

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



Happy New Year!

I can't believe that 2024 is here! Time passed quickly last year. I am looking forward to another busy year with the Board of Psychology.

At the November 2023 Board Meeting, officer elections were held. I am excited to announce that Dr. Shacunda Rodgers was re-elected as vice president and I was re-elected as the president of the Board of Psychology. Dr. Rodgers and I are both committed and eager to continue making an impact at the Board. We will continue to rely on board members for guidance and support throughout 2024.

The Board of Psychology Strategic Planning Meeting was held in December 2023 in Burlingame. This was a two-day meeting facilitated by California Department of Consumer Affairs' SOLID Training and Development. Thank you to the stakeholders and psychologists who attended this meeting! Your input was invaluable.

The entire group discussed and identified future goals, identified weaknesses, and how to address current concerns of the Board of Psychology. The group suggested ideas to be implemented within the Board of Psychology over the next four to five years. Some of the goals are large and substantial but the Board of Psychology staff and board members are committed to improvement.

Continuing professional development (CPD) in 2024 is in full effect. The "straddle year" of receiving credit for CPD and continuing education is over! As of January 1, 2024, all 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.

We realize that CPD is still new and that there are questions. If you continue to have CPD questions, please refer to the Board of Psychology CPD FAQs located online at www.psychology.ca.gov/licenses/cpd_faqs.shtml. We update the FAQ list daily, so please check for new information.

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The Board of Psychology hopes to see you at our next scheduled meeting February 29–March 1 in Sacramento.

Hope your new year started off well!

Warm regards,
Lea



Connection and Community

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

Greetings, dear colleagues. As I sit to write this article, I am reflecting on the Strategic Planning Meeting, which took place December 7–8, 2023 in the

Bay Area. Facilitated by California Department of Consumer Affairs' SOLID Training Solutions, Board staff, legal counsel, board members, and licensees gathered to discuss strategies for improvement in the following areas: Licensing; Continuing Professional Development; Policy and Advocacy; Enforcement; Outreach and Communication; Board Operations.

On a practical level, the meeting was quite productive in that it allowed for an in-depth exploration of our current processes in each of these areas, what is working well, what areas need strengthening and refining, and what kinds of resources are both needed and available to facilitate the necessary changes. Beyond this piece, though, I was particularly moved by the collaborative nature of this process and was reminded of the beauty that comes from being gathered in community working toward a common goal.

Given the lengthy separation and isolation we have all experienced as a result of the years-long pandemic, it was joyful to be able to gather together—particularly in a setting that was far less formal than our traditional Board meetings. It was a relaxed atmosphere with everyone gathered around circular tables, which promoted a sense of small group connectedness in the midst of the larger group setting. It was a nice change of pace. This

setting for the meeting also made me think more broadly, beyond the meeting itself, about the larger health benefits of community in general, of which there are many.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Social connection can help prevent serious illness and outcomes like heart disease, stroke, dementia, depression and anxiety.” And as psychologists, undoubtedly, we have all seen the ways in which loneliness and isolation have impacted the mental health of those we serve as clients, those we supervise as trainees, or may have even experienced ourselves. The pandemic has been hard on all of us in some way. In “The Ties that Bind: Overcoming Loneliness and Building Social Connections in a Disconnected World,” Kelly Barron notes, “Research shows loneliness is as bad for our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.” She goes on further to describe the idea of community as “an abundant ever-changing flow of spontaneous friendliness that might only be there for a precious moment. It can be composed of long-nourished friendships or family; or it could be a kind nurse you might never see again.”

As you think about this notion, what are the small moments of “spontaneous friendliness” that you have experienced or offered recently? Was it chatting with someone briefly at the dog park, at the grocery store, or in the coffee shop? Was it holding the door for someone, or another person for you? All of these small gestures add up and can serve as buffers against difficult experiences, if only we pause long

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enough to notice and take them in. These acts of kindness contribute to an overall sense of belonging and inclusion, and say to another, “I see you. You matter.” We all benefit from a sense of being connected to something larger than ourselves.

Nineteenth Surgeon General of the United States Dr. Vivek Murthy, author of the book *Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World*, notes, “While loneliness engenders despair and ever more isolation, togetherness raises optimism and creativity. When people feel they belong to one another, their lives are stronger, richer, and more joyful.” Togetherness. Belonging. Connection. Community. These are all medicines that heal. Where do you find yours? Dr. Murthy suggests four strategies to strengthen our social ties:

- 1) **Spend at least 15 minutes per day with those you love**, whether in person, by phone, or video chat.
- 2) **Focus on one another**, being mindful to eliminate distractions that might otherwise divert your attention away from the present

moment and who you’re with. Our full presence is the most important gift we can offer another person.

- 3) **Embrace solitude** in order to foster a relationship with yourself. Strengthening your own internal foundation can improve your ability to better connect with others.
- 4) **Help others and allow others to help you.** Here is where the “spontaneous friendliness” can be a bridge of connection to others.

