others effectively, especially when faced with the overwhelming challenges that often accompany work in community health services.

The transition to psychology was also informed by my cultural background, which instilled in me a strong sense of community and the importance of mental wellness. Despite facing stigmas around mental health in my own community, I was driven by a commitment to change these perceptions and improve access to mental health services for vulnerable populations.

My personal battle with perfectionism, shaped by cultural and societal pressures, has further enriched my ability to empathize with those I serve. It has allowed me to connect on a more human level, offering not just clinical support but also understanding and compassion derived from my own experiences.

In my work with diverse and vulnerable communities, I approach each individual as a unique being, transcending societal labels to focus on their inherent worth and potential for healing. This approach has enabled me to build trust and foster a supportive environment where individuals feel seen, heard, and cared for.

My journey from medicine to psychology, driven by experiences in community services, is a reflection of my commitment to holistic and accessible health care. It underscores the importance of compassion, understanding, and culturally sensitive care in making a meaningful impact in the lives of those in vulnerable communities.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) for their invaluable support through the scholarship that has been instrumental in my journey. This gesture of faith and investment in my potential has not only facilitated my academic pursuits but has also significantly amplified my ability to serve those in need within our community. The HCAI's commitment to nurturing professionals dedicated to accessible and compassionate health care resonates deeply with my personal mission and has been a beacon of encouragement as I navigate the complexities and challenges of community service.

This scholarship represents more than just financial assistance; it embodies a shared vision of a world where health care, especially mental health services, is within reach of even the most vulnerable populations.



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It has empowered me to further my education and skills in clinical psychology, thereby enhancing my capacity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who often find themselves on the fringes of our health care system. The support from HCAI has been a pivotal force in my journey, enabling me to continue my work with renewed vigor and a deepened commitment to fostering a healthier, more inclusive community. For this, I am profoundly thankful.

Best regards,

Raj Aurora



ASPPB Receives Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration

Marian Burnetti-Atwell, Psy.D., Chief Executive Officer, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) is thrilled to share the news of our selection to receive a new five-year Licensure Portability Grant (starting July 1, 2024) from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This significant grant, amounting to \$100,000 each year for the next five years, is a testament to the importance of our work and our commitment to the field of psychology. It will primarily support the ongoing development and implementation of the ASPPB Centre for Data and Analysis on Psychology Licensure, a crucial resource for our stakeholders.

The primary purpose of the Centre is to support psychology licensing boards in making informed decisions through consistent data collection, analysis, and reporting. The Centre's website (www.asppbcentre.org) and the annual ASPPB InFocus document also provide valuable information for those seeking licensure and details associated with psychology regulation. With the assistance of this grant from HRSA, ASPPB will be able to create a cohesive outreach strategy for students, licensed psychologists, state psychology licensing boards, state legislatures, and other stakeholders to educate them on continuing developments in licensure portability.



Administrative Citations:

January 1–June 30, 2024

Sharon Kappelman-Culver

Unlicensed, Lafayette

On January 2, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$5,000 for holding herself out to be a psychologist and practicing psychology (including therapy, assessment, diagnosis, etc.) without a license in private practice and private schools.

Philip M. Takakjian, Ph.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 15142, Sausalito

On February 8, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and a fine in the amount of \$1,000 for harassing employees at Brightside Health and Happier Living after employment interviews and violating the Board of Psychology Rules of Professional Conduct.

David Frederick Dahl, Ph.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 19014, Cupertino

On February 20, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and a fine in the amount of \$500 for violating the probation conditions by failing to submit quarterly reports on time as required by the terms and conditions of his probation.

Carlos Tony Reza, Psy.D.

Unlicensed, Chino Hills

On February 27, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$2,000 for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology from June 22, 2015, to September 2, 2017, and failing to maintain the required weekly logs.

Stephen L. Salter, Psy.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 24716, Tarzana

On February 27, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and a fine in the amount of \$500 for violating the terms of his probation by failing to submit a quarterly report on time and failing to comply with the terms and conditions of probation fully.

Shannon Shimako Brazee, Psy.D.

Unlicensed, Los Angeles

On March 5, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$1,500 for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology from January 7, 2020, to April 1, 2021, by providing psychological services without proper registration and not in an exempt setting.

Danitza Borges

Unlicensed, Palm Desert

On March 19, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$2,500 for providing counseling to trauma survivors and individuals with PTSD beyond the scope of a sex therapist, constituting an extreme departure from the standard of practice and misrepresenting services.

