

Journal

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

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President's Message



SEYRON FOO, PRESIDENT

Seyron Foo, Board of Psychology

Happy New Year! As we continue to confront the realities of the pandemic, Board of Psychology members and staff remain vigilant in advancing our mission to protect consumers of psychological services by licensing psychologists, regulating the practice of psychology, and supporting the evolution of the profession.

I want to take the opportunity to welcome Julie Nystrom, who joins the Board as an appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins. Ms. Nystrom brings to the Board deep expertise in legislative and regulatory affairs, drawing from her two-decade experience working in the California Legislature. She is the principal consultant for Senator Scott Wilk, vice chair of the Senate Rules Committee. In that capacity, she advises members and staff on gubernatorial appointments, parliamentary procedure, and the legislative process.

A lifelong Californian, Ms. Nystrom was born, raised, and resides in El Dorado County with her husband and two children. She is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento, with a degree in government. She started her legislative career as an intern, and over the years she has served in a variety of legislative positions, including scheduler, field representative, and legislative director. We are absolutely delighted to welcome Ms. Nystrom, who attended her first Board meeting in November.

Reflecting our mission, at our November Board meeting, we took action on several key issues. These include the re-activation of the Telepsychology Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Dr. Stephen Phillips, Board president emeritus. The Committee will review the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT), an interstate compact designed to facilitate the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries. This process begins a thorough study of PSYPACT, which should culminate in policy recommendations to the Board by the end of this year. Ms. Nystrom and Dr. Lea Tate join Dr. Phillips on the Committee.

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The Board also made significant progress on two regulations related to continuing professional development, formerly known as continuing education, and telepsychology. With an eye toward the future for building resiliency for the Board's operations, the Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee Report, led by Ms. Marisela Cervantes and joined by Dr. Shacunda Rodgers, made recommendations upon which the Board took action. We are excited to share with you these changes and encourage you to visit the Board's website and look for additional updates in future newsletters.

We typically sign off this message with gratitude to our Board staff who move us closer to achieving the Board's vision of a healthy California where our diverse communities enjoy the benefits of the highest standard of psychological services. It is only appropriate then, that we acknowledge the life and contributions of former Assistant Executive Officer Jeffrey Thomas, who passed away last year. His 33 years of service to the people of California and the Board of Psychology left an indelible legacy. He was a treasure to the Board, and we miss him dearly.

Accessing Tenderness During Tough Times

By Shacunda Rodgers, Ph.D., Board Member, Board of Psychology

This has been an emotional rollercoaster of a year, filled with calamitous twists and turns that we never could have anticipated in our wildest dreams—or nightmares. We've been forced to contend with a number of catastrophic stressors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the calls for racial justice and rooting out systemic racial oppression, the raging wildfires across California, the turmoil at the center of our political system, and the future of our democracy. We have found ourselves in turbulent, uncharted waters in this moment in history, facing a perfect storm of intersecting crises: public health, economic decline, racism, climate change, and political division. We're also grappling with grief and loss of massive proportion—from the number of people we've lost to COVID-19, to the loss of our general, day-to-day "normal way of life." It's hard to let go of what we've always known, especially when we're not quite sure about what awaits us ahead. In his book, *The Five Invitations*, Frank Ostaseski says, "Letting go is an entry into unknown territory. Grief is the toll that we pay. Tears are the fluids that ease the release."

Mindfulness practice teaches about the concept of impermanence, the idea that life is changing every single moment, whether the changes are subtle and imperceptible, or stark and unexpected. We have all been awakened from our slumber by the multiple challenges issued forth by 2020, which begs many

questions: How do we adapt? Where do we go from here? What is being asked of us? The larger, more philosophical questions also echo around us: How do we respond to the challenges in ways that are wise and compassionate? How can we arrive and meet this moment fully, honoring ourselves and others, while also tending to our needs effectively? When at a crossroads, I always return to the basics, which, for me, are connecting with the following: breath, body, head, heart, community. It's a gentle way of offering some tenderness to counterbalance the toughness of these times:

The breath—With the pandemic and the smoke from the wildfires—both of which can literally rob us of our breath—centering our attention on the inflow and outflow, the inhale and exhale of the breath, the rising and falling of the chest, can be a grounding practice that brings us back to the present moment. The fact that we are breathing is a gentle, ever-present reminder that we are here, we are alive, and that there is still work to be done.

