

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Long Range Planning Meeting: *November 19-20, 2015*

*Final Approved: 12/11/15*

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board) was noticed and agenda posted November 17, 2015. Dr. Zimmermann, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:51 a.m., Thursday, November 19, 2015, at the Louisiana Municipal Association building: 700 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 400, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Present were Board Members, Drs. Marc Zimmermann, Darla Burnett, Phil Griffin, Jesse Lambert and Koren Boggs, LSBEP Executive Director, Jaime T. Monic, LSBEP Administrative Assistant, Deborah Storer; and guests Dr. Lacey Seymour (LPA President), Dr. Kim VanGeffen (LPA Director), Dr. Greg Gormanous (Former Board Member) and Dr. Julie Nelson (Psychology Times).

Dr. Zimmermann first read the Board's mission statement. He then introduced the Board and guests at the meeting.

Dr. Burnett moved to approve the agenda for the day. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: Zimmermann – yay, Burnett- yay, Griffin-yay, Lambert-yay and Boggs-yay. Dr. Griffin moved to approve the October 23, 2015 Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Zimmermann opened the agenda item for the appointment of Committee Members. Although they thought they had previously made assignments, it had not been properly recorded. Members were confirmed/reassigned as follows:

- **Finance Committee:**  
Dr. Burnett, Dr. Griffin, Dr. Zimmermann
- **Complaints Committee:**  
Dr. Burnett, Dr. Zimmermann
- **Long Range Planning Committee:**  
Dr. Burnett, Dr. Griffin
- **Legislative Oversight Committee:**  
Dr. Burnett, Dr. Lambert
- **Supervision & Credentials Review:**  
Dr. Burnett, Dr. Griffin
- **Oral Examination Committee:**  
Dr. Griffin, Dr. Zimmermann, Dr. Boggs
- **Liaison Professional Organizations/Boards:**  
Dr. Griffin, Dr. Boggs
- **Jurisprudence Exam Committee:**  
Dr. Griffin, Dr. Boggs
- **Continuing Education Committee:**  
Dr. Zimmermann, Dr. Lambert
- **LABA Liaison:**  
Dr. Burnett, Dr. Boggs
- **Professionalism Workgroup:**  
Dr. Zimmermann
- **LSBEP Education and Outreach:**  
Dr. Zimmerman, Dr. Griffin

Additionally, having no record of an appointment to the LSSP Committee, the Board unanimously confirmed the reappointment of Dr. Carmen Broussard for the vacant term June 30, 2015 through July 1, 2018.

Dr. Zimmermann asked for objections in taking the agenda item, “LSBEP Election – Open Self-Nominations” out of order, until they could be retrieved from the office. The matter was tabled without objection.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Dr. Zimmermann called on Committee Reports as follows:

**Executive Director Report:**

Ms. Monic reported on the operations of the Board as follows:

Renewals were completed in the previous week. After the October meeting, the office sent a “Notice of Lapsed License” to 60 psychologists who had failed to renew by October 23, 2015 due to non-payment and/or non-reporting. As of the date of this meeting, all but 30 psychologists had renewed their license. She reported further that there were 27 licenses, which lapsed 7/31/2014, were still listed with the status “Licensed Psychologist” in the database. This information was corrected and the database is now up to date. Due to the recent completion of renewals, Ms. Monic was not able to report the number of currently renewed licensees, but promised to reconcile that information and have it to report at the December meeting.

Ms. Monic reported that in the 2014-15 FY, there were 21 Requests for Investigations (RI) filed with the LSBEP: 18 of those RI’s were filed as Complaints with 5 of those against non-psychologists (3 are closed, 2 remain open); 13 of those were against psychologists (1 Consent Order, 7 Closed, 5 Open). Two hearings were conducted during this period, one matter was dismissed on procedural errors and one matter resulted in disciplinary action.

She also reported that the rules pertaining to LSSP’s, Provisional Licensure and Emeritus Status were sent to the LA Register and Oversight Committees for final publication in the December 20, 2015 LA Register.

**Financial Committee Report:**

Dr. Zimmermann moved to report on the financial status of the Board, noting that our Technology and Legal contracts required amending. Ms. Monic provided the Board with unofficial financials, including a Balance Sheet and check ledger from this fiscal year to date. She reported that the books had been brought up-to-date however Accountant Valerie Dominique had her baby this week and was still not able to provide Financial Statements past due. She reported also that the compilation with Postlethwaite & Netterville was currently underway. Having contacted two other approved CPA firms, this was the only firm able to work within the Legislative Auditor’s timeframe.