What an unexpected gift the Strategic Planning Meeting was, and I am thankful for all the small kindnesses that I received from others, and hopefully offered to others in the midst of tending to business related matters. We can always find beauty in the seemingly ordinary tasks in our daily lives. They are often in plain sight, waiting to be discovered.

May you each experience gestures of kindness and connection, both big and small, in the days ahead. And may they fill your heart with gladness and joy, reminding you that you belong.

Until next time, colleagues, be well.





Legislator Profile: Senator Richard D. Roth



Senator Richard Roth was elected to represent the California State Senate's 31st Senate District on November 6, 2012. The 31st District includes portions of Riverside County including the cities of Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Moreno Valley, Norco, Perris, and Riverside.

Senator Roth is chair of the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development as well as the Select Committee on Career Technology and the New Economy. He also serves on the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and these Senate policy committees: Governmental Organization and Health. Senator Roth will also serve on the Senate Committees on Budget, namely Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services.

After earning admission into the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps, Roth entered active duty in the U.S. Air Force in 1975 and transferred from active duty to the Air Force Reserves in 1979.

Through the 1990s and early 2000s, he worked as a reserve judge advocate at Air Force bases in Georgia, California, and Illinois. He also served at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command and in the Pentagon. By 2004, he had risen to the rank of major general and served in the Pentagon as mobilization assistant to the Judge Advocate

General of the U.S. Air Force, where he oversaw more than 900 Reserve judge advocates and paralegals assigned to more than 200 offices at every level of command and helped to manage the recruitment, training, utilization, and deployment of Reserve legal forces worldwide. Roth retired from the Air Force in 2007 after 32 years of service in the grade of major general.

He is also past vice chairman of the Parkview Community Hospital Board, past member of the Riverside Art Museum Board, and a past trustee of the March Field Museum. He currently serves as legal advisor to the Airlift/Tanker Association and as a member of the Riverside Police Foundation. He has served as a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judicial Conference. Roth engaged in the practice of labor and employment law with Riverside-based firms for over 30 years and is a member of the state bars of California and Georgia.

This past year, Senator Roth authored two bills that the Board of Psychology supported. First, Senate Bill 815, which will transfer the registration category of research psychoanalyst from the Medical Board of California to the Board of Psychology. The second was SB 816, which allowed the Board of Psychology to amend the application, renewal, and exam fees to avoid the Board going insolvent. Both SB 815 and SB 816 were signed by the governor, with SB 816 becoming effective January 1, 2024 and the transferring of research psychoanalyst registration effective January 1, 2025.





Health Professions Education Recipient Profile

By Dr. Owonda Alli Epiphany

Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (AMFT)/Registered Psychologist Associate (Psy.D.)

Year of Award: 2023

Serving in County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency/Behavioral Health Services



I chose to pursue a profession in behavioral health care to be able to assist my son. I desired to know more in the mental health field and provide care first to my son, and then to others through a trauma-focused lens.

As a father of a child with a diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia with religious fixation, I personally view care from a lens of compassion and understanding. As the primary care provider for my son, I decided to pursue higher education in mental health so that I would be well informed on the most up-to-date research and interventions. In my pursuit of mental health education, I was able to accomplish Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (MACP) and proceed to complete a Psy.D. at Southern California Seminary (SCS) in El Cajon.

This award is a vital part in removing financial barriers associated with the huge student loan debt I owe. I am soon to be a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT), and can practice as a behavioral health clinician with both children and adults who are severely mentally ill. After my licensure as an LMFT, my goal is to pursue licensure as a psychologist.

I have seen many individuals with mental health challenges in San Diego County who do not want treatment including not wanting to see a psychiatrist for psychotropic medication prescriptions or a therapist for group and/or individual therapies, and face insurmountable challenges including homelessness, ending in jail or prison, unable to take care of their activities of daily living, becoming risks to self and the community, and taking their lives and the lives of others because they chose not to treat their mental health illnesses.

The award will benefit me and my family in that it will relieve us from paying part of the huge student loan debt I accumulated over the course of my study in behavioral science from September 2015 (when I embarked on my study journey) to May 2022 (when I graduated with a clinical psychology doctorate) from SCS.

I am very appreciative to the state of California and the California Department of Health Care Access Information for this award to repay student loans I took to pursue behavioral health science education so I could be able to provide services in the underserved communities of Southern California.





Psychological Testing Technicians: A New Registration at the Board of Psychology

By Stephanie Cheung, Licensing Manager

The Board is excited to announce the launch of a new registration category for psychological testing technician. If you are an individual looking for career opportunities related to psychological and neuropsychological testing under the supervision of a licensed psychologist, or if you are a licensed psychologist looking for a qualified individual to help with certain testing functions, a psychological testing technician registration may be of interest to you.

WHAT CAN A PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING TECHNICIAN DO?