The body—Taking care of ourselves physically is also necessary for our overall wellbeing. Now, more than ever, is the time for us to make sure we're getting adequate rest and sleep, eating nourishing foods, and moving our bodies daily through gentle stretching, walking, running, or more vigorous exercise. It helps discharge any tension we may be

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holding, even if we're not consciously aware of all that we are carrying with us. A question that always helps me is, what does my body need right now to feel deeply restored?

The head—What's the narrative/story we are telling ourselves about the state of the world and our place in it? Does the story afford us the spaciousness to respond to our circumstances, or constrict our perspective and create tension that we're reacting to instead? There's a world of difference between these two ways of relating to our experience. A phrase that helps me figure out which side I'm on is this: "Awareness knows what's happening. Wisdom knows what to do." Reacting interferes with our capacity to access our wisdom. Waiting gives room for wisdom to make itself known and creates the path for responding.

The heart—Checking in with our emotional interior can be especially useful in accessing the feelings that may be present, and I trust that we're all holding a myriad of them. The AWE practice, which is asking "And what else?" is a quick way of increasing our awareness, allowing ourselves to be with our

experience just as it is, and gives us access to any emotions that may be just beneath the surface. I will continue asking "And what else?" until I've acknowledged and honored every emotion present, which makes it easier to embrace the painful, more aversive ones.

Connecting with community—Although we've been sent to our rooms literally and metaphorically, that doesn't mean we have to ride these waves in isolation. Finding ways of connecting with our systems of support reminds us that we're all in this boat of adaptation together. And community is where we can be nourished, resourced, and held—which can offer a buffer against the hard edges and continuous disruptions that 2020 has thrown our way.

It is my hope that you all are finding your way through these uncertain and wildly unpredictable times, that these tips help bring about a little more ease on your journey and supports that resilience that we all already possess. May you each be safe, well, and held in compassion until the waters eventually steady.





Examinations During a Pandemic

*By Lavinia Snyder, Examination Coordinator,
Board of Psychology*

The pandemic has impacted everyone's lives. The Board is no exception, especially for our exam candidates. Our exam administrators adapted our exam practices to be in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines to ensure the health and safety of our candidates and to ensure exam continuity. Below are some reminders when exam candidates visit testing facilities:

Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP)

Pearson Vue is still operating at 50% capacity. Exam date availability is limited as a result of physical distancing guidelines and government guidance. Pearson Vue has added 40 additional third-party test centers in the United States and in Canada to the network and have extended their work hours to be open nearly 24 hours a day, especially in high-demand areas. However, it is still very important that candidates plan in advance.

Pearson Vue has eliminated the 90-day completion window for taking the examination to assist with scheduling and rescheduling and has waived cancellation fees. Please note, no-shows or rescheduling/cancellation within 24 hours of the scheduled appointments will result in a loss of all exam fees paid.

The following health and safety measures have been put in place at Pearson VUE test centers.

- Physical distancing requirements (6 feet apart) at all testing facilities.
- Hand sanitizers available in the waiting area and prior to entering the testing room.

- Increased cleaning and disinfecting regimens in between all testing appointments.
- EPPP candidates must meet and acknowledge health requirements and follow health and safety guidelines while testing. Any candidates exhibiting symptoms (such as fever, cough, cold, etc.) will be asked to reschedule their exam.
- Candidates must bring their own face mask and the mask must always be worn. A surgical or cloth face mask, including a homemade face mask, is acceptable if the nose and mouth are fully covered. Face masks with exhalation valves and face shields are not acceptable. Candidates without a face mask will be denied testing services.
- Disposable gloves are allowed during testing. Test administrators inspect all gloves before and after the exam, and the gloves are disposed of in front of the proctor upon completion of the test.