Ms. Monic presented the Board with information on the current balances and spending on each contract requiring amendments along with recommendations for amending those contracts. The Board approved amendments as follows:

- LEGAL: Dr. Boggs moved to amend the legal contracts with Taylor Porter Brooks and Phillips to a total amount not to exceed \$30,000. In order to fulfill payment in matters where the services of attorney Amy Groves Lowe were

previously utilized and also to represent the Board in currently pending legal matters.

- LEGAL: Dr. Lambert moved to amend the legal contracts with Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson to increase this contract by an additional \$20,000 (a total amount not to exceed \$50,000). In order to fulfill payment in matters where the services of attorney James Raines were previously utilized and also to continue as prosecuting attorney for Board in new and pending matters.
- TEKNARUS: Dr. Burnett moved to amend the contract for website design for a total amount not to exceed \$5,643 and 75/100's. In order to honor the original quote provided for said amount, approved by the Board in April 2015.

Ms. Monic reported that she had met with the Tec who is writing the program for license renewal and database management. She is waiting for them to get back with her on whether they can proceed with the original quoted amount.

**Oral Examination Committee:** Dr. Griffin reported that 7 oral examinations and 3 reciprocity interviews were scheduled to take place tomorrow and that he was drafting new vignettes.

**Jurisprudence Examination Committee:** Dr. Griffin suggested he would be reviewing the current Jurisprudence Examination. Dr. Burnett noted that some candidates were complaining of not being able to find the answers on our website and noted that that needed to be investigated and perhaps the information on the website updated. Dr. Boggs requested a copy if possible. Ms. Monic suggested that the Board receive copies as the Applicant's would; complete the examination and return for scoring to audit the process and exam. The Board unanimously agreed to participate.

Ms. Monic also requested that the Board review the website to help determine what information was current and what needed updating. The members present agreed to participate in that review.

**Legislative Oversight Committee:** Dr. Burnett recommended contacting Deborah Harkins to inquire about her availability for this legislative session. Dr. VanGeffin questioned the need for this asking whether the Board intended on presenting new legislation. Dr. Zimmermann responded that there was the issue concerning the prescription on disciplinary proceedings. Dr. Griffin questioned whether a legislative representative was always utilized by the Board. Ms. Monic provided that it had not; historically relying on LPA, the legislature, Board members, and the Executive Director to track legislation. In some cases, asking the Board's General Legal Council to assist. Drs. Nelson, Gormanous, VanGeffen and Seymour all participated in this discussion. Dr. Nelson recommended that the Board utilize citizens advocacy groups to track legislation.

Discussion was initiated by Dr. VanGeffen concerning the board's role with the legislature. Dr. Seymour also discussed the matter questioning the difference between lobbying vs. educating legislators on bills. Dr. Gormanous provided that the Board was able to educate legislators on bills and there was a fine line between educating and lobbying.

Dr. Zimmermann seconded Dr. Burnett's motion to allow Ms. Monic contact Deborah Harkins or other qualified individual to find out their availability and willingness to contract with the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

**Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards:**

**Continuing Education:** No new report.

**Supervision/Credentials Review:** Dr. Burnett reported that file reviews would be conducted tomorrow (Friday 11/20/15).

**Complaints Committee:** Dr. Zimmermann reported that he and Dr. Lambert interviewed 3 very well qualified applicants: Dr. Erica Meyers, Dr. Chris Garner and Dr. Jill Hayes and they would be summarizing the results of these interviews with the full board in executive session tomorrow.

**Long Range Planning/Awards Committee:** No new report.

**LBAB Liaison Report:** Dr. Burnett reported that she had attended the Behavior Analyst meeting on November 17, 2015. She reported that the BA Board continues to do a good job examining their applicants and giving careful consideration to the laws and rules in their decision-making. They are considering their first rule revisions and spent most of their meeting reading through their guidelines regarding the licensing and renewal of line technicians.

**Professionalism Workgroup:** No new report.

**LSBEP Education & Outreach:** No new report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- **APA vs. ASPPB Code of Conduct for Psychologists** – Dr. Zimmermann led this discussion noting that this matter had been a part of the Professionalism Workgroup. It had not been decided which ethics code to adopt; additionally it would need to be determined whether to publish a reference to the ethics code in the rules and if that were proper, or if each item needed to be re-codified in the LA Administrative Code. Dr. VanGeffen stated some of her concerns for using ASPPB's Code of Conduct was that it did not address teaching and research; also that the records retention schedule conflicted with Louisiana statutes. Dr. Griffin moved that the Board accept and adopt the current APA Code of Conduct (2002 version, revised 2010). The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Zimmermann – yay, Burnett- yay, Griffin-yay, Lambert-yay and Boggs-yay.

