

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Friday, December 13, 2019

FINAL APPROVED: January 10, 2020

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board or LSBEP) was noticed and agenda posted on, Thursday, December 12, 2019. Board Chair, Dr. Koren Boggs', called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 13, 2019 at 4334 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite C-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. Present were Board Members, Drs. Koren Boggs', Amy Henke, Gregory Gormanous, Gina Gibson and Michelle Moore,; Executive Director, Jaime T. Monic; Compliance Investigator, Justin Owens; Consumer Member, Darren "Chance" McNeely and Dr. Richard Niolon representing LPA were present for the open meeting.

Dr. Gormanous requested that his statement of service be recorded into the minutes as follows: *"My serving on LSBEP is to ensure that consumers of psychological services are protected against any unqualified, harmful and unauthorized practice, application or use of psychology. My service is as a consumer advocate and educator. My service is not as a market participant."*

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dr. Henke moved to approve the agenda as posted. The motion passed by roll call vote as follows: BOGGS – YEA, HENKE-YEA, GORMANOUS – YEA, GIBSON – YEA, MOORE – YEA

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dr. Gormanous moved to approve the minutes of November 22, 2019 as discussed. The motion passed by roll call vote as follows: BOGGS – YEA, HENKE-YEA, GORMANOUS – YEA, GIBSON – YEA, MOORE – YEA. Dr. Gormanous also noted that he liked the added acronyms in the footer of the minutes and requested we continue to have these.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dr. Gormanous moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to LSA R.S.42:17.A(2) and (4) to discuss file reviews, and conduct oral examinations. The motion passed by roll call vote as follows: BOGGS – YEA, HENKE-YEA, GORMANOUS – YEA, MOORE – YEA, GIBSON - YEA.

Dr. Henke moved to close Executive Session to enter the following. The motion passed by roll call vote as follows: BOGGS – YEA, HENKE-YEA, GORMANOUS – YEA, MOORE – YEA, GIBSON – YEA

ORAL EXAMINATIONS [LSA-R.S.42.16.1]:

Sonia M. Shah Blauvelt, Psy.D. appeared before Board Members, Drs. Boggs, Henke, Gormanous, Gibson and Moore for an oral examination for licensure in Clinical Psychology. The board discussed **Dr. Blauvelt's** performance and qualifications in executive session. Finding that **Dr. Blauvelt** has met the qualifications for

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licensure and received the required training for practice in the area of Clinical Psychology, Dr. Gormanous moved that **Dr. Blauvelt** be granted a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Gormanous – YEA, Gibson – YEA, Moore - YEA.

SUPERVISION/CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: APPLICANT/LICENSE FILE REVIEWS [LSA-R.S. 42.17.A(1)]:

Dr. Moore reviewed the Application for Provisional License of **Sarah P. Fletcher, Ph.D. and Hannah L. Samaha, Ph.D.** Finding that these individuals had completed the requirements for a provisional license and obtained appropriate supervision, Dr. Moore moved that the Board approve candidacy status and grant provisional licensure to **Drs. Fletcher and Samaha** in order that they may be admitted to the EPPP while completing the supervision requirements for licensure. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Moore reviewed and presented the Temporary Registrations of **Kiana Wright, Psy.D.** with a motion to issue a temporary practice registration to Dr. Wright upon receipt of passing Jurisprudence Examinations. The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Moore reviewed and presented the attestation of applied citizenship for **Dr. Lisa C. Abbrecht.** The Board affirmed the receipt and approval.

Dr. Gormanous moved in favor of taking the agenda out of order to utilize the extra time before the scheduled open meeting efficiently and break-out into workgroups from 10:50am through a working lunch instead of at the end of the day as scheduled. The motion having been put to a vote, passed unanimously as follows: Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Gormanous – YEA, Gibson – YEA, Moore - YEA. Dr. Boggs assigned workgroups as follows:

Credentials Review Committee to review Application Forms/Reference Forms: Boggs, Gormanous and Moore

Jurisprudence Examination Committee: Henke and Gibson

Mr. McNeely and Dr. Niolan presented for the open meeting. Mr. McNeely reported that he had not received his packet from the Governor’s office and would therefore not be voting on matters.