For more detailed information on health and safety at test centers, visit:

- ASPPB's website at www.asppb.net.
- Pearson Vue's website at <https://home.pearsonvue.com>.

California Psychology Laws and Ethics Examination (CPLÉE)

As of September 1, 2020, CPLÉE exam vendor PSI was working at full capacity. However, seating availability has been reduced in certain test centers based on various local orders and guidelines. PSI continues to monitor and adhere to the latest safety procedures based on various state and local orders, CDC guidelines, and WHO recommendations. Safety protocols are displayed prominently throughout test centers.



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PSI has implemented the following health and safety protocols:

- a. Test centers will have hand sanitizers and antibacterial wipes available for use. PSI testing equipment will be wiped down thoroughly with antibacterial wipes after each use. High-touch areas, including but not limited to, keyboards, desktops, chair handles, check-in stations, door handles, and writing instruments, are sanitized after each use. For more information regarding PSI guidelines, please visit their website at www.psonline.com/important-notice-update-concerning-covid-19-coronavirus.
- b. Candidates who visit PSI testing facilities will receive a health questionnaire related to potential COVID-19 exposure via email upon scheduling their examination. Candidates are required to complete and bring the form to the PSI test center. Candidates who fail to provide the form will be required by the test center administrator to complete one upon arrival. Candidates who answer “yes” to any of the first four questions will

not be allowed to test and will have to reschedule their exam.

- c. Candidates are required to bring their own face mask to the test site. Face masks must be worn for the duration of the testing experience, except during the check-in process to verify identity and a quick photo. Candidates without a face mask will be turned away.
- d. Candidates can also wear disposable gloves for the duration of their test. Gloves will be examined during the check-in and check-out security process. Face masks and gloves must be discarded outside of the PSI test site in a safe and sanitary manner.

Candidates who have any further questions may reach the PSI support team at (877) 392-6422 or via email at examschedule@psonline.com. PSI staff have been inundated with calls and emails so please expect delays in responses. PSI highly recommends candidates utilize the self-service option at www.psonline.com/test-takers to locate available exams, schedule, and reschedule testing.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Seeks Proactive Solutions

By Marisela Cervantes, Chair, Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee, Board of Psychology

The novel coronavirus pandemic has created unprecedented challenges across state government. At the April 2020 meeting of the Board, the formation of an Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee was announced. The committee, to which Dr. Shacunda Rodgers and I belong, is charged with analyzing how Board policies and procedures have been affected by the pandemic. This proactive step has created the space to critically

examine operations more broadly as they relate to emergencies. It is the goal of the committee to learn and prepare recommendations to the Board that will support the Business Continuity Plan.

As the work of the committee progresses, we invite you to visit the Board website to stay informed about changes and updates related to COVID 19: www.psychology.ca.gov/covid/index.shtml.



How to Succeed in the Initial Application Process

By Stephanie Cheung, Licensing Manager, Board of Psychology

Some applicants have expressed concern whether initial applications for licensure and registration are being processed during this unusual time. Rest assured, we have been reviewing and processing applications and assisting applicants. While many applicants are eager to move forward with the process from obtaining eligibility for examinations to receiving their license number, we have some tips on the application process that we want to share.

Complete the Correct Form(s)

Psychologist licensure

The application for licensure as a psychologist is the first step to obtaining a license in California. Whether you are applying to obtain eligibility to take the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) or have already taken the EPPP in another jurisdiction and are now requesting to take the California Psychology Law and Ethics Exam (CPLÉE) via the CPLÉE request form, the application for licensure as a psychologist is necessary. Completing all responses to the questions asked on the application is a sure-fire strategy to prevent applications from being delayed.

Registrations

Since 2017, an individual can hold a single psychological assistant registration. If an individual applies for a registration but is going to be supervised by more than one primary supervisor, they must complete the Notification to Add or Change Supervisor or Service Location for a Psychological Assistant form PSB 101 with each additional supervisor. You will only need to submit the application fee once, as there is no fee attached to the notification for adding additional primary supervisor.