Ms. Monic agreed to investigate proper codification of the APA Code of Ethics. Dr. Gormanous stated that there were 30 jurisdictions that do cite the code by reference in their statutes.

- **ASPPB Practitioner Database** - Dr. Burnett led this discussion as it pertained to assisting ASPPB in spreading the word about ASPPB's mission to build a workforce database. She thought it would be beneficial data to have in considering the need for different specializations and areas of practice in specific regions. The Board has agreed to send information out with its 2016-17 Renewals asking for voluntary participation of its licensees.
- **LAC Chapter 8. Continuing Professional Development** – The Board discussed revisions to Chapter 8 of the LAC, in detail, with participation from Drs. Nelson, VanGeffen, Gormanous and Seymour. The purpose for the revisions are needed to eliminate ambiguity, contradictions and specificity where needed with regard to the Chapter 8 rules currently undergoing revisions, where psychologists are currently asking questions about the rules. Upon completion of the discussion. It was agreed that the revisions would be red-lined, reviewed at the next meeting, and submitted to LPA as well as posted online for comment prior to publication.

The Board adjourned for Lunch with guests at noon; the Board reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

- **LAC Chapter 1 and 5 concerning written examinations** – Ms. Monic led the discussion regarding these rules to initiate Board review and gain their perspective on the requirements for continuing education on reinstatements. Dr. Burnett moved that the Board discuss these rules tomorrow (11/20/15) as it would be applied to a current reinstatement that the Board would be considering. The motion passed and the matter was tabled.
- **LSBEP's PLUS Application Process** - Ms. Monic provided that the processing of ASPPB's Psychology Licensing Universal System (PLUS) was falling into place. She asked that the Board either enter into a contract with ASPPB or provide for the processing of Applications through PLUS via its rules. She cited a few concerns that had been cleared (i.e. LSBEP being a primary source verifier). She also stated that she is working on requesting a secure email transmission be set up with LSBEP's email administrator in order to transfer and receive confidential information electronically with ASPPB. The Board reviewed recommendations made by ASPPB for the application and website. The Board accepted the revised cover memo posted on the website and a revision to LSBEP's Application for Licensure to have a check box that provides an agreement to process their application through PLUS.
- **ASPPB's Proposal regarding Health Service Provider vs. Non-Health Service Provider** – Dr. Zimmermann led the discussion on eliminating specialties and simplifying designations into two categories Health Service Provider (Applied Psychology) and Non-Health Service Provider (General Applied Psychology). There was some discussion on the need to move in this direction and the issues that may be presented for Industrial/Organizational Psychologists who work with clients. Dr. Nelson suggested better defining a psychologist/clinician and a scientist practitioner. No formal recommendation was made to move in this direction.
- **Telepsychology** – Dr. Griffin led the discussion on LSBEP'S current Telepsychology Guidelines. He indicated that they were written to recognize that the point of service is where the client is located. Dr. Burnett mentioned that ASPPB was working on a Psy PAC that would set standards for Telepsychology across jurisdictions. Dr. Lambert

questioned the ability to PEC via telepsychology. Dr. Griffin said he was of the opinion that if you are practicing telemedicine, then you can PEC over the phone. He agreed to investigate the practice of psychiatry and their procedures for PEC via telemedicine.