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

The Board received committee reports and recommendations as follows:

1. **Executive Director Report:** Ms. Monic reported that the board received notice from Senator Miller to appear before the Commission for a committee meeting regarding board’s and compliance with La. R.S.36:7 and that after following up, Senator Miller’s office affirmed that the Board was in compliance with reporting under the statute and we did not need to attend unless we wanted to provide input regarding the act.

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Ms. Monic also reported the LSBEP currently utilized the state’s merchant account agreement for credit card processing; that the state was transferring their account to a new vendor and that a new agreement was being requested. Dr. Henke requested that Ms. Monic take the opportunity to explore other merchant agreements and processing rates.

2. **Finance Committee:**

a. Financial Reports – Ms. Monic reported that November 2019 Financial Statements had not yet been prepared by Ms. Valerie Dominique and would be available for the January meeting. Dr. Boggs reported that she would be reviewing the reconciliation reports for November.

b. Leave Report Approvals (KB) – Dr. Boggs reported the review and approval of Leave Reports for Ms. Monic; Ms. Monic reported the review and approval of Leave Reports for Mr. Owens.

3. **Oral Examination Committee** – Dr. Moore reported that the board conducted one oral examination in executive session this date. Three were scheduled and two cancelled.

4. **Jurisprudence Examination Committee** – Dr. Henke reported that the committee met earlier and reviewed the jurisprudence examination. The committee determined that at present, the examination is utilized only for potential licensees. The committee determined that it has a potential to be used as a continuing education activity to stay current on statutes and regulations in psychology; that the examination has the potential to be offered online in several different forms; that currently the majority of questions were from Chapter 13 (Ethical Standards). Dr. Gibson reported that one of the considerations would be determining a fee structure.

5. **Legislative Oversight Committee** – Dr. Gormanous expressed his opinion that the LSBEP should prepare to educate people, including new legislators if the Board is going to seriously consider statutory changes. Mr. McNeely confirmed that committee appointments had not been made for new legislators but would likely occur around January 13th or 14th and that he would continue investigating appointments on the Senate side. He confirmed the session opens on March 9th and the prefile deadline is February 26th. The committee agreed that they would wait for ASPPB to publish recommendations for the “Elevator Speech” and revisit that topic at that time.

6. **Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards** – Dr. Gormanous reported that the board was sending representatives to the ASPPB meeting in Montreal. Dr. Henke requested that Ms. Monic follow up on making sure new members were added to ASPPB’s listserv.

7. **Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Committee** – Dr. Moore reported a very good response to the Board’s survey regarding CPD and Unlicensed Assistants. Dr. Boggs agreed to compile data from the survey. Dr. Henke recommended that the board provide a response to participants to thank them for their participation and express the responses as helpful to consider the practitioners perspective as the board decides how to move forward in its mission of public protection. Dr. Henke recommended publishing the response in the next newsletter of the board.

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8. **Supervision/Credentials Committee** – Dr. Moore reported that the committee met this morning and reviewed files. Dr. Boggs reported that the workgroup met to talk about professional reference forms for psychologists and specialists in school psychology, although they primarily focused on psychologists. The committee agreed that they wanted to utilize the reference form to corroborate the applicant’s declaration of competencies; add more specificity to populations treated; make sure assessment and treatment categories were broad enough to capture competencies, but not so specific that it limited the responses; and have the reference form questions mirror the competencies, internship and postdoctoral verification forms. The objective in revising the forms would be to have a primary source verification of education, training and experience such that, if a reference or supervisor does not provide documentation that is consistent with an applicant’s declaration then the unverified competency will then become part of their oral examination. The committee discussed wording and challenges regarding changes to the process including initial delays. Ms. Monic agreed to take the committees notes and formulate a draft revision for further discussion next month.

9. **Complaints Committee** –

a. No complaints were submitted for closure.

b. **Complaint Status Report from Justin Owens, LSBEP Compliance Officer** – Mr. Owens reported that since the last meeting on November 22, 2019, the Board has received 3 new Requests for Investigations which brings the total open cases to 28: five of those open cases are against unlicensed individuals; twenty are active investigations; and 5 are at varying stages of being closed.

