

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LONG RANGE PLANNING
January 14-15, 2011

Friday, January 14, 2011

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board) was called to order at 8:30 a.m., Friday, January 14, 2011, at 8280 YMCA Plaza Drive, Building 8-B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. Present were Board Members, Drs. Joseph Comaty, Tony Young, John Courtney, Rita Culross, and Lee Matthews; and, Executive Director, Jaime Monic.

Dr. Courtney moved to accept the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. After recommending revisions, Dr. Matthews moved to accept the minutes of December 10, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Courtney moved to enter Executive Session to conduct file reviews and oral examinations pursuant to LSA R.S.42:6.1(4). The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows Comaty – yea, Young – yea, Courtney – yea, Culross – yea and Matthews - yea

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

P09-10-08C - The Board reviewed the documentation presented by Dr. Donald Hoppe, as fulfillment of the requirements of the Consent Order. Dr. Courtney moved in favor of closing this matter and returning Dr. Hoppe's license to good standing. The Board unanimously accepted this motion by roll call vote as follows: Comaty – yea, Young – yea, Courtney – yea, Culross – yea and Matthews - yea

P07-08-05C – Dr. Courtney requested additional documentation be provided by the respondent, prior to considering this matter for closure. The Board unanimously agreed.

Kelley Pears, Ph.D. – The Board reviewed an inquiry from Dr. Pears. Dr. Comaty agreed to respond accordingly.

Supervision and Credentials Recommendations:

The Supervision/Credentials Committee conducted file reviews and made recommendations as follows:

Dr. Comaty, upon review of the application file for licensure of **Cathy A. Word, Ph.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Word and invite her to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Young, upon review of the application file for licensure of **Adam Hess, Ph.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Hess and invite him to sit for the oral examination for licensure pending receipt of passing EPPP score. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Young, upon review of the application file for licensure of **Lacey M. LeBlanc, Ph.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. LeBlanc and invite her to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Courtney, upon review of the Temporary Registration of **Robert Daniel Shaffer, Ph.D.**, determined from the documentation presented that Georgia, the state of Dr. Shaffer's residence, does not provide a reciprocal temporary practice provision for Louisiana Licensed Psychologists. Dr. Courtney recommended that, pending confirmation from the Georgia Board of Examiners of Psychologists of the existence of a temporary practice for Louisiana, the Temporary Registration of Dr. Shaffer be denied. The Board unanimously accepted these recommendations.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: The Board reviewed the October 2010 and November 2010 Financial Statements prepared by Ouida Nugent.

Long Range Planning/Awards Ceremony: The Board agreed to move the Awards Ceremony to March 2011.

Complaints Committee: Dr. Comaty reported that Dr. Pamela Martin from Disability Determination Services (DDS) confirmed that DDS was using LPC's and SW's to conduct disability determinations/functional assessments. Dr. Comaty agreed to confirm with Dr. Martin that these assessments are not "mental status examinations."

Ad hoc Committee: Behavioral Health Professionals Working Group (BHPWG) Representatives: Drs. Young and Comaty provided the December 8, 2010 Minutes of the BHPWG. Dr. Young provided a summary of the group's meeting, explaining that the two groups had agreed that additional didactic training and supervision requirements were necessary to expand the scope of practice for an LPC, to include limited diagnostic services, however there was disagreement on which group should regulate LPC's who have obtained additional training. Dr. Comaty reported that the group would meet again prior to drafting its final report to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

Supervision and Credentials Review Committee Dr. Culross reported that the Supervised Practice Plans were reviewed and approved for the following applicants: **Courtney A. Lewis** and **Birgit Smart**.

There was no report from the following committees: Oral Examination; Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards; Continuing Education; Legislative Coordinator.

Amanda M. Norris, Ph.D. appeared before Board members Young and Courtney for an oral examination for licensure. The results were presented to the Board. Dr. Young moved that the Board grant Dr. Norris a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Counseling Psychology. The motion unanimously passed.

Angie L. Pellegrin, Ph.D. appeared before Board members Comaty, Culross and Matthews for an oral examination for licensure. The results were presented to the Board. Dr. Matthews moved that the Board grant Dr. Pellegrin a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. The motion unanimously passed.

Jannis Moody-Long, Ph.D. (CL) – appeared before Board members Comaty, Courtney, Young, Matthews and Culross. Dr. Courtney moved that the oral examination of Dr. Moody-Long be continued a minimum of one year. The motion unanimously passed.

Discussion Items

Guidelines for LPCs Conducting Child Custody Evaluations – The Board reviewed the response from the LPC Board concerning LPC's conducting child custody evaluations. The Board requested that Attorney Amy Groves Lowe respond. Additionally, the Board agreed to have Ms. Monic follow up with the Board of Social Work Examiners regarding their published guidelines for conducting child custody evaluations.

Annual Budget – The Board reviewed the 2012 Budget prepared by Ouida Nugent. Dr. Courtney moved in favor of an amendment to budget for a 2.5% merit increase for Ms. Jaime Monic and Ms. Jacqueline Lively. The motion passed unanimously.