- **Complaints process and LA R.S. 2353.C.5. (Disciplinary proceedings)** – Dr. Zimmermann led the discussion for the current complaint processes from receipt of a request for an investigation to hearing. It was the general consensus that the Board needed to better define “Board” and “Disciplinary Proceedings” as well as address the one-year prescription and how it has hindered them in the investigation and disciplining of complaints. There was a general discussion initiated between the Board and guests. A letter from Dr. Mark Vigen, former board member, concerning the investigation process was considered. Dr. Vigen recommended “that the board consider a panel approach to complaints, specifically, having the investigator investigate, bring that information to a psychologist who reviews all the materials relevant to the complaint, and then have that psychologist send out his findings to perhaps a panel of two or three other psychologists for their review, agreement, dissent, or argument.” The Board made no formal recommendations and agreed to continue to review this issue and include in it’s review, the processes of other jurisdictions.
- **Application Forms Review** – Ms. Monic led this discussion regarding the need to clarify acceptable references on the application form; Dr. Griffin also requested that more detailed information be required for “Current Employer” on the first page of the application, eliminating the need to repeat the information on the second page. Dr. Burnett mentioned that the Board previously discussed the requirement to cite the statute that requires/allows the LSBEP to request the Social Security Number on an application. These revisions were approved to apply to all applications accepted by the LSBEP. The Board reviewed the Application Flow Chart and accompanying forms required to verify training and credentials. The revisions to clarify the requirement to receive primary source verification directly from the source (not the applicant) should be required and made clear on the Flowchart and Steps Toward Licensure. Ms. Monic reminded the Board of the requirement for an oral examination for Reciprocity applicants who have not ever taken an oral exam for licensure. She noted this is statutorily required, but also has been the policy of the board to conduct oral examinations in such cases. Ms. Monic suggested that this information be included on Reciprocity Application so the applicant would be aware. A recommendation was made by Dr. Griffin to revise the Temporary Registration from requiring a start and end date, to asking for a listing of expected dates of practice. Additionally, the Board required that acquiring a primary source verification from the jurisdiction from which the Temporary Registrant is applying is necessary prior to approving licensing. Dr. Zimmermann moved that all of the revisions to applications, forms and processes be approved and implemented. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote as follows: Zimmermann – yay, Burnett- yay, Griffin-yay, Lambert-yay and Boggs-yay.

Dr. Burnett moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Zimmermann seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015**

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board) was noticed and agenda posted November 17, 2015. Dr. Zimmermann, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., Friday, November 20, 2015, at 8706 Jefferson Highway, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Present were Board Members, Drs. Marc Zimmermann, Darla Burnett, Phil Griffin, Jesse Lambert and Koren Boggs, LSBEP Executive Director, Jaime T. Monic.

Dr. Zimmermann first read the Board's mission statement.

Dr. Griffin moved to add the consideration of complaint P14-15-11C, which item was inadvertently omitted by clerical error. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: Zimmermann – yay, Burnett- yay, Griffin-yay, Lambert-yay and Boggs-yay.

Dr. Zimmermann opened the meeting to the next item on the agenda involving the discussion of personnel matters. Dr. Lambert moved to enter into executive session pursuant to LSA R.S.42: 6.1, for such discussions as well as to conduct oral examinations. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: Zimmermann-yay, Burnett-yay, Griffin-yay, Lambert-yay, and Boggs-yay.

Dr. Zimmerman moved to close Executive Session to enter the following:

### **PERSONNEL MATTER [LSA-R.S. 42.6.1]:**

Ms. Monic updated the LSBEP on personnel matters; the Board discussed new issues; Dr. Zimmermann agreed to investigate and address additional concerns. Dr. Lambert moved to accept the proposal of Dr. Greg Gormamous to settle the amount owed to him for his last day of employment on September 18, 2015 and the approximately 70 hours of overtime he accrued during his tenure, in exchange for forgiving the repayment of moving expenses which terms were previously approved upon his date of hire. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Zimmerman-yay, Burnett-yay, Griffin-yay, Lambert-yay, and Boggs-yay.

Dr. Zimmermann and Lambert presented a summary to the Board regarding the candidates and interviews conducted for the Complaints Coordinator contract. Drs. Zimmermann and Lambert both recommended Dr. Christopher D. Garner to take over the remainder of the contract and authorized Dr. Zimmermann to initiate phone calls to all of the candidates with a disposition of their application. The Board agreed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Zimmerman-yay, Burnett-yay, Griffin-yay, Lambert-yay, and Boggs-yay.

### **ORAL EXAMINATIONS [LSA-R.S. 42.6.1]:**

Continuing in Executive Session, the Board conducted the following oral examinations for licensure:

**Lili Y. Reboul, Psy.D.** appeared before the Board for an oral examination in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed Dr. Reboul's oral examination. Dr. Lambert moved that the Board grant Dr. Reboul a license to practice psychology with an additional specialty in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

Provisionally Licensed Psychologist **Victoria Tomassetti-Long, Psy.D.**, appeared before the Board for an oral examination in Counseling Psychology. The Board discussed Dr. Tomassetti-Long's oral examination. Dr. Burnett moved that the Board grant Dr. Tomassetti-Long a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Counseling Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

**Jacqueline Ball, Ph.D.** appeared before the Board for an oral examination in Counseling Psychology. The Board discussed Dr. Ball's oral examination. Dr. Boggs moved that the Board grant Dr. Ball a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Counseling Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