Zarrin Azaedi

Unlicensed, Sherman Oaks

On April 30, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$2,500 for representing herself as an expert in psychology and offering psychological services to the public, which addressed clinical psychological problems and describing her activities in ways indistinguishable from psychological practice.

Meghan E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Unlicensed, Oakland

On May 7, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$2,500 for providing psychological services under the guise of "counseling," offering "professional counseling" via cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and "mental health counseling" on her website and conducting an hour-long session involving psychological techniques.

Itzel Anaya, Ph.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 34800 Pomona

On May 7, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$1,500 for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology from August 4, 2023, to January 10, 2024, by providing psychological services after the expiration of her registration.

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Barbara J. Kessell, Ph.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 34932, Oakland

On May 14, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$750 for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology from August 31, 2023, to January 3, 2024, by providing psychological services after the expiration of her registration.

Emily A. Kurginyan

Psychological License No. PSB 94026209, Los Angeles

On May 14, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and a fine in the amount of \$1,000 for failing to respond to the Board's inquiries regarding Case No. 6002023000761, representing a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation, which constitutes unprofessional conduct.

Razia A. Iqbal, Psy.D.

Registration No. RPS 2012366, Cancelled, Berkeley

On May 29, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and a fine in the amount of \$2,500 for practicing psychology and holding herself out as a psychologist despite being unlicensed and failing to notify stakeholders and clients of her unlicensed status.

Stephen L. Salter, Psy.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 24716, Tarzana

On May 29, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and a fine in the amount of \$750 for violating the terms of his probation by failing to submit his Quarterly Report of Compliance by the required due date of April 7, 2024.

Lauren Ashley Shapiro, Psy.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 29059, Orange

On June 6, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and a fine in the amount of \$1,000 for failing to fully participate in the alcohol/drug screening program as required by the terms of her probation and for failing to comply with all conditions of her probation.

Christian B. Garnica

Psychological License No. PSB 94027032, Cancelled, San Diego

On June 6, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$500 for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology from September 16, 2023, to February 8, 2024, by providing psychological services to two clients after the expiration of his registration.

Disciplinary Actions:

January 1–June 30, 2024

Malik Salaam Muhammad, Ph.D.

Psychological License No. 2826, Chula Vista

Respondent Malik Salaam Muhammad, Ph.D., stipulated to surrender Psychologist License No. 28269 after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent committed dishonest, corrupt, and/or fraudulent acts by submitting false and fraudulent Medicaid claims for outpatient psychotherapy services that were not provided. From July 2015 to October 2017, Respondent knowingly submitted claims for services not rendered, resulting in substantial financial gain. The Decision and Order took effect on January 3, 2024.

Joy E. Carter-Chastain, Psy.D.

Psychological License No. 13609, Los Angeles

Respondent Joy E. Carter-Chastain, Psy.D., stipulated to surrender Psychologist License No. 13609 after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent failed to comply with an Order for Examination pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 820 and failed to report her change of address to the Board within 30 days. Respondent did not submit to the ordered mental examination or update her address, preventing the Board from communicating effectively. The Decision and Order took effect on January 16, 2024.

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Zona Lai, Ph.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 15697, La Jolla

Respondent Zona Lai, Ph.D., stipulated to surrender Psychologist License No. 15697 after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, functioning outside the field of competence, and violations of ethical standards in the practice of psychology. The Decision and Order took effect on May 31, 2024.

Susan Marie Wilde, Psy.D.

Psychologist License No. PSY 19673, Berkeley

Respondent Susan Marie Wilde, Psy.D., stipulated to the surrender of Psychologist License No. PSY 19673 after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent committed unprofessional conduct, including exceeding the scope of her professional training and the limits of her role as a forensic psychological evaluator during a child custody evaluation. The Decision and Order took effect on June 16, 2024.

PROBATION

Eric R. Bergemann, Ph.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 23775, Los Angeles

Respondent Eric R. Bergemann, Ph.D., stipulated to placing Psychologist License No. PSY 23775 on probation for three years, subject to its revocation if Respondent fails to comply with the terms and conditions of probation after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent committed gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, unprofessional conduct, and violation of professional conduct rules, including inadequate and inaccurate record-keeping. The Decision and Order took effect on January 19, 2024.