Submit All Necessary Supporting Documents at the Time of Application

Verification of experience

One common trend we see on deficient applications is missing verification of experience (VOE) when applying for psychologist licensure to be eligible for the licensure examinations. VOE is required to be completed by primary supervisors. It is provided to applicants in a signed and sealed envelope to be submitted along with the application after the primary supervisors signed across the seal of the envelope.

On the other hand, if you have not submitted an application for psychologist licensure yet, you should not mail your VOE to the Board. Any VOE received without the application on file will be returned to the supervisor.

Supervision agreement

The supervision agreement is a document to be completed prior to the beginning of the supervised professional experience. On page two of the supervision agreement form, responses to the three questions regarding the supervision plan are necessary to complete the supervision agreement.

If you are applying for licensure using experience accrued from a registration and the supervision agreement is already on file with the Board, you will not need to submit it again.

Any incomplete or missing supervision agreement is considered a deficiency for the application and would lead to processing delays or potential denial of relevant supervised professional experience.



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Official Transcripts

Official transcripts are to demonstrate applicants have successfully met the educational requirement for licensure or registrations. Please ensure a submitted transcript reflects the conferred degree to qualify for licensure or registrations. Transcripts without evidence of degree conferral will not be accepted. Official transcripts can be submitted to the Board in the following ways:

- Mailed directly from the educational institution to the Board.
- Submitted in an envelope that has been sealed and signed by the educational institution from the applicant along with the application.
- Emailed directly by the educational institution to boplicensing@dca.ca.gov.

Make Copies of Originals

Often, originals are required to be submitted to the Board along with the application. It is advisable to make copies of all originals should the originals be lost in the submission process or due to natural catastrophes. For example, the primary supervisor, the delegate supervisor, if any, and the trainee should each have a copy of the signed and dated supervision agreement that is completed prior to the beginning of the supervised professional experience. Back-up copies for the required weekly logs should be made available and accessible to both supervisors and trainees.

When to Contact the Board?

When an application is received by the Board, applicants will receive an acknowledgement email.

The processing begins with depositing any fees that are required for the application as specified. Applications and supporting materials submitted at the same time will be assigned to an analyst and organized into a queue, and then be processed according to the order in which they were received. Applicants should reference the application processing timeframes posted on the Board's website at www.psychology.ca.gov/applicants/licupdates.shtml. If an application was received on a date prior to the ones posted on the website, applicants may reach out to the Board to inquire regarding the status of the application. On the contrary, if an application was received after the date listed on the website, it is likely being queued up to be processed.

Please note that acknowledgement of receipt is limited to initial applications. The CPLEE request, request for initial licensure, and any subsequent supporting documents submitted, will be assigned to the processing queue directly upon receipt.

Though the above tips are always applicable, it is even more important to pay extra attention to these areas when there are more external factors that could cause potential delays to an application that are out of the Board's control. If you are already aware and have been putting the above tips into practice, it is cause for celebration and a reason to share experience with others in the application process.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the diligence and dedication of our Licensing staff. These individuals play a pivotal role in the Board's operation; they continue to review and process applications while assisting applicants to navigate the licensure and registration processes. Be well.



Continuing Education Waiver and Requirements

By Liezel McCockran, Continuing Education and Renewals Coordinator, Board of Psychology

Licensees who have a license that expired between March 31 and October 31, 2020, will have until April 22, 2021, to complete all renewal-related continuing education requirements (36 hours, with nine of those hours live or live-interactive). This additional time is provided as part of Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) waiver DCA-20-69, waiving license renewal requirements, which allows for six months from the October 22, 2020, issuance date of the waiver to complete the continuing education requirements. During these unprecedented times, there is a possibility that waivers may be extended. For more information on DCA waivers and updates, go to www.psychology.ca.gov/applicants/covid_19.shtml.