A psychological testing technician is allowed to administer and score standardized objective psychological and neuropsychological tests as well as observe and describe clients' test behavior and test responses under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

WHAT IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING TECHNICIAN PROHIBITED FROM DOING?

A psychological testing technician is prohibited from selecting tests or versions of tests, interpreting test results, writing test reports, or providing test feedback to clients.

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING TECHNICIAN QUALIFICATIONS

To become a psychological testing technician, an individual must meet the education and training requirement and receive clearances on criminal history background checks. The requirements are:

EDUCATION

- 1) A qualifying degree (bachelor's or graduate degree in psychology, or education with the field of specialization in educational psychology, counseling psychology, or school psychology).

- 2) A minimum of 20 hours of education on topics including law and ethics, confidentiality, and best practices for test administration and scoring.

TRAINING

- 1) A minimum of 20 hours of direct observation, including at least 10 hours of direct observation of a licensed psychologist administering and scoring tests, and at least 10 hours of direct observation of either a licensed psychologist or registered psychological testing technician administering and scoring tests.
- 2) A minimum of 40 hours of administering and scoring tests in the presence of a licensed psychologist.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF SUPERVISOR TO A PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING TECHNICIAN

To supervise a psychological testing technician, a psychologist licensed by the Board must meet all of these requirements:

- 1) Be employed by, or contracted to, the same work setting as the psychological testing technician they are supervising.
- 2) Be available in person, by telephone, or by other appropriate technology at all times the psychological testing technician provides services.
- 3) Ensuring that the extent, kind, and quality of the services that the psychological testing technician provides are consistent with the psychological testing technician's training and experience.

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- 4) Monitoring the psychological testing technician's compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- 5) Informing the client prior to the rendering of services by a psychological testing technician that the technician is registered as a psychological testing technician and is functioning under the direction and supervision of the supervisor.

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING TECHNICIAN WEBSITE

To learn more about the application process, visit the Board's website at https://psychology.ca.gov/applicants/psychological_testing_technician.shtml.

On the website, you will find detailed instructions on how to apply for a psychological testing technician registration and other informational materials, such as an application checklist, FAQs, forms, and fingerprint procedures.

How to Apply for a Psychological Testing Technician Registration

The process is being broken down in steps to help individual to understand the requirements and expectation for the application process at https://psychology.ca.gov/applicants/ptt_instructions.shtml.

In each step, detailed information is provided on the required documentation and submission guidance. If you have a question about the process or requirements, see the FAQs as your question may have already been answered.

Online Application

To streamline the registration process, the Board has made this an online-only application. Any eligible individuals may apply online through BREEZE. If you are a new user to BREEZE, register for a BREEZE account prior to beginning the application process at www.breeze.ca.gov/datamart/mainMenu.do.

Online Application Checklist

Looking for a list of necessary items for an application? Download the Online Application Checklist for a quick reference at https://psychology.ca.gov/forms_pubs/ptt_app_checklist.pdf as a supplementary resource to the details provided on the instructions page.

FAQs

Have a question about psychological testing technician registration? See the Psychological Testing Technician FAQs to find out if a question like yours may have already been answered: https://psychology.ca.gov/applicants/ptt_faqs.shtml.

In December 2023, the Board shared that the webpage relating to the new registration was live through our email list and social media. If you have not already subscribed for the Board's email alerts, sign up at the Board's website at <https://psychology.ca.gov/webapplications/apps/subscribe/index.shtml> so you will be among the first to know about any important news or changes.

If you need assistance, send us a message at boplicensing@dca.ca.gov. We look forward to helping you navigate through the process for this new registration.





Board's Current Position on PSYPACT

*By Jonathan Burke, Assistant Executive Officer,
Board of Psychology*

Board of Psychology members and staff have been receiving questions from stakeholders regarding the interjurisdictional Telepsychology Compact (PSYPACT) managed by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB).

At the time of writing, 40 states and U.S. territories have enacted legislation to adopt PSYPACT, and California has not ignored this evolving jurisdictional landscape. The Board has twice formally considered ASPPB's PSYPACT and each time voted to reject the model legislation and not pursue joining.

The first time PSYPACT was considered was in 2014, when ASPPB promulgated draft statutory language and sought input from its members. In January 2015, the Board sent a letter to ASPPB explaining its reasons for not agreeing with the proposed language. Some of these concerns had been addressed by the time PSYPACT went live in July 2020, so the Board again considered the matter that year.