10. **Long Range Planning Committee** – No report.

Dr. Gormanous requested to go on record to note the distraction from the grounds-keeper’s utilization of heavy equipment for hours. He requested that Ms. Monic contact the landlord to see if schedules could be coordinated so that future meetings are not disrupted.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. **STATUTORY - Considerations for 2020 Regular Legislative Session: Definition of “Practice of psychology”; Summary Suspension provision; Emeritus License (full retirement/no CE/minimum fee); R.S. 37:2356.B. and C. require updating related to examinations; Unlicensed Assistants; registration; revocation and fee schedule; and Disclosure of information received in an administrative investigation falling under other state or federal jurisdictional oversight** - The board discussed issues that need to be addressed through legislation. The Board agreed to continue to review and work on needed changes and language that would properly address the current needs and practice of the board. Dr. Moore moved in favor of amending the outdated statutes related to examinations as follows:

37:2356. ...B. Upon investigation of the application and other evidence submitted, the board shall, ~~not less than thirty days prior to the examination,~~ notify each applicant that the application and evidence submitted for licensure is satisfactory and accepted and that the applicant has been admitted to candidacy status, or unsatisfactory and rejected; if rejected, said notice shall state the reasons for such rejection.

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C. The place of examination shall be designated in advance by the board, and such examination shall be given annually at such place and time and under such supervision as the board may determine, and specifically at such other times as, in the opinion of the board, the number of candidates warrants....

Dr. Gormanous noted that in the regulations the legal name for association of boards under section 501 needed to be changed from “AASPB” to “ASPPB”.

2. GUIDELINES:

a. **ASPPB Guidelines on Closing a Practice, Comment period January 6, 2019** – Ms. Monic provided information regarding deadlines to review and comment on ASPPB’s proposals.

b. **Supervision via Telepsychology** – Dr. Moore presented this matter and provided the revised guidelines and draft application to provide telesupervision. Mr. McNeely requested clarification on telesupervision related to the percentage of hours that must be done with the supervisor physically present in the setting where services are provided. Following review, the board requested the matter be scheduled for January discussion and that Ms. Monic forward the documents to the board members for a thorough review and to test the fillable application.

3. **Electronic Communications Policy** – Dr. Boggs presented this matter and discussed that communication involving board business should be consistent with board policy and relevant rules and laws. Mr. Owens reported on similar matters they were educated on at the CLEAR Investigator Training. Mr. Owens requested approval to purchase a camera/video recorder so that personal cell phones would not have to be used in investigations. Dr. Gormanous moved in favor of approving funds for the purchase of a camera/video recorder. The board unanimously approved the motion as follows: Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Gormanous – YEA, Gibson – YEA, Moore - YEA.

All business being completed, Dr. Henke moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30PM The motion passed unanimously.

LEGAL NOTICES

La. R.S. 37:23.2 - In compliance with La. R.S. 37:23.2, the LSBEP hereby gives notice to its licensees and applicants of their opportunity to file a complaint about board actions and board procedures. You may submit such complaints to one or more of the following organizations: Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists: **Submit in writing to:** LSBEP, 4334 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, #C-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70816; admin.lsbep@la.gov; (225)925-6511; Committee on House & Governmental Affairs, La. House of Representatives: **Submit to:** H&GA@legis.la.gov or Committee on House & Governmental Affairs, La. House of Representatives, PO Box 44486, Baton Rouge, LA 70804; (225) 342-2403; Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs; La Senate: **Submit to:** s&g@legis.la.gov or Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs; La Senate PO Box 94183, Baton Rouge, LA 70804; (225)342-9845

LA R.S. 42:14.D. Public comments** – In accordance with LA R.S. 42.14.D., the LSBEP shall allow public comments at any point in the meeting prior to action on an agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. Individuals who wish to comment on a matter must sign in and state their intent to comment on a matter.

La. R.S. 44:33.1 - In compliance with La. R.S. 44:33.1, the LSBEP hereby gives notice that information submitted to the LSBEP may become public record pursuant to the provisions of Louisiana Public Records Law, La. R.S. 44:1, *et seq.*

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