The completion of nine live hours is still required to renew. You may fulfill the live requirement by taking live webinars. Webinars in which there is interaction with the instructor in real time (via instant messaging, for example), are considered live. Upon the first renewal after January 1, 2020, a licensee will be required to attest on the renewal form to meeting a one-time, six-hour suicide risk assessment and intervention coursework or applied experience requirement. Visit the Board's website for more information regarding continuing education requirements at www.psychology.ca.gov/licensees/ce_faqs.shtml.

Documentation is not required to be sent to the Board once the continuing education requirements

are met. Please keep records of your certificates of completion for a minimum of four years or two renewal cycles. You will only be required to furnish continuing education documentation to the Board if you are randomly selected for an audit. Continuing education audits are still being conducted during this time. Here are some guidelines to help you pass an audit:

- Obtain the required 36 hours of continuing education within each renewal period. Excess hours cannot be carried over to the following renewal cycle.
- Ensure that the course meets all of the continuing education requirements.
 - Courses must be approved by APA, CPA, CMA, or ACCME. AMA PRA Category 1 credits are also acceptable.
 - Courses less than one hour will not be accepted.
- Maintain a current address of record to ensure you will receive correspondence from the Board.
- Submit certificates of completion that include all necessary information.
- Send the requested documents on time.





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.



Disciplinary Actions:

July 1 to September 30, 2020

SURRENDER

Lawrence Alan Kutner, Ph.D.

Psychologist License No. PSY 15018, San Carlos

Dr. Kutner stipulated to the surrender of his license after an accusation was filed alleging he was grossly negligent, violated the rules of professional conduct, and functioned outside his field of competence when he assessed a minor and made recommendations regarding the custody of the minor. The order took effect September 5.

REVOCAION

Darren McDonough, Psy.D.

Psychologist License No. PSY 18033, Glendora

Dr. McDonough's license was revoked after a default decision was entered following the filing of an accusation, which alleged that he failed to provide proof of completion of continuing education attendance certificates to the Board upon request after being selected for a random audit. Dr. McDonough failed to respond in any way to the accusation. The default decision and order took effect August 20, 2020.

PUBLIC LETTER OF REPROVAL

Lea Queen, Psy.D.

Psychologist License No. PSY 24787, Boonville

Dr. Queen stipulated to the issuance of a public letter of reproof against her license, with terms, after an accusation was filed that alleged she violated the regulations duly adopted when she failed to provide proof of completion of continuing education attendance certificates to the Board upon request for an audit. The order took effect July 10.

Tracy A. Williamson, Ph.D.

Psychologist License No. PSY 18060, Newport Beach

Dr. Williamson stipulated to the issuance of a public letter of reproof against her license, with terms, after an accusation was filed that alleged she violated the regulations duly adopted when she failed to provide proof of completion of continuing education attendance certificates to the Board upon request for an audit, as well as when she failed to report to the Board a change of address within 30 days. The order took effect July 25.

Esther Ehrensaft, Ph.D.