In 2020 the Board tasked the Telepsychology Committee to analyze PSYPACT and to determine if joining would be beneficial to California consumers. The Committee met and presented its opinions on PSYPACT at the August 27, 2021 Board Meeting. The Board agreed with ASPPB that it is important to increase license portability and consumer access to psychological services. However, the Board determined that it was not in the best interest of California consumers or licensees to join PSYPACT. The determination was made based on the following concerns:

- The exclusion of a portion of the Board's licensees due to the APA accreditation requirement. As the graduates of regionally accredited programs have a more significant representation from historically underrepresented groups and devote much of their training disproportionately to those groups, this was a particular concern due to its inequity, variable impact on California consumers, and the exclusion of licensees. Further, it may impact the viability of graduate programs that contribute to theoretical diversity in the delivery of psychological services.
- The delegation of substantial authority to a non-governmental entity that would create regulations that would affect the Board, California licensees, and California consumers.
- The additional workload to the Board and its staff, which could create delays in providing existing services, given there is no provision for revenue sharing for the tasks that would be required for participation in PSYPACT. In effect, this would mean a portion of all of our licensees' licensing fees would pay for those licensees who choose to participate in PSYPACT, despite the fact not all licensees would be eligible to participate. In addition, California state government has a general policy that any additional costs in the performance of any part of its public duties should have a corresponding revenue source.

The August 2021 decision to not join PSYPACT is the current policy position of the Board. Staff continually monitor the compact and will present the matter again if changes are made to the model legislation which address its concerns.

A comprehensive analysis of PSYPACT as well as a history of the Board's consideration of the model legislation can be found on the Board's website under the meeting materials for the August 27, 2021 meeting (pages 425–533) at https://psychology.ca.gov/about_us/meetings/materials/20210827.pdf.

California law does permit the delivery of telepsychology within the state and to clients in other jurisdictions. Our regulations allow for telehealth practice with clients outside of California; however, the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction where the client is located may determine whether it is permissible. The Board will investigate any complaint made against a California licensee as to the legality of that interjurisdictional practice and the services rendered regardless of where the services were delivered or received. The regulations also permit licensees of other jurisdictions to temporarily provide services to Californians. More information about the Board's telehealth laws and regulations can be seen on our website at www.psychology.ca.gov/laws_regs/telehealth_faqs.shtml.

Board staff are always available to answer questions, so please contact the Board for any further information about PSYPACT or the practice of telepsychology.



Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Updates: CPD Webinar, Straddle Year Elimination, and New Credit Opportunities

By Liezel McCockran, Continuing Professional Development and Renewals Coordinator

In 2024, the Board is introducing several exciting changes in CPD, including the highly anticipated CPD webinar, the removal of the straddle year, and new opportunities for earning CPD credits through attending Board or Committee meetings. In this article, we'll explore these developments and provide information on the upcoming CPD webinar and meeting dates for 2024.

One of the most significant CPD updates for 2024 was the CPD webinar, which took place January 22, 2024. The webinar was a valuable resource for licensees, offering a comprehensive breakdown of CPD and a real-time Q&A session. To access the recording of this informative session and browse past CPD webinars, visit the CPD website: https://psychology.ca.gov/licensees/ce_faqs.shtml.

Another noteworthy change in CPD for 2024 is the elimination of the straddle year. In 2023, licenses could be renewed by completing either traditional continuing education or CPD. However, moving forward, all CPD will need to be completed using CPD only.

CPD offers new ways for licensees to earn hours for renewal. One of these opportunities is attending Board or Committee meetings. If a meeting is posted as in person, physical attendance is required to receive credit.



2024 BOARD MEETING DATES

To help licensees plan their CPD activities for the year, here are the scheduled meeting dates for 2024:

- **FEBRUARY 29–MARCH 1**
Board Meeting/Sacramento (in person).
- **APRIL 12**
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Meeting/Webex.
- **MAY 10**
Board Meeting/Los Angeles (in person).
- **JUNE 14**
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Meeting/Webex.
- **JULY 19**
Licensure Committee Meeting/WebEx.
- **AUGUST 16**
Board Meeting/Bay Area (in person).
- **SEPTEMBER 13**
Research Psychoanalyst Ad Hoc Committee/Webex.
- **SEPTEMBER 27**
Outreach and Communications Committee/Webex.

To learn more about these updates or to get in touch with the CPD coordinator for further information, please email BOPCE@dca.ca.gov. Consider attending board or committee meetings to earn CPD credits in 2024.



Why Be an Expert Reviewer?

By Sandra Monterrubio, Enforcement Program Manager

Interested in being an expert reviewer for the Board of Psychology? If so, the Board is currently accepting applications.

Expert Reviewers are licensed psychologists in good standing with three or more years of practical experience in California. The role of an expert reviewer is to review enforcement complaints, opine as to whether there has been a departure from the standard of care, and testify at administrative hearings (which, on average, is once a year).

The Board receives approximately 1,000 complaints a year and imposes discipline on less than 4%. Most cases that result in discipline are settled before a hearing.

If you are selected to be an expert reviewer, you will attend a mandatory one-day training, earn up to 12 continuing professional development credits, receive group or individual training on testifying by current experts and the Office of the Attorney General, and review cases in your area(s) of expertise.

