

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
BOARD MEETING MINUTES: *December 19, 2014*
APPROVED: January 16, 2015

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board) was called to order by Dr. Culross, Board Chair, at 8:30 a.m., Friday, December 19, 2014, at 8706 Jefferson Highway, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Present were Board Members, Drs. Marc Zimmermann, Darla Burnett, Phil Griffin, Joseph Comaty; and, Executive Director, Kelly Parker.

Dr. Zimmermann moved to accept the December 19, 2014 agenda. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Comaty moved to approve the November 20, 2014 minutes with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to LSA R.S.42: 6.1(4), Dr. Culross moved to enter Executive Session to review legal matters and discuss complaints. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: Culross-yay, Zimmermann-yay, Burnett-yay, Comaty-yay and Griffin-yay.

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

Complaint Review/Legal Matters [LSA-R.S. 42.6.1]:

- a. **Cigna:** Dr. Zimmermann presented the Board with a list of Cigna providers that are listed under the psychologist category. The Board discussed the issue. Dr. Zimmermann moved to contact Cigna regarding the discrepancies. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. **IPP-2014-01:** Ms. Parker notified the Board that the psychologist rejected the Board's IPP document and submitted his version of an IPP document. The Board also reviewed other file documents during the discussion. Dr. Comaty noted that the document cannot be revised as the psychologist suggested. The Board discussed the concerns and issues in the matter. Dr. Zimmermann moved to inform the psychologist that an independent evaluation will be required, at his personal cost, and the Board will review the matter further after the evaluation is provided to the Board. The motion passed by roll call vote: Culross-yay, Zimmermann-yay, Burnett-yay, Griffin-yay and Comaty-yay. The Board members compiled a list of approved evaluators .
- c. **Learning RX-NP:** Dr. Comaty presented information to the Board regarding Learning RX. The Board discussed the issues. Dr. Comaty moved to issue a cease and desist letter to Learning RX, Baton Rouge, LA. Ms. Parker was also directed to query ASPPB. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. **NP14-15-1B:** Ms. Parker presented the Board with a response to the cease and desist letter issued after November's meeting. The Board reviewed the file and the response. Dr. Comaty moved that the subject was in general compliance and to close the matter accordingly. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. **RA:** Ms. Parker presented the Board with harassing communication from a licensed psychologist. Ms. Parker pointed out that the first communication was in 2012 and it was an ongoing issue. The Board reviewed the materials and agreed that this matter should be monitored.

Oral Examinations[LSA-R.S. 42.6.1]:

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

James Underhill, Psy.D. appeared before Board members Drs. Zimmermann and Griffin for an oral examination in Clinical Psychology. The full Board discussed Dr. Underhill's oral examination. Dr. Griffin moved that the Board grant Dr. Underhill a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

Stephen Anen, Ph.D., appeared before Board members Drs. Culross, Burnett and Comaty for an oral examination in Clinical Psychology. The full Board discussed Dr. Anen's oral exam. Dr. Comaty moved that the Board grant Dr. Anen a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

Krystin Wessner, Psy.D., appeared before the Board for an oral examination in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed Dr. Wessner's oral examination. Dr. Burnett moved that the Board grant Dr. Wessner a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

Lesajean Jennings, Psy.D., appeared for a meeting with the Board for licensure via reciprocity. The Board discussed Dr. Jennings' file. Dr. Zimmermann moved that the Board granted Dr. Jennings a license to practice psychology with a specialty in Clinical Psychology. The Board discussed the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervision and Credentials Recommendations:

Dr. Griffin reviewed the application for licensure file of Matthew Holcomb, Ph.D. Dr. Griffin moved to approve his candidacy status and invite him to take the licensing examination. The Board discussed his file and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Griffin reviewed the application for provisional licensure of Laura Niditch Ph.D. Dr. Griffin moved to approve Dr. Niditch for a provisional license. The Board discussed the file and motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Burnett reviewed and moved to approve the two (2) Supervised Practice Plans of Lindsey Poe, Ph.D. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Burnett reviewed the Supervised Practice Plan of Matthew Calamia, Ph.D. Dr. Burnett recommended tentative approval pending resolution of the issue that Dr. Calamia noted he would be “co-supervising” graduate students. Dr. Burnett moved to write a letter to be sent to Dr. Calamia and his supervisor, Dr. Matson, informing them that Dr. Calamia cannot directly supervise the graduate students. The motion passed.