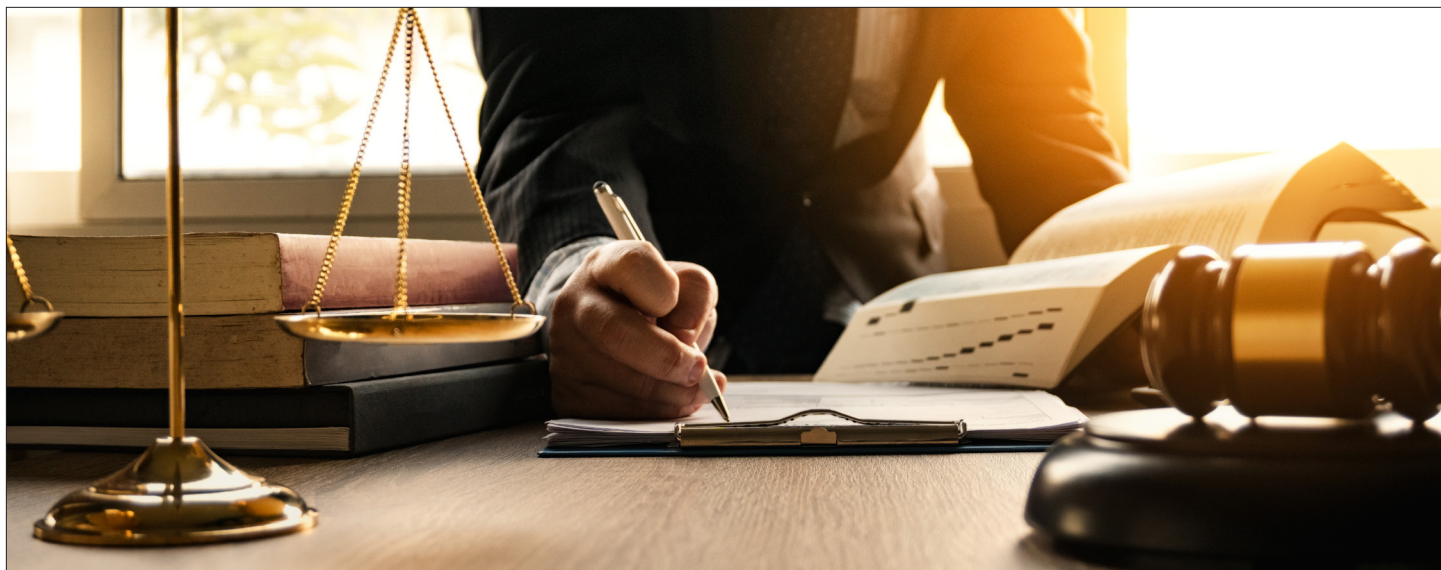
Psychologist License No. PSY 19615, San Francisco

Dr. Ehrensaft stipulated to the issuance of a public letter of reproof against her license, with terms, after an accusation was filed that alleged she violated the regulations duly adopted when she failed to provide proof of completion of continuing education attendance certificates to the Board upon request for an audit, as well as misrepresented the type or status of license she held, engaged in the unlicensed practice of psychology while her license was expired, and failed to report to the Board a change of address within 30 days. The order took effect August 15.

Dani Levine, Ph.D.

Psychologist License No. PSY 15573, Tarzana

Dr. Levine stipulated to the issuance of a public letter of reproof against her license, with terms, after an accusation was filed that alleged she violated the regulations duly adopted when she failed to provide proof of completion of continuing education attendance certificates to the Board upon request for an audit. The order took effect September 6.



Regulatory Update

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

Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 1391.1, 1391.2, 1391.5, 1391.6, 1391.8, 1391.10, 1391.11, 1391.12, 1392.1—Psychological Assistants

Status: Initial Review Phase. This phase includes reviews by the Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency before formal Notice of Public Hearing with the Office of Administrative Law.

This regulatory package does the following:

Conforms the CCR to statutory changes made in Senate Bill 1193 (Hill, Chapter 484, Statutes of 2016), which requires psychological assistants to obtain a single registration with the Board, to be renewed annually. This registration will be independent from their supervisor(s) or employer(s) but does not remove the requirement that psychological assistants practice only under supervision. Additionally, the proposed regulatory language is to avoid duplication as to who pays the psychological assistant registration fee, as this is already specified in statute.

Title 16, CCR section 1396.8—Standards of Practice for Telehealth

Status: This package was delivered to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on August 4, 2020, and was in the Notice Register published on August 14, 2020. The comment period ended on September 29, 2020, and a hearing was held on September 30, 2020. The comments will be considered at the November 2020 Board meeting.

This regulatory package does the following:

Establishes standards of practice for telehealth by licensed California psychologists and psychology trainees to an originating site in the state, to a patient or client who is a resident of California who is temporarily located outside of the state, and to clients or patients who initiate psychological health care services while in the state, but who may not be a resident of this state, to improve access to psychological care for underserved populations, and to support clients or patients between regularly scheduled office visits or while they are temporarily located outside of the state.