An expert reviewer is not an advocate for the Board or the licensee. Being an Expert Reviewer allows you to sustain the integrity of the practice of psychology and makes sure the consumers of California are being provided competent psychological services. The mission of the Board of Psychology is to protect consumers of psychological services by licensing psychologists, regulating the practice of psychology, and supporting the evolution of the profession.

If you are interested in being an Expert Reviewer, please visit <https://www.psychology.ca.gov/licensees/expertrev.shtml> or email the Board at bopenforcement@dca.ca.gov.



News You Can Use from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)

By Janet Orwig, MBA, CAE, ASPPB Associate Executive Officer for Member Services

One of the many publications provided by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) is the Psychology Licensing Exam Scores by Doctoral Program. The current 2023 PDF version of the report can be found on the ASPPB website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.asppb.net/resource/resmgr/eppp/_doctoralreportoct2023.pdf. The 2024 Doctoral Programs Report is expected to be released in April.

This report contains aggregated Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) pass rates for doctoral programs accredited by the American Psychological Association and Canadian Psychological Association. This report includes data on first-time takers who took the EPPP Part 1-Knowledge during the period from

January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2022. The doctoral programs presented in the report are based on the 2022 American and Canadian Psychological Associations accredited doctoral programs. It is important to note that the program data presented in the report are based solely on information supplied by candidates when they apply to sit for the EPPP Part 1-Knowledge.

It is the intent of ASPPB to make the Psychology Licensing Exam Scores by Doctoral Program a document that will inform and educate individuals selecting a doctoral program, educators of psychologists, and the developers of the EPPP. In order to assist ASPPB in continuing to improve this report, please send your comments and suggestions to the ASPPB central office at asppb@asppb.org.





2024 Legislative Advisories

AB 282 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 425, Statutes of 2023)—Psychologist: Licensure **OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: January 1, 2024**

Assembly Bill (AB) 282 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 425, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 8, 2023, and became effective on January 1, 2024.

The bill amends Business and Professions Code (BPC) 2914. Existing law requires that each applicant to the Board of Psychology for licensure as a psychologist must take and pass any examination required by the Board. Regulations were adopted to effectuate this statutory requirement for licensing examinations, establish eligibility criteria for each examination, and specify parameters for other examination-related processes. The required examinations are the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards' (ASPPB) Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and the California Psychology Laws and Ethics Examination (CPLEE).

This bill allows an applicant for licensure who has completed all academic coursework required for a qualifying doctoral degree to take either the EPPP or the CPLEE, or both examinations. This bill also requires the Board to implement an additional process to verify eligibility requirements if they are beyond the completion of academic coursework that are imposed by a national licensing examination entity, as specified.

This bill will change the structure of existing eligibility criteria and other examination-related processes, as specified in regulations. Amendments to existing regulations are necessary to effectuate these new criteria and efforts on a regulatory package are already underway.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board is aiming for the regulatory amendments to be approved by the Office of Administrative Law in the fourth quarter of 2025 and to implement the new criteria as required by this bill on January 1, 2026.



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**AB 665 (Carrillo, Chapter 338, Statutes of 2023)—
Minors: Consent to Mental Health Services
OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: July 1, 2024**

AB 665 (Carrillo, Chapter 338, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 7, 2023, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

Existing law authorizes a minor who is 12 years of age or older to consent to mental health treatment or counseling on an outpatient basis, or to residential shelter services, if the minor is mature enough to participate intelligently in the outpatient services or residential shelter services, and either the minor would present a danger of serious physical or mental harm to themselves or to others or if the minor is the alleged victim of incest or child abuse. For other purposes, current law authorizes a minor who is 12 years of age or older to consent to mental health treatment or counseling services if the minor is mature enough to participate intelligently in the outpatient services or counseling services.

This bill would align the existing laws by removing the additional requirement that, in order to consent to mental health treatment or counseling on an outpatient basis, or to residential shelter services, the minor must present a danger of serious physical or mental harm to themselves or to others, or be the alleged victim of incest or child abuse.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board does not have any implementation activities associated with AB 665.

**AB 883 (Mathis, Chapter 348, Statutes of 2023)
Business licenses: United States Department
of Defense SkillBridge program.
OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: July 1, 2024**

AB 883 (Mathis, Chapter 348, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 7, 2023, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

Existing law requires the Board to expedite and assist in the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the Board that the applicant has served as an active-duty member

of the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged. Existing law authorizes the Board to adopt regulations necessary to administer those provisions.

This bill would additionally require, on and after July 1, 2024, the Board to expedite and assist in the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the Board that the applicant is an active duty the armed forces of the United States and is enrolled in the United States Department of Defense SkillBridge Program.

The U.S. Department of Defense Skillbridge Program allows active-duty service members to gain civilian experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of service.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board will be updating the website and appropriate applications to inquire whether applicants are Skillbridge Program participants as the new requirements become effective on July 1, 2025.