Heather L. Hobson, Psy.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 28278, Elk Grove

Respondent Heather L. Hobson, Psy.D., stipulated to placing Psychologist License No. PSY 28278 on probation for four years, subject to its revocation if Respondent fails to comply with the terms

and conditions of probation after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent committed unprofessional conduct, including failure to comply with ethical principles and standards related to psychological assessments and failing to maintain accurate records. The Decision and Order took effect on February 23, 2024.

Peggy Holcomb, Ph.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 28011, Sacramento

Respondent Peggy Holcomb, Ph.D., stipulated to placing Psychologist License No. PSY 28011 on probation for five years, subject to its revocation if Respondent fails to comply with the terms and conditions of probation after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent committed acts of repeated negligence, unprofessional conduct, and failure to produce records to a patient in a timely manner. The Decision and Order took effect on March 15, 2024.

Barbara M. Thomas

Psychological License No. PSY 25391, San Clemente

Respondent Barbara M. Thomas stipulated to placing Psychologist License No. 25391 on probation for three years, subject to its revocation if Respondent fails to comply with the terms and conditions of probation, after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent committed acts of gross negligence, including failing to report suspected child abuse as required by law, and took personal phone calls during therapy sessions, thus violating the standard of care and ethical guidelines. The Decision and Order took effect on May 3, 2024.

Carolyn Frances Crimmins

Psychological License No. PSY 23205, Santa Rosa

Respondent Carolyn Frances Crimmins stipulated to placing Psychologist License No. 23205 on probation for five years, subject to its revocation if Respondent fails to comply with the terms and conditions of probation after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct, including providing substandard care,

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failing to maintain adequate records, and violating patient confidentiality. The Decision and Order took effect on June 1, 2024.

PUBLIC LETTER OF REPROVAL (PLR)

Bonita Weavingearth, Ph.D.

Psychological License No. PSY 17876, Los Angeles

Respondent Bonita Weavingearth, Ph.D., was publicly reprovved pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 495 after the Board filed an Accusation alleging Respondent failed to verify completion of continuing education (CE) when requested to do so by the Board during a CE audit. Additionally, Respondent failed to respond to the Board's repeated requests for documentation, demonstrating unprofessional conduct. The Decision and Order took effect on February 15, 2024.

Active Board Positions

AB 2051 (Bonta)—Psychology interjurisdictional compact

This bill would approve the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT), to facilitate the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state lines in California. This bill would require California to join as a compact state, to recognize the right of a psychologist, licensed in a compact state in compliance with the compact, to practice telepsychology in other compact states in which the psychologist is not licensed, as approved in the compact.

This bill is currently in the Assembly and referred to the Business and Professions Committee.

Board Position: Oppose

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[AB 2051 Psychology interjurisdictional compact](#)

AB 2270 (Maienschein)—Continuing education: menopausal mental or physical health

This bill would allow medical providers, including psychologists, to have the option to take a course in menopausal mental and physical health as

part of the continuing education or professional development requirements.

Board Position: Support

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[AB 2270 Continuing education: menopausal mental or physical health](#)

AB 2581 (Maienschein)—Continuing education: maternal mental health

This bill would allow medical providers, including psychologists, to have the option to take coursework in maternal mental health to satisfy continuing education or professional development requirements.

Board Position: Support

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[AB 2581 Continuing education: maternal mental health](#)

AB 2703 (Aguiar-Curry)—Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics: psychological associates

This bill would amend the current law to allow psychological associates to perform services in Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers and allow the centers to be reimbursed for the services.

Board Position: Support

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[AB 2703 Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics: psychological associates](#)

SB 1526—Consumer Affairs Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development

This bill would amend Health and Safety Codes (HSC) 1374.72, 124260 and 128454, by removing the outdated registration category for “registered psychologist” and amend the registration title “psychological assistant” by replacing the category with the current title of “psychological associate”.

Board Position: Support

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[SB 1526 Consumer affairs](#)



Regulatory Update

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

Title 16, CCR Sections 1391.13 and 1391.14—Inactive Psychological Associate Registration and Reactivating a Psychological Associate Registration

Status: This package is in the Final Filing Stage. Revised proposed regulatory language was adopted at the May 19, 2023, Board Meeting. At the August 18, 2023, Board Meeting, the Board resolved additional issues regarding the inactive timeframe and voted to adopt the proposed regulatory language as amended. On December 15, 2023, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Budget Office completed the fiscal impact of this rulemaking. On January 18, 2024, Board staff submitted the regulation package to the regulations coordinator to be submitted for review by the DCA director and the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. Once the director and agency have approved, the rulemaking will be filed with OAL for notice publication. On March 21, 2024, the regulatory package was approved by Agency and sent to OAL for approval of publishing. The regulatory package was approved for publishing by OAL. The 45-minute public comment period began on April 5 and was completed on May 21, 2024. On June 27, 2024, the regulatory package was submitted to OAL for final review and approval.