**Abigail Lambert, Ph.D.** appeared before the Board for an oral examination in School Psychology. The Board discussed Dr. Lambert's oral examination. Dr. Jesse Lambert moved that the Board grant Dr. Lambert a license to practice psychology with a specialty in School Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

**Katherine Chenier, Ph.D.** appeared before the Board for an oral examination in School Psychology. The Board discussed Dr. Chenier's oral examination. Dr. Lambert moved that the Board grant Dr. Chenier a license to practice psychology with a specialty in School Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

**Michael Green Sawyer, Ph.D.** appeared before the Board for an oral examination in Counseling Psychology. The Board discussed Dr. Sawyer's oral examination. Dr. Griffin moved that the Board grant Dr. Sawyer a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Counseling Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

**Dana L. Caruso, Ph.D.** appeared before the Board for an oral examination in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed Dr. Caruso's oral examination. Dr. Zimmermann moved that the Board grant Dr. Caruso a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Clinical Psychology, upon passing the Jurisprudence Examination. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

**Lisa Isaac, Ph.D.** appeared before the Board for licensure via Certificate of Professional Qualifications. Dr. Griffin moved that the Board grant Dr. Isaac a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

**Shannon Peck, Ph.D.** appeared before the Board for licensure via Reciprocity with Texas. Dr. Griffin moved that the Board grant Dr. Peck a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

**Troy Martinez, Psy.D.** appeared before the Board for licensure via Certificate of Professional Qualifications. Dr. Burnett moved that the Board grant Dr. Martinez a license to practice

psychology with a specialty in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board conducted applicant file reviews over lunch.

**FILE REVIEWS:**

Dr. Burnett reviewed the PLUS Application for License of **Melanie Lantz, Ph.D.** Dr. Burnett approved Dr. Lantz's Supervised Practice Plan and moved that the Board confirm the Candidacy status of Dr. Lantz. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Burnett reviewed the Application for License of **Sonia L. Rubens, Ph.D.** Dr. Burnett moved that the Board confirm the Candidacy status of Dr. Rubens pending receipt of clear criminal background check. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Griffin reviewed the Application for License of **Tracy E. Vozar, Ph.D.** Dr. moved that the Board confirm the Candidacy status of Dr. Vozar and invite her to take the Oral Examination upon receipt of original Post Doctoral Documentation form. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Burnett reviewed the Application for Provisional License of **Mary Bush, Ph.D.** Dr. Burnett approved Dr. Bush's Supervised Practice Plan and moved that the Board confirm the Candidacy status of Dr. Bush and approve her for provisional licensure. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Burnett reviewed the Temporary Registration for **Timothy Joseph Dering, Ph.D.** Dr. Burnett presented that the requirements for temporary practice had been provided and recommended that Dr. Dering's Temporary Registration be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Griffin reviewed the Temporary Registration for **Dr. Leslie Lebowitz.** Dr. Griffin presented that the requirements for temporary practice had been provided with the exception of receipt of passing the Jurisprudence Examination. Dr. Griffin recommended that Dr. Lebowitz's Temporary Registration be approved upon receipt of passing Jurisprudence Examination. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Reinstatement Application for **Peggy Collins Smith, Ph.D.,** Dr. Zimmermann moved to invite Dr. Smith for an Oral Examination for Reinstatement of her License #605, requesting that she produce 30 hours of completed Continuing Education, with two of those 30 in ethics/forensics prior to licensure. Dr. Burnett recused from this vote.

The Board reviewed a letter to the Board from **Dr. Brian M. Murphy** regarding his experience renewing his license to practice for the 2015-16FY. Dr. Zimmermann agreed to address Dr. Murphy's concerns.

Dr. Griffin reviewed the Application for License of **Ashley Breedlove, Psy.D.** Dr. Griffin moved that the Board confirm the Candidacy status of Dr. Breedlove and invite her to take the Oral Examination. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMPLAINT REVIEW/LEGAL MATTERS [LSA-R.S. 42.6.1]:**

**P14-15-11C** – This matter was previously reviewed and the Board requested additional information. Dr. Pettigrew completed additional investigation and provided the requested information, and recommended dismissal. The Board reviewed this matter. Dr. Zimmermann moved to dismiss the matter based on the information presented. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: Zimmermann – yay, Burnett- yay, Griffin-yay, Lambert-yay and Boggs-yay.

Dr. Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Burnett seconded the motion, the motion passed without objection.