**SB 331 (Rubio, Chapter 865, Statutes of 2023)—
Child Custody: Child Abuse and Safety
OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: January 1, 2024**

SB 331 (Rubio, Chapter 865, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 13, 2023, and became effective on January 1, 2024.

Existing law requires the court to determine the best interests of the child based on certain factors, including the nature and amount of contact with both parents and, consistent with specified findings, requires the court's primary concern to be the health, safety, and welfare of the child, and authorizes the court, upon making certain findings, to require the parent or parents, or any other party involved in a custody or visitation dispute, and the minor child to participate in outpatient counseling, as specified.

Existing law requires the Judicial Council to establish judicial training programs for individuals who perform duties in domestic violence matters. The training programs to include a domestic violence session

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in any orientation session for newly appointed or elected judges, and an annual training session in domestic violence.

This bill would prohibit the court from ordering family reunification treatments, programs, or services, including, but not limited to, camps, workshops, therapeutic vacations, or educational programs that, as a condition of enrollment or participation, require or result in, among other things, the use of private youth transporters or private transportation agents, as specified, a no-contact order, or a transfer of physical or legal custody of the child.

In addition, this bill would require the Judicial Council to establish judicial training programs for individuals, including judicial officers and referees, who perform duties in domestic violence or child custody matters, including, among other topics, child sexual abuse and coercive control, as specified. The bill would require the Judicial Council to submit an annual report on these training programs, commencing on or before January 1, 2025, to the Legislature and relevant policy committees, that includes the titles of the training courses being offered and the number of judicial officers that attended each training.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board does not have any implementation activities associated with SB 331.

**SB 372 (Menjivar, Chapter 225, Statutes of 2023)—
California Department of Consumer Affairs:
Licensee and Registrant Records:
Name and Gender Changes
OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION:
January 1, 2024**

SB 372 (Menjivar, Chapter 225, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 23, 2023, and became effective on January 1, 2024.

This bill adds section 27.5 to the Business and Professions Code and does the following:

1) The Board of Psychology, upon request by the licensee or registrant, shall update the individual's license or registration by replacing references to the

former name or gender on the license or registration, as applicable, with references to the current name or gender.

2) The Board shall replace references to the licensee's or registrant's former name or gender with the individual's current name or gender, as applicable, on the publicly viewable information displayed on the internet about the licensee or registrant. The licensee's or registrant's former name or gender, as applicable, shall not be published online.

3) For individuals previously subject to an enforcement action, the Board shall not post enforcement records online, but shall instead post online a statement stating that the individual previously was subject to enforcement action and directing the public to contact the Board for more information about the licensee's or registrant's prior enforcement action.

4) If requested by the licensee or registrant, the Board shall reissue the license with an updated legal name or gender, but shall not charge a higher fee for doing so than it would for reissuing the license with other updated information.

All records related to a request by a licensee or registrant for the Board to update the individual's license or registration pursuant to this section are confidential and not subject to public inspection or disclosure.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board has implemented the required activities associated with SB 372.

**SB 544 (Laird, Chapter 216, Statutes of 2023)—
Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing
OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: January 1, 2024**

SB 544 (Laird, Chapter 216, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 22, 2023, and became effective on January 1, 2024.

Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public, and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of



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a state body. The act authorizes meetings through teleconference subject to specified requirements, including, among others, that the state body post agendas at all teleconference locations, that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that the agenda provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly at each teleconference location, and that at least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

The bill would require at least one member of the state body to be physically present at each teleconference location that is accessible to the public. The bill would also authorize a member of the state body to participate from a remote location, which would not be required to be accessible to the public and not required to be disclosed on the notice and agenda. Additionally, the bill would require a member who participates from a remote location to disclose whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member and the general nature of the member's relationship with those individuals, and require the members of the state body to visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform unless the appearance would be technologically impracticable and require a member who does not appear on camera due to challenges with internet connectivity to announce the reason for their nonappearance.

This bill would also require the state body to provide a means by which the public may remotely hear audio of the meeting, remotely observe the meeting, remotely address the body, or attend the meeting by providing on the posted agenda a teleconference telephone number, an internet website or other online platform, and a physical address for each teleconference location. The bill would require the telephonic or online means provided to the public to access the meeting to be equivalent to the telephonic or online means provided to a member of the state body participating remotely. The bill would require any notice required by the act to

specify the applicable teleconference telephone number, internet website or other online platform, and physical address of each teleconference location, as well as any other information indicating how the public can access the meeting remotely and in person. If the state body allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically, the bill would require the state body to implement and advertise, as prescribed, a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from individuals with disabilities, as specified. The bill would impose requirements consistent with the above-described existing law provisions, including a requirement that the agenda provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly, as specified. The bill would entitle members of the public to exercise their right to directly address the state body during the teleconferenced meeting without being required to submit public comments before the meeting or in writing.

