

**Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
8706 Jefferson Highway, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

**Legislative Oversight Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 3, 2017
3:00 P.M.**

FINAL APPROVED: April 7, 2017

The Legislative Oversight Committee [Committee] of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists [Board] was noticed and agenda posted March 31, 2017. Dr. Darla Burnett, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at 8706 Jefferson Highway, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Present were Committee Members, Drs. Darla Burnett and Jesse Lambert; Executive Director, Ms. Jaime Monic; and Guests, LPA President Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, LPA Executive Director Cindy Bishop, LPA Attorney Kevin Hayes, and Zoe McRaney and Michael Wills LPA/Checkmate Strategies.

The Committee reviewed the following legislative items filed in the 2017 Regular Legislative Session that pertain to board administration or have some impact on the practice of psychology:

HB 159 D.MILLER	HB 281 NORTON	HB 338 POPE
HB 341 D. MILLER	SB 39 BOUDREAUX	SB 42 JOHNS
SB 55 MILLS	SB109 CLAITOR	SB 216 TARVER

Ms. Bishop suggested we also add to our watch list SB 185 LUNEAU, SB 91 PETERSON, SB 152 CARTER, HB 31 HOFFMAN and HB 414 LEGER.

The Committee discussed in detail SB 38 MORRELL related to Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) and the proposed legislation giving an LPC the ability to diagnose major mental illness including schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, major depressive disorder – moderate to severe, anorexia, bulimia, intermittent explosive disorder, autism, psychosis NOS (not otherwise specified) when diagnosed in a child under seventeen years of age, Rett’s disorder, Tourette’s disorder, and dementia. The Committee also agreed that the legislation could be interpreted to enable counselors the ability to administer and interpret psychological tests. The Committee agreed to make recommendations to the Board to provide an educative summary if needed concerning the education and training required to competently administer and interpret psychological tests as well as render a diagnosis for major mental illnesses and potential impact on the health, safety and welfare of the public.

The Committee discussed in detail SB 75 MILLS relative to health professional licensing boards. Concerns were raised regarding the voting authority of the proposed new public member seat; the ambiguity of the new adjudicatory process; and the removal of the board’s judicial deference; the expenses imposed on boards to implement this process; the ability of the board to maintain autonomy to manage funds, without funding from the state general fund where requirements are proposed with regard to whom the board may contract with and imposing a requirement to use self-generated funding of licensees to pay into another state agency for services; and other concerns. The Committee agreed to review this legislation further for recommendations to the Board on an educative summary regarding the impact of the legislation on Board operations.

The Committee discussed in detail SB 205 MORRELL related to boards and commissions and disciplinary adjudications. Similar to SB 75, but only related to adjudications. The Committee had similar concerns and agreed to make recommendations regarding an educative summary regarding the impact on this agency.

The Committee discussed in detail SB 37 MARTINI related to amendments to the licensing law for Psychologists. The Committee heard concerns from LPA regarding limits on complaint adjudications/investigations and also concerns for limits on how much the board could charge for

complaint adjudications. After much discussion, the Committee agreed to make recommendations to the Board, proposing the following amendments, if agreeable to LPA:

1. Add back Chapter 1-A as prescription guidelines.
2. Cap the reimbursement of fees for informal resolutions not to exceed \$10,000; and engage in rule-making to define parameters within which an individual may enter into a consent agreement (90 days after the offer, for example) to avoid running up costs on either the Board or the Psychologist. Which in turn would trigger another prescription to set a date for hearing.
3. Define "Other informal resolution" in rule-making to include non-reportable admonishments, that do not result in findings or disciplinary actions.
4. Eliminate "Stenographer" and "witness fees" from expenses that could be recouped under Informal Resolution.
5. Change the amount of time required to repay the board for informal resolution fees from 30 days to 60 or 90 days.

Dr. Lambert moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00p.m. The motion passed unanimously.