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Title 16, CCR sections 1381.9, 1397.60, 1397.61, 1397.62, 1397.67—Continuing Professional Development

Status: This package was delivered to OAL on September 22, 2020, and was in the Notice Register published on October 2, 2020. The comment period will end on November 17, 2020, and the Board will hold a hearing at the November 2020 Board meeting.

This regulatory package does the following:

Changes the continuing education guidelines and requirements that must be completed by licensed psychologists from the continuing education model to the broader continuing professional development model.

Title 16, CCR sections 1381.9, 1381.10, 1392—Retired License, Renewal of Expired License, Psychologist Fees

Status: Initial Review Phase. This phase includes reviews by the Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency before formal Notice of Public Hearing with OAL.

This regulatory package does the following:

Adopts section 1381.10 in Division 13.1 in the California Board of Psychology's regulations and be titled "Retired Status." This proposal would allow a licensee to apply to have their license placed in a retired status

Title 16, CCR sections 1394, 1395, 1395.1, 1392—Substantial Relationship Criteria, Rehabilitation Criteria for Denials and Reinstatements, Rehabilitation Criteria for Suspensions and Revocations

Status: Board staff submitted the final package to OAL on August 27, 2020, and are awaiting its review.

This regulatory package does the following:

Brings the Board into compliance with the upcoming changes to the law and, to the extent possible, maintains adequate consumer protections by

ensuring Board licensees are fit to practice independently with potentially vulnerable consumer populations.

Legislative Update

For up-to-date bill status information, visit our website at www.psychology.ca.gov/laws_regs/legislation.shtml.

SPONSORED LEGISLATION

SB 275 (Pan)—Psychologist: prohibition against sexual behavior

This bill was amended on June 17, 2020, and now relates to the Health Care and Essential Workers Protection Act: personal protective equipment.

LEGISLATION WITH ACTIVE POSITIONS

Chaptered

AB 1145 (Garcia, Christina)—Child abuse: reportable conduct

For the purposes of the Child Abuse Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA), this bill revises the definition of sexual assault to no longer include any acts under Penal Code sections 286 (sodomy), 287 or former section 288a (oral copulation), and Section 289 (sexual penetration), if committed voluntarily and if there are no indicators of abuse, unless the conduct is between a person 21 years of age or older and a minor who is under 16 years of age. This bill was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 26, 2020.

Board Position: Support

AB 2112 (Ramos)—Suicide prevention

This bill would authorize the State Department of Public Health to establish the Office of Suicide Prevention within the department and would specify authorized responsibilities of the office if established, including, among other things, providing strategic guidance to statewide and regional partners regarding best practices on suicide prevention and

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reporting to the Legislature on progress to reduce rates of suicide. The bill would authorize the office to apply for and use federal grants. This bill was signed into law by the governor on September 25, 2020.

Board Position: Support

AB 2253 (Low)—Professional licensure

This bill would clarify that experience that constitutes qualifying experience for licensure or experience required for licensure, as applicable, is determined by reference to the act regulating the profession. This bill was signed into law by the governor on September 29, 2020.

Board Position: Support

SB 1474 (Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee)

Relative to the Board of Psychology, existing law provides for the January 1, 2021, repeal of provisions creating the Board of Psychology.

This bill would extend the operation of those provisions to January 1, 2022, and make conforming changes relating to the appointment of an executive officer, as applicable. This bill was signed into law by the governor on September 29, 2020.

Board Position: Support

Vetoed

AB 2360 (Mainschein)—Telehealth: mental health.

This bill would require health care service plans and health insurers, by January 1, 2021, to establish a telehealth consultation program that provides providers who treat children and pregnant and postpartum persons with access to a psychiatrist, as specified, in order to more quickly diagnose and treat children and pregnant and postpartum persons suffering from mental illness. The bill would require the consultation to be done by phone or telehealth video, and would authorize the consultation to include guidance on providing triage services and referrals to evidence-based treatment options, including psychotherapy. The bill would require health care service plans and insurers to communicate information relating to the telehealth program at least twice a year in writing. The bill would require health care service plans and health insurers to maintain records and data pertaining to the utilization of the program and the availability of psychiatrists to facilitate ongoing changes and improvements, as necessary. The bill would exempt certain specialized health care service plans and health insurers from these provisions. This bill was vetoed by the governor on September 26, 2020.