Lastly, the bill would require the state body, upon discovering that a means of remote participation required by the bill has failed during the meeting and cannot be restored, to end or adjourn the meeting in accordance with prescribed adjournment and notice provisions, including information about reconvening.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board has implemented the required activities associated with SB 544.

SB 805 (Portantino, Chapter 635, Statutes of 2023)—Health Care Coverage: Pervasive Development Disorders or Autism **OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: January 1, 2024**

SB 805 (Portantino, Chapter 635, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 8, 2023, and became effective on January 1, 2024.

Existing law, requires a health care service plan contract or a health insurance policy to provide coverage for behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism, and defines "behavioral health treatment" to mean specified services and treatment programs, including

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treatment provided pursuant to a treatment plan that is prescribed by a qualified autism service provider and administered either by a qualified autism service provider or by a qualified autism service professional or qualified autism service paraprofessional who is supervised as specified.

This bill expands the criteria for a Qualified Autism Service professional to include a behavioral health professional, a psychology associate, an associate marriage and family therapist, an associate clinical social worker, or an associate professional clinical counselor, as defined and regulated by the Board of Behavioral Sciences or the Board of Psychology. The bill would also expand the criteria for a Qualified Autism Service paraprofessional to include a behavioral health paraprofessional.

The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) would be required to adopt emergency regulations to address the use of behavioral health professionals and behavioral health paraprofessionals in behavioral intervention services. The bill would require DDS to establish the educational or experience qualifications and professional supervision requirements necessary for these positions to provide behavioral intervention services other than applied behavior analysis (ABA).

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board does not have any implementation activities associated with SB 805.

**SB 815 (Roth, Chapter 294, Statutes of 2023)—He
OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: January 1, 2025**

SB 815 (Roth, Chapter 294, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 30, 2023, and becomes effective on January 1, 2025.

This bill extends the sunset date for the Medical Board of California and impacts the Board of Psychology in the following ways:

1) Commencing January 1, 2025, SB 815 transfers the administration and enforcement duties relating to the registration of research psychoanalysts from the Medical Board of California to the Board of Psychology.

2) Under existing law, each person to whom a research psychoanalyst registration is granted must pay specified fees into the Contingent Fund of the Medical Board of California. This bill requires that all moneys collected into this Contingent Fund be deposited into the Psychology Fund.

3) This bill requires a student/registrant to pay into the Psychology Fund those fees fixed by the Board.

CURRENT FEES:

Application Processing Fee	\$150
Fingerprint Processing Fee	\$49
Renewal Fee (biennial)	\$75
Delinquent Renewal Fee	\$25

4) This bill authorizes the Board to employ whatever additional clerical assistance is necessary for the administration and enforcement of the Psychology Law as it relates to research psychoanalyst registrants.

Costs to the Board of Psychology would be received through moneys paid into the Psychology Fund by students/registrants to the program.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board will have implementation activities associated with SB 815, which will include collaboration with the Medical Board of California.

**SB 816 (Roth, Chapter 723, Statutes of 2023)—
Professions and Vocations
OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: January 1, 2024**

SB 816 (Roth, Chapter 723, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 10, 2023, and became effective on January 1, 2024.

The Psychology Licensing Law imposes various fees on applicants for licensure and on licensees, including an application fee for registration as a psychologist, a biennial renewal fee for registration as a psychologist, an initial psychologist licensing fee, an application fee for registration as a psychological associate, an annual renewal fee for registration of a psychological associate, and a

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delinquency fee. There is also a separate biennial fee paid by licensed psychologists who hold an inactive license.

1) SB 816 establishes an application fee in the amount of \$127 for the California Psychology Law and Ethics Examination and a fee in the amount of \$184 for Fingerprint Hard Card Processing for Out-of-State Applicants.

2) SB 816 increases fees as shown in this table:

FEE TYPE*	CURRENT FEE	NEW FEE
Psychologist—Application	\$50	\$236
CPLÉE—Application	\$235.20	\$127
Out-of-State Fingerprint Hard Card	-	\$184
Psychologist—Initial	\$500	\$231
Psychologist—Renewal	\$530 (biennial)	\$825 (biennial)
Psychologist—Inactive	\$60 (biennial)	\$241 (biennial)
Psychologist—Renewal Delinquency Fee	\$150	\$397.50
Psychologist—Inactive Renewal—Delinquency	\$20	\$110.50
Psychological Associate—Application	\$75	\$424
Psychological Associate—Renewal	\$75 (annual)	\$224
Psychological Associate—Add/Change Supervisor	-	\$210
Psychological Associate—Renewal Delinquency Fee	\$37.50	\$112

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board has implemented the required activities associated with SB 816.

SB 887 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, Chapter 510, Statutes of 2023)—Consumer Affairs

**OPERATIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION:
January 1, 2024**

SB 887 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, Chapter 510, Statutes of 2023) was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 8, 2023, and became effective on January 1, 2024.