Newsletter – The Board reviewed a working draft of the next newsletter.

LSBEP Meeting/Workshop Alexandria, LA – The Board considered moving forward with an offsite meeting and workshop presentation. However, after reviewing the survey which solicited the interest of psychologists to attend and/or their availability to attend versus the expenses of conducting such an event, the Board found that it would not be fiscally responsible to proceed at this time.

AG Opinion 09-0221 – The Board reviewed AG Opinion 09-0221, in consideration to an informal request for LSBEP's opinion on whether or not an MP was eligible to serve as a Board Member. However, Ms. Monic advised that the Board only respond in a formal manner to formal requests, and on this particular matter, should defer to this opinion or the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions.

Technology – The Board discussed the status of the technology currently being used by the Board to process applications and renewals. Ms. Monic reported that Ms. Lively was currently working on a project to convert the application forms to an Adobe format that could be downloaded and completed on-line. However, because the application currently requires a notary, it could not be submitted electronically.

Renewal Attestation RE Prior Arrests – The Board reviewed and revised the Disciplinary Attestation on the Renewal Application Form to solicit information from renewing psychologists of any legal charges (pending or otherwise) brought against them.

Investigating Officer Contract – The Board reviewed Vita's submitted in response to its solicitation for a contract investigator. Ms. Monic noted the unexpected, yet welcomed interest in the position. However, due to time constraints, the Board chose three, of the thirteen who submitted vita's, to interview on February 25, 2011. The Board based this decision primarily on credentials and work experience, and also considered history of board actions and proximity of each individual to the Board office. The Board will continue to interview individuals until the best person for the position has been determined.

Denise P. Sellers, Ph.D. – The Board reviewed an inquiry from Dr. Sellers regarding Telepsychology, Dr. Comaty agreed to respond to Dr. Sellers modifying the Board's standard response to her specific situation.

5:00 Dr. Courtney moved to adjourn for the day. The motion unanimously passed.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board) was called to order at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, January 15, 2011, at 8280 YMCA Plaza Drive, Building 8-B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. Present were Board Members, Drs. Joseph Comaty, Tony Young, Rita Culross, and Lee Matthews; and, Executive Director, Jaime Monic. Dr. John Courtney was in partial attendance.

LA R.S. 37:21(A) – The Board reviewed this statute which provides limitations on the Board's ability to take action against a license based on procedural issues. The Board agreed that in some cases, this provides a risk to public health and welfare and agreed that an exemption should be included for the LSBEP in the same fashion that is provided for physicians and social workers. Ms. Monic agreed to begin due diligence on language for the exemption.

General Legislative Matters – There were no additional legislative matters discussed under this item.

Opinion: Supervision Toward Licensure – Ms. Monic updated the Board on the status of discussing the publication of this opinion with the LSBME. The Board agreed that given the amount of time that has passed without comment from the LSBME, it would be appropriate to publish the opinion.

Approved revisions to LAC 46, Part LXIII – The Board reviewed the rules in totality including previously approved revisions to the rules. Dr. Comaty proposed additional language to amend the definition of §103.

Applicant for Licensure to include language which would require the submission of a supervised practice plan for preapproval at the inception of the supervisory relationship. The board ratified the previously approved changes and also unanimously approved the changes proposed by Dr. Comaty.

Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP, ABCN, ABN, ABPdN) – The Board reviewed and revised this rule to bring it up to date with current standards, update acronyms, and name specific credentials required for Board recognition of the CN specialty.

Temporary licenses (Fees and definitions: temporary vs. part-time) – The Board reviewed proposed revisions to Chapter 10, Temporary Licensure, to define temporary practice and to clarify the limitations of the out of state psychologist, the limitations of the use of the temporary practice provision and the role of the sponsoring psychologist. The Board agreed that the revisions were important and Dr. Comaty agreed to refine the language for this Chapter.

Assessing Continued Competency – The Board discussed the importance of revising its renewal procedures to include some degree of assessment of the continued competency of psychologists that goes beyond the current requirements of continuing education. In considering this requirement, the Board reviewed guidelines being developed by ASPPB as well as current guidelines required by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology to maintain certification. Dr. Culross noted that the National Association of School Psychologists also has guidelines to assess continued competency to maintain certification. Dr. Young agreed to review the laws and rules to develop draft language to implement this requirement.

Policy & Procedure Manual: Complaints Policy (PPM 1015 and Sec. 7000) - The Board reviewed the current description of services and policies for investigating officers and approved modifications to allow for the position as a contract position to be held by a non-former board member.

Due to time constraints, Dr. Culross moved to adjourn for the day and table the following discussion items: Telepsychology, Guidelines for Evaluation Reports for the Impaired Psychologist Procedure and Developmental Psychology. Dr. Comaty requested that the Board schedule a half-day meeting to continue the Long Range Planning discussion items. The Board agreed to meet Thursday, February 24, 2011 from 1-5, the day preceding the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

At 12:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.