Dr. Burnett reviewed the Non-APA program of Amy Meredith, Ph.D. Dr. Burnett move to request more information about the program. The Board discussed the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Comaty reviewed supplemental communication and documentation on behalf of applicant Lili Reboul, Psy.D. regarding her internship and postdoctoral work. The Board discussed the matter carefully. Dr. Comaty moved to deny Dr. Reboul candidacy status for the following reasons: insufficient postdoc hours to qualify for licensure; insufficient postdoc forms executed by office personnel and not supervising psychologists; and, failure to provide requested internship information (written statement/brochure which describes the goals and content of internship, clear expectations for quantity and quality of work). The motion passed by roll call vote: Culross-yay, Comaty-yay, Zimmermann-yay, Griffin-yay and Burnett-yay.

Dr. Comaty reviewed the licensure file, supplemental communication and affidavit received from Lisa Solursh, Psy.D. The Board discussed the matter. Dr. Comaty noted that Dr. Solursh complied with the recent request by submitting an affidavit. Dr. Comaty moved to require Dr. Solursh to update the Board regarding the status of citizenship within one-year time. The Board discussed the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Comaty reviewed the audit response of Dr. Stacy Overstreet. Dr. Comaty moved to accept the documentation submitted. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: The Board discussed a possible contract with Deborah Harkins as a Legislative Consultant. The Board directed Ms. Parker to discuss the terms of the contract with Ms. Harkins and report back at the next meeting. The Board reviewed the most recent

LBAB invoice and payment. The Board discussed the upcoming revision to the financial MOU between LBAB and LSBEP. The Board requested Ms. Parker to inquire with the accountant regarding different financial formulas.

Oral Examination Committee: No new report.

Jurisprudence Examination Committee: No new report.

Legislative Oversight Committee: The Board reviewed the December 8, 2014, HCR159 Task Force Report. The report noted that the task force did not reach a consensus and the majority of members voted against licensure in 2015. Mr. Parker reported that each participant was encouraged to submit a position statement as an addendum to the report. She confirmed that LSBEP submitted a statement. Ms. Parker also reported that the LSBEP had secured a legislative sponsor for the 2015 Legislative Session for assistance to clean up revisions to the practice act.

Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards: The Board reviewed communication from ASPPB regarding the new EPPP vendor and system transition. Ms. Parker noted that candidates were being informed of this transition period.

The Board reviewed LSBME's statement, approved at the December 9th LSMBE meeting, regarding the supervision by MPs of provisional psychologists and Licensed Specialists in School Psychology. The Board discussed the position statement. The Board agreed that the statement was sufficient. Dr. Culross directed Ms. Parker to notify all licensees, put it on the LSBEP website and in the next newsletter.

Dr. Culross moved to create a workgroup, including all 3 state psychological associations, on Professionalism. The motion passed by roll call vote: Culross-yay, Zimmermann-yay, Burnett-yay, Griffin-yay and Comaty-yay. Dr. Zimmermann agreed to organize the workgroup and manage the workgroup.

Continuing Education: No new report.

Complaints Committee: No new report.

Long Range Planning Meeting: The Board discussed the feedback at the recent LRP meeting.

Telepsychology Workgroup: The Board reviewed the proposed Telepsychology guidelines. Dr. Comaty moved to adopt the Telepsychology Guidelines, effective January 1, 2015. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote: Culross-yay, Zimmermann-yay, Burnett-yay, Griffin-yay and Comaty-yay. Ms. Parker noted she would email all psychologists and post the information on the website.

LBAB Liaison Report: No new report.

Ad hoc: Elections Committee: Ms. Parker updated the Board regarding the election process.

She noted that Mr. Lunceford, LSBEP Board Counsel, would receive the results directly from Simply Voting and any paper ballots would also be mailed to him (unopened at mailing). The Board requested that the results be released on or before January 16, 2015.

Discussion Items:

1. Future Meeting Dates: The Board scheduled the following meetings: February 27th, March 13th, April 24th, May 29th and June 26th.
2. New business for next month: The Board asked Ms. Parker to inquire with legal counsel about the requirements of recording telephone calls.

Public Comments:

Kim VanGeffen, LPA Representative, inquired about obtaining a list that contained the phone numbers of all licensed psychologists for use by LPA. The Board considered the matter carefully. The Board agreed to research the issue and evaluate the feasibility. Ms. Parker also suggested speaking with Mr. Lunceford regarding the “opt out” option. The Board agreed.

Dr. Culross moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m..