



**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF EXAMINERS OF
PSYCHOLOGISTS**

4334 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, #C-150
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Voice: (225)295-8410
Fax: (225)295-8412
Email: admin.lsbep@la.gov
Website: lsbep.org

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE #15

SPECIAL EDITION: Outgoing LSBEP Chairperson Address

July 1, 2020

Dear Licensee,

Today marks the opening of the 2020 Renewal season and our seventeenth week in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in Louisiana. Since we are continuing in Phase II and there are no substantial updates I would like to remind you of the Executive Committee's previous position and guidance to continue to stay vigilant when interacting with clients, patients, students, etc., by consulting and following all local, regional, state, and federal guidelines; staying up to date on information being published by the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health; and consulting with the American Psychological Association guidelines.

For this update, as my five-year term as a member, Vice Chair, and then Chair of the LSBEP comes to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation for this experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to have represented our profession as a public servant entrusted with carrying out the mission of protecting the people of Louisiana through the regulation of the practice of psychology. It is, in some ways, a logical extension of my motives in entering the profession in the first place. I imagine it is the reason many of us chose this field – because we care about people and the human experience and feel compelled to do what we can to help people have better days. That, at its core, is the foundation of service on this Board, as well. As a Board member, there is a delicate balance to strike between identifying as a psychologist and member of the industry and fulfilling the role of a regulator whose primary obligation is to the public. I am grateful for the support of those who understand that balance. I am grateful for those who challenge me to think about and justify my statements and positions, and to consider alternate perspectives, as that is how we all learn. I am grateful for past Board members whose commitment to serving the public was steadfast, even in the face of sometimes harsh and unwarranted criticism. I am grateful for my own experience in this role and the exposure to the experience of persisting despite harsh and sometimes unwarranted criticism. I am grateful for the wisdom that each and every Board member I have served with has brought to the table. I have learned so much from having thoughtful and respectful discussions about significant issues which impact so many. I am grateful for the colleagues who understand the magnitude of the responsibility we are given as psychologists and Board members.

It is my sincere hope that the mission of this Board continue, with a collaborative and unifying focus on continuing to self-regulate our profession to the benefit of our community at large. By protecting the public we serve, we strengthen the profession we chose. I encourage all psychologists in this state to consider serving on the Board. No member of this professional community is more valuable than another, and all our voices are important and powerful. Consider serving the public and the profession, regardless of your location in the state or years in practice or connections in the community. Each and every psychologist has a unique perspective to offer which deserves respect. I especially encourage those who have felt marginalized for any reason to consider serving on the Board. Diversity at the table is critical, and all should have the chance for a seat.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you. I hope I've served you well, and I look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen our community for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Koren Boggs, Ph.D.
LSBEP Outgoing Board Chairperson

NOTICE: In compliance with Act 655 of the 2018 Regular Session, 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 Blvd., #C-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70816; admin.lsbep@la.gov; (225)295-8410
- 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

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