This regulatory package does the following:

Allows a psychological associate to request that the Board place their active registration in an inactive status. In addition, the proposed regulations would allow the Board to place the registration in an inactive status when the registrant has no primary supervisor. While the registration is in an inactive status, it will stop the time counting towards the cumulative total of six years registration limitation. The Board is also proposing the adoption of the process for reactivating an inactive psychological associate registration.

Title 16 CCR Section 1395.2—Disciplinary Guidelines and Uniform Standards Related to Substance-Abusing Licensees

Status: Production Phase. Review of the proposed regulatory language at the May 19, 2023 Board meeting was postponed to the August 18, 2023 Board meeting. At the August 18, 2023 Board meeting, the Board voted to adopt the proposed regulatory language and staff is preparing the initial submission documents for DCA and Agency review before filing with OAL for notice publication.

This regulatory package does the following:

Updates the Board's disciplinary guidelines including conforming changes required by the passage of AB 2138, the Board's new regulations regarding criminal convictions and substantial relationship criteria, and the Department's Uniform Standards for Substance Abusing Licensees.

Title 16 CCR Sections 1380.3, 1381.1, 1381.2, 1381.4, 1381.5, 1382, 1382.3, 1382.4, 1382.5, 1386, 1387, 1387.1, 1387.2, 1387.3, 1387.4, 1387.5, 1391, 1391.1, 1391.3, 1391.4, 1391.5, 1391.6, 1391.8, 1391.11, and 1391.12—Pathways to Licensure

Status: Drafting Phase. This phase includes preparation of the regulatory package and collaborative reviews by Board staff and legal counsel.

This regulatory package does the following:

Streamlines the licensing process and removes unnecessary barriers for applicants and the supervisors who support their training.

Title 16 CCR Sections 1380.6, 1393, 1396, 1396.1, 1396.2, 1396.4, 1396.5, 1397, 1397.1, 1397.2, 1397.35, 1397.37, 1397.39, 1397.50, 1397.51, 1397.52, 1397.53, 1397.54, 1397.55—Enforcement Provisions

Status: Drafting Phase. This phase includes preparation of the regulatory package and collaborative reviews by Board staff and legal counsel.



(continued from page 14)

This regulatory package does the following:

This regulatory package would update the Board's enforcement provisions.

Title 16 CCR Sections 1397.35–1397.40—Corporations

Status: Drafting Phase. This phase includes preparation of the regulatory package and collaborative reviews by Board staff and legal counsel.

This regulatory package does the following:

This regulatory package would update the Board's requirements for professional corporations provisions.

Title 16 CCR Sections 1381, 1387, 1387.10, 1388, 1388.6, 1389, and 1389.1—EPPP-2

Status: Drafting Phase. This phase includes preparation of the regulatory package and collaborative reviews by Board staff and legal counsel. On May 19, 2023, the Board approved the statutory and regulatory changes that would implement the EPPP part 2 Skills Exam, effective January 1, 2026. On May 10, 2024, Board approved amended regulatory language.

This regulatory package does the following:

This regulatory package updates the statutory and regulatory sections needed to implement the EPPP-2.

Title 16 CCR 1390–1390.14—Research Psychoanalyst

Status: Drafting Phase. This phase includes preparation of the regulatory package and collaborative reviews by Board staff and legal counsel. On May 10, 2024, the Board approved adoption of regulations for research psychoanalysts. Board staff plans to bring updates to the text back to the Board during the August meeting.

This regulatory package does the following:

This regulatory package creates regulations for research psychoanalysts under the Board utilizing previous regulatory language from the Medical Board of California's regulation of the licensing group with minor changes for clarity and consistency.



Board Members

Lea Tate, Psy.D. (President)
 Shacunda Rodgers, Ph.D. (Vice President)
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 Marisela Cervantes, Ed.D., MPA
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 Julie Nystrom
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 Ana Rescate

2024 Meeting Calendar

BOARD MEETINGS

November 7-8

COMMITTEES

**Outreach and Communications
 Committee Meeting**
 September 27

Research Psychoanalyst Ad Hoc Committee
 September 20

Have an idea for an article?

Email us at bopmail@dca.ca.gov

