

**Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
*June 10, 2011*

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board) was called to order at 8:30 a.m., Friday, June 10, 2011, at 8280 YMCA Plaza Drive, Building 8-B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. Present were Board Members, Drs. Joseph Comaty, Tony Young, Rita Culross, John Courtney and Lee Matthews; and, Executive Director, Kelly Parker; and Training Consultant, Jaime Monic.

Dr. Culross moved that the minutes of May 13, 2011, be accepted as corrected. The motion passed.

Dr. Matthews requested to add National Register for Reciprocity to the agenda under Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards. The Board agreed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows Comaty – yea, Young – yea, Courtney – yea, Culross – yea and Matthews - yea

Pursuant to LSA R.S.42:6.1(4), Dr. Young moved to enter Executive Session to conduct file reviews and oral exams. 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 at 12:15 p.m. to enter the following:

**RN v. LRX** - The Board reviewed correspondence received from LRX. Dr. Comaty moved that the Board respond to the letter, clarifying the practice of psychology and the definition of psychological testing. Dr. Young also moved to forward the matter for an Attorney General's opinion. The Board unanimously accepted this motion by roll call vote as follows: Comaty – yea, Young – yea, Courtney – yea, Culross – yea and Matthews - yea

**LSBEP v. DJ(NP)** – Executive Director Kelly Parker reported on the status of LSBEP v. DJ(NP). The Board unanimously agreed to pursue law enforcement action and forward information regarding DJ to the Louisiana Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority.

**Internet Website Advertisements** – Dr. Courtney reported about the widespread problem with misinformation about licensee's qualifications being misrepresented on the Internet. The Board agreed that a notice should be posted in the next newsletter and on LSBEP's website. The Board also decided to contact the Board of Medical Examiners, Board of Social Workers and the Licensed Professional Counselors Board to request consideration in joining in a joint letter to the FTC to seek assistance in regulating these sites.

**LSBEP v. RK(NP)**: Based on the Board's decision regarding Internet Website Advertisements, this matter was closed.

**Supervision and Credentials Recommendations:**

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

Dr. Matthews, upon review of the application file for licensure of **James C. Smith, Ph.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Smith and invite him to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Culross, upon review of the application file for licensure of **Phillip T. Stepka, Ph.D.** recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Stepka and invite him to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Comaty, upon review of the request for Emeritus Status of **Jeanne L. George, Ph.D.**, recommended that Dr. George be granted Emeritus Status. Drs. Matthews, Culross and Young agreed. Dr. Courtney abstained.

Dr. Courtney reviewed and recommended the Board accept the supervised practice plan of Laura K. Giovingo, Ph.D. Drs. Comaty, Young and Matthews agreed. Dr. Culross recused herself. The recommendation passed.

The Board unanimously accepted the request of Dr. Lacey LeBlanc Seymour to complete extra training requirements under the supervision of Dr. Brian Esteve. Dr. Comaty agreed to write a letter on behalf of the Board notifying Dr. Esteve and Dr. Seymour.

The Board unanimously approved the request of Dr. Michelle Moore, to supervise LSU HSC's incoming class of psychology interns on the basis that Dr. Moore was supervised by a senior psychologist. Dr. Young agreed to write a letter on behalf of the Board notifying Dr. Moore.

The Board reviewed correspondence from Dr. Boll.

**Committee Reports:**

*Legislative Coordinator:* Dr. Comaty reported on SB268 and advised that it would be heard in the House Health & Welfare Committee on Tuesday, June 14, 2011. Dr. Courtney agreed to be available for informational purposes at the hearing.

*Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards:* Dr. Comaty reported that an objection letter was sent to Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in response to Bulletin 746 Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel: 421 which promulgated rules to employ behavioral analysts. Dr. Comaty also reported that he and Amy Groves Lowe, Esquire met with representatives of the Attorney General's Office regarding LPC Child Custody Guidelines.

Dr. Matthews addressed the Board and suggested accepting National Register as a means of reciprocity for licensure. The Board previously considered such a request from the National Register and determined that it did not meet the requirements of Louisiana Law.

*Complaints Committee:* Dr. Comaty discussed the Trudy Bond litigation. The Board agreed to contact the American Psychological Association and the Ohio Board of Psychologists to discuss the Trudy Bond matter.

*Sunset Review Committee:* Dr. Matthews reported that the Board's office staff was compiling information for the committee.

There was no report from the following committees: Finance, Oral Examination, Continuing Education, Long Range Planning/Awards Ceremony, Behavioral Health Professional Working Group.

**Birgit Smart, Ph.D.** appeared before Board members Comaty, Matthews and Culross for an oral examination for licensure. The results were presented to the Board. Dr. Comaty moved that the Board grant Dr. Smart a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Counseling Psychology. The motion unanimously passed. Dr. Young recused himself.

**Charles A. Yarborough, Psy.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. Yarborough a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. The motion unanimously passed. Dr. Comaty recused himself.

**Carrie E. Watkins-Emonet, Ph.D.** appeared before Board members Comaty, Matthews and Culross for an oral examination for licensure. The results were presented to the Board. Dr. Culross moved that the Board

grant Dr. Watkins-Emonet a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in School Counseling. The motion unanimously passed.

**Tiffany J. McCaughey, Ph.D.** appeared before Board members Comaty, Matthews and Culross for an oral examination for licensure. The results were presented to the Board. Dr. Young moved that the Board grant Dr. McCaughey a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Counseling Psychology. The motion unanimously passed.

**Discussion Items**

Executive Director Report: Kelly Parker reported to the Board that the 2011 Renewal Season started on May 26, 2011. As of the date of the Board meeting, 129 psychologists had renewed, 92 online and 37 paper renewals had been received. Ms. Parker also informed the Board that the survey link was active and approximately 61 licensees had participated, and that the survey will be closed on July 22, 2011.

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education: The Board discussed this matter under Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards

Reciprocity Process: The Board discussed reciprocity regulations and whether or not someone who has never taken an oral exam qualifies for reciprocity. The Board opined that if the applicant did not participate in an oral exam, they do not qualify under LAC 46: 201. The Board did opine that an applicant who has never taken an oral exam may apply for reciprocity but at the Board's discretion would be subject to an oral exam. The Board also discussed discontinuing reciprocity with Texas and made it an issue for Long Range Planning and/or Sunset.

Executive Order BJ 11-09 Merit Increase Freeze: The Board reviewed Governor Jindal's Executive Order and opined that the Board employees were exempt from the freeze. Dr. Culross made the motion to increase the Administrative Assistant's salary by 3%. Dr. Young seconded the motion. The Board also agreed to include staff salary increases in the Budget for 2011-2012.

3:00 p.m. Dr. Courtney moved to adjourn for the day. The motion unanimously passed.