Existing law requires the California Department of Consumer Affairs to compile an annual report for the Legislature containing specified information relating to the professional licensure of veterans, service members, and their spouses from each calendar year.

This bill would instead require the report to contain specified information relating to the professional licensure of military members, military spouses, and honorably discharged military members from each fiscal year. The bill would make corrections and other conforming changes to those provisions.

Under the Psychology Licensing Law, an applicant for licensure as a psychologist must demonstrate to the Board of Psychology that they have completed specified training on suicide risk assessment and intervention and on aging and long-term care by submitting written verification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated, except as specified.

This bill would also allow an applicant to show completion of that training by submitting a transcript to the Board indicating completion of the coursework and would allow the department chair to act as an additional entity who could provide written certification for convenience for applicants, in cases where the course title did not adequately indicate the coursework that was completed.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board has implemented the required activities associated with SB 887.



Explanation of Disciplinary Language and Actions

Gross negligence: An extreme departure from the standard of care.

Incompetence: Lack of knowledge or skills in discharging professional obligations.

Public letter of reproof: Formal discipline that consists of a reprimand of a licensee that is a matter of public record for conduct in violation of the law.

Accusation: A formal, written statement of charges.

Stipulated settlement of decision: The case is formally negotiated and settled prior to hearing.

Surrender: To resolve a disciplinary action, the licensee has given up his or her license, subject to acceptance by the Board of Psychology.

Suspension from practice: The licensee is prohibited from practicing or offering to provide psychological services during the term of suspension.

Revoked: The right to practice has ended due to disciplinary action.

Revocation stayed, probation with terms and conditions: “Stayed” means the revocation is postponed. Professional practice may continue so long as the licensee complies with specific probationary terms and conditions. Violation of any term of probation may result in the revocation that was postponed.





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Administrative Citations

September 31, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Sarwat B. Waraich, Psy.D.

Psychology License PSY 19573, Brea

On October 17, 2023, the Board issued a citation containing a fine in the amount of \$1,500.00 for failing to submit a required drug and alcohol test, a term and condition of probation.

Lori Lubin

Unlicensed, Carlsbad

On October 17, 2023, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and fine in the amount of \$2,500.00 for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology, presenting herself as a licensed psychologist under a different identity, and seeking mental health records under the false identity, operating outside the field of competence of her education, training, and experience.

Jeffrey Schmidt, Ph.D.

Psychology License PSY 20529, San Diego

On November 14, 2023, the Board issued a citation containing a fine in the amount of \$500.00 for failing to check in for a drug and alcohol test, a term and condition of probation.

Gary M. Harvey-Freedman, Ph.D.

Psychology License PSY 11419, Seal Beach

On December 19, 2023, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00 for failing to respond to a Board inquiry and failing to cooperate with a Board investigation.

Disciplinary Actions:

September 31, 2023 to December 31, 2023

SURRENDER

Emily Hartley, Psy. D.

Psychologist License PSY 20900, Woodland

Dr. Hartley stipulated to the surrender of Psychology License 20900 after the Board filed an accusation, which alleged that Respondent violated section 2960, subdivision (o), by engaging in sexual relations with a patient or former patient within two years of terminating therapy. Additionally, they are accused of violating ethical conduct standards related to sexual relations with a patient or former patient, as outlined in sections 2936 and subdivisions (i) and (k). Furthermore, the Respondent is alleged to have committed dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent acts, as per section 2936 and subdivision (n), by misleading Board investigators regarding a personal and sexual relationship with Confidential Client. Lastly, they are also accused of failing to adhere to the ethical standards set for the practice of psychology, violating sections 2936 and subdivisions (i) and (k), as established by the Psychology Licensing Law and its accompanying regulations. The Decision and Order took effect on December 7, 2023.

PROBATION

Shelley Osborn, Psy. D.

Psychologist License PSY 28074, Los Angeles

Dr. Shelley N. Osborn Stipulated to placing Psychologist License No. PSY 28074 on probation for three (3) years subject to its revocation if the Respondent fails to comply with the terms and conditions of probation after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged Dr. Osborn was arrested on August 22, 2021, for PC 460(a) - Burglary: first degree, and PC 594(b)(1) - vandalism. The Decision and Order took effect on December 7, 2023.



Board Members

Lea Tate, Psy.D. (President)
 Shacunda Rodgers, Ph.D. (Vice President)
 Sheryll Casuga, Psy.D., CMPC
 Marisela Cervantes, Ed.D., MPA
 Seyron Foo
 Mary Harb Sheets, Ph.D.
 Julie Nystrom
 Stephen Phillips, J.D., Psy.D.
 Ana Rescate

2024 Meeting Calendar

BOARD MEETINGS

February 29–March 1
 May 10
 August 16
 November 7–8

COMMITTEES

Licensure Committee Meeting

July 19

Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee

April 12
 June 14

Outreach and Communications Committee Meeting

September 27

Research Psychoanalyst Ad Hoc Committee

September 13

