

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
School Specialist Task Force Meeting
MEETING MINUTES: *September 6, 2013*
Approved: October 11, 2013

The third meeting of the School Specialist Task Force established by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board) was called to order by Dr. Culross at 1:00 p.m., Friday, September 6, 2013, at 8280 YMCA Plaza Drive, Building 8-B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. The following task force members were present: Dr. Culross, Dr. Welsh, Dr. Broussard, Dr. Patterson, Ms. Françoise Parr, Susan Ratterree; and Executive Director, Kelly Parker. Deborah Harkins, Esquire, legislative consultant for LSBEP and David White, LPA Representative were also present for part of the meeting.

Dr. Patterson moved to accept the September 6, 2013 agenda. Dr. Welsh moved to accept the July 26, 2013 minutes.

The group reviewed and discussed the final results of the School Specialist Survey. Dr. Culross pointed out that a total of 186 responses were received, 42% of the responses were from licensed psychologists and 58% were from other school related professionals not currently licensed with the LSBEP. Dr. Culross also pointed out that the majority of the responses indicated that qualified individuals were interested in licensure for the possibility of contracting with a school district or contracting with a psychologist. Dr. Patterson also pointed out that the summary responses revealed that 56% of school specialists would choose to be licensed by LSBEP, 33% were unsure and possibly needed additional information and only 12% said no.

Dr. Culross requested that Dr. Patterson and Dr. Broussard prepare information for review comparing specialist training and doctoral training. Dr. Broussard and Dr. Patterson agreed to compile the information for the next meeting.

Dr. Culross presented the group with a draft scope of practice for potential licensed school specialists. She noted that she referred to the NASP scope of practice as a guide and it did not include independent practice. The group carefully reviewed the draft. Dr. Culross reminded the group that nothing in the scope of practice would prohibit school psychologists duly certified by the Department of Education from fulfilling their duties within the public schools. She also pointed out that nothing in the act would prohibit licensed psychologists providing service within the schools as long as the services provided are within the psychologist's area of competence.

David White, LPA Representative, noted that LPA would not be comfortable with independent practice for school psychologists. Mr. White also expressed concern about possible board composition. Various members of the group chimed in about previous discussions at the other meetings. Dr. Welsh commented that he did not envision the Board composition changing, but possibly an advisory panel of specialists under the Board.

Dr. Culross reminded the group that the LSBEP has not taken a final position on the issue of licensure of school specialists. She requested that the group prepare a summary recommendation to the LSBEP for consideration. The group discussed this briefly and agreed. Dr. Culross also opined that it would be inappropriate to contact BESE prior to an official LSBEP vote. The group agreed unanimously.

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Dr. Culross set the next meeting date for Friday, October 11, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m.