Board Position: Support

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Failed Passage

SB 53 (Wilk)—Open meetings

This bill would have modified the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to require two-member advisory committees of a “state body” to hold open, public meetings if at least one member of the advisory committee is a member of the larger state body, and the advisory committee is supported, in whole or in part, by funds provided by the state body.

Board Position: Oppose

SB 66 (Atkins)—Medi-Cal: federally qualified health center and rural health clinic services

This bill would have allowed Medi-Cal reimbursement for a patient receiving both medical and mental health services at a federally qualified health center or rural health clinic on the same day.

Board Position: Support

AB 1263 (Low)—Contracts: consumer services: consumer complaints

This bill would have prohibited a contract or proposed contract involving the provision of a consumer service by a licensee regulated by a licensing board from including a provision limiting the consumer’s ability to file a complaint with that board or to participate in the board’s investigation into the licensee. The bill would specify that a waiver of these provisions is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable. The bill would provide that a violation of these provisions by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct subject to discipline by the licensee’s regulatory board. This language was added to SB 1474, which was signed as described above.

Board Position: Support

AB 2028 (Aguilar-Curry)—State agencies: meetings

This bill would have, except for closed sessions, required that meetings noticed pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act include all writings or materials provided for the noticed meeting to

a member of the state body by staff of a state agency, board, or commission, or another member of the state body, who are in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at the meeting. The bill would have prescribed requirements to be satisfied for these writings or materials to be distributed or discussed. The bill would have generally required that these writings and materials be made available on the body’s website no later than the first business day after they are provided to members of the state body or at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, whichever is earlier, and to be provided immediately upon written request. If the writings or materials are provided to the members of the state body by another state body after this 48-hour deadline, the bill would have required that they be posted on the body’s website no later than the first business day, but prior to the meeting of the state body, following the dissemination of the writings and materials to the members of the state body, and made available immediately upon written request. The bill would have excepted writings or materials relating to matters to be discussed in a closed session and state financial materials, as defined, that put the treasurer at a competitive disadvantage in financial transactions from its requirements. The bill would have authorized a state body to post and provide additional time-sensitive materials related to certain active legislation, as specified, and changing financial market conditions as they become available, as specified. Upon receipt of a written request, the bill would have required that these writings or materials be provided immediately.

Board Position: Oppose

AB 2630 (Flora)—Criminal history information: subsequent arrest notification

This bill would have provided that the California Department of Justice is authorized to submit fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), where they will be retained for the purpose of being searched against future submissions to the FBI, as specified. This bill would have authorized the department to search latent fingerprint images against all retained fingerprint submissions. This bill would also have authorized the department to collect

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fees for federal subsequent notification services and remit the fees to the FBI.

Board Position: Support

AB 2704 (Ting)—Healing arts: licensees: data collection

This bill would have required all boards that oversee healing arts licensees to collect at the time of electronic application for a license and license renewal, or at least biennially, specified demographic information and to post the information on the websites that they each maintain. The bill would also have required each board, or the Department of Consumer Affairs on its behalf, beginning on July 1, 2021, to provide the information annually to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The bill would have required these boards to maintain the confidentiality of the information they receive from licensees and to only release information in aggregate form.

Board Position: Support

AB 3045 (Gray)—Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses

This bill would have required boards not subject to the temporary licensing provisions in Business and

Professions Code section 115.6 to issue licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. armed forces or is married to or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with an active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces. The bill would have required an application for a license to include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all requirements for a license.

Board Position: Oppose



Board Members

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

2021 Meeting Calendar

BOARD

February 18–19	Webex
May 21	Webex
August 27	Webex
November 18–19	Sacramento

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 26	Webex
June 11	Webex

LICENSURE COMMITTEE

January 7	Webex
July 16	Webex

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

September 21	Webex
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