

**Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 18, 2024 – Friday, January 19, 2024**

**FINAL APPROVED: April 19, 2024**

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board or LSBEP) was noticed, and the final agenda was posted and emailed to individuals and the news media who have requested to receive notices of LSBEP meetings on January 15, 2024. The notice included information on how to view the meeting virtually via Zoom at [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82507059591?pwd=ecboDCWAcFEbJxz\\_zXEEtBpZ-82zps.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82507059591?pwd=ecboDCWAcFEbJxz_zXEEtBpZ-82zps.1) Passcode: S46L5k; Or One tap mobile: US: +13017158592, 82507059591#, \*143629# or +13126266799, 82507059591#, \*143629#; Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):US: +1 301 715 8592; +1 312 626 6799; +1 929 205 6099; +1 253 215 8782; +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 **Webinar** ID: 825 0705 9591 Passcode: 143629

**Attendance Day 1:**

Board Members Present: Dr. Michelle Moore, Dr. Shannae Harness, Dr. T. Shavaun Sam, and Dr. Matthew Holcomb

Board Members Absent: Dr. Shawanda Woods-Smith

Staff Present: Executive Director, Jaime T. Monic, Administrative Assistant, Jalyne Brown, and Executive Counsel (Prosecuting Attorney) Jonathon Wagner

In-person Attendees: Chanelle Batiste

Zoom Attendees: Ikeshia Smith, Sonia Blauvelt, Erin Reuther, Chanelle Batiste, Margaret Smith

Dr. Sam conveyed a message from LPA Chair, Dr. Jesse Lambert to had planned to be present but had a family emergency. She conveyed Dr. Lambert’s regrets for missing a meeting he was looking forward to attend.

**CALL TO ORDER:** A quorum of members being present (Moore, Sam and Holcomb), Board Chairperson, Dr. Michelle Moore, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

**DECLARATION OF PURPOSE:** Dr. Moore read the mission statement as follows, *“It is hereby declared that the creation of a state board of examiners of psychologists is necessary in order to safeguard life, health, property, and the public welfare of this state, and in order to protect the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified, and improper application of psychology.”*

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Dr. Holcomb moved to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (3) Moore, Sam, Holcomb Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (2) Harness, Woods-Smith.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Moore called for any changes to the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, Dr. Moore and Dr. Sam read aloud the Consent Agenda for consideration by the Board for the affirmation, ratification, adoption, approval, and/or conferral as follows:

**a. Temporary Registrations approved (Affirm and Ratify):**

Name	State of Residence	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
RICHTON, Natalie	New York	J. Monic	11/16/2023 Approved for 1/1/2024-12/31/2024
GOODMAN, Erica	Illinois	J. Monic	12/27/2023 Approved for 1/1/2024-12/31/2024
VABLAIS, Cerise	Washington	J. Monic	12/27/2023 Approved for 1/1/2024-12/31/2024
FAGEN, Douglas B.	Virginia	J. Monic	1/9/2024 Approved for 1/9/2024-12/31/2024

SPEKTOR, Valeriya G.	Pennsylvania	J. Monic	1/12/2024 Approved for 1/12/24 – 12/31/24
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**b. Review Supervised Practice Plan (Affirm and Ratify):**

Applicant	Supervisor	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
SQUYRES, Emily	Shawanda Woods-Smith	S. Sam	11/28/2023 Approved
BLOCKER, Madeline	Franziska NoackLeSage	S. Sam	11/17/2023 Approved
LEAVEY, Jamie	Taylor Parks	S. Sam	10/26/2023 Approved

**c. Review for Candidacy Status and issued Provisional Licensure (eligible for EPPP) (Affirm and Ratify):**

Candidate	Supervisor	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
AMBEAU, Alexis	Anneliese Boettcher	S.Woods-Smith	12/15/2023 Invite to sit for EPPP
SQUYRES,Emily	Shawanda Woods-Smith	S.Sam	12/1/2023 Invite to sit for EPPP
LEAVEY, Jamie	Taylor Parks/ Amanda Gallagher	S.Woods-Smith	12/15/2023 Invite to sit for EPPP

**d. Review for Candidacy Status (eligible for EPPP) (Affirm and Ratify):**

Candidate	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
None		

**e. Review for Oral Examination Scheduling (Affirm and Ratify):**

Candidate	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
FULLER, Alexandra	M. Moore/ S. Sam	12/10/2023 Invite for Oral
HATCH, Virginia	S. Sam	11/29/2023 Invite for Oral
JASPER, Kendall	S. Harness/ M. Holcomb	11/21/2023 Invite for Oral (Reinstatement after 2 years)

**f. Reciprocity Review for Face-to-Face Scheduling (Affirm and Ratify):**

Candidate	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
CENTER, Kristy	S. Sam	11/29/2023 Invite for Face to Face

**g. Oral Examination Licensure recommendations of applicants and candidates who have completed all licensing requirements, including passing LSBEP's Jurisprudence and Oral Examinations (Board Conferral):**

Name	Declared Specialty	Date of Examination	Examining Members
NONE			

**h. Reciprocity Licensure recommendations for Board conferral of applicants and candidates who have completed all licensing requirements, including passing LSBEP's Jurisprudence and Face to Face Interview:**

Name	Declared Specialty	Date of Examination	Examining Members
NONE			

**i. License Reinstatements for Board conferral:**

Name	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
BRYAN, Samuel Hugh	M. Holcomb	Reinstated 11/21/2023
MITCHELL, Ariana	M. Holcomb	Reinstated 11/22/2023

MORGAN-D'ATRIO, Cynthia	M. Holcomb	Reinstated 1/11/2024
BATTEN, Sonja	M. Holcomb	Reinstated 1/11/2024

**j. Continuing Professional Development Reviews (Affirm and Ratify):**

Name	Review Type	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
ASHER, Allison	Licensee Preapproval Request	M. Holcomb	11/6/2023 Approved

**k. Respecializations of Licensed Psychologists:**

Name	Respecialization Area	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
NONE			

**l. LSSP Committee Recommendation for Licensure:**

Name	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
NONE		

**m. Application for Registration of an Assistant to a Psychologist:**

Primary Supervisor	ATAP NAME	Supervisors(S)	Date of review/Reviewer
Davenport, Michael	FREDERICK, George	No additional	10/20/2023 Approved/Sam
Arredondo, Beth	LINTON, Kimberly	Tran, Stella	10/20/2023 Approved/Sam
Broussard, Carmen	Duplantis, Katelyn	No additional	10/20/2023 Approved/Sam
Diane Franz	Bennett, Alexis	Catherine Kiracofe Sarah Rayburn Koren Boggs Corinn Johnson Jessica Grande Jodi Kamps Michelle Niemeier Hillary Becker Amy Henke Rebecca Rothbaum	10/20/2023 Approved/Sam
Diane Franz	O'Dwyer, Ryan	Catherine Kiracofe Sarah Rayburn Koren Boggs Corinn Johnson Jessica Grande Jodi Kamps Michelle Niemeier Hillary Becker Amy Henke Rebecca Rothbaum	10/20/2023 Approved/Sam
Diane Franz	Knight, Kristen	Catherine Kiracofe Sarah Rayburn Koren Boggs Corinn Johnson Jessica Grande Jodi Kamps Michelle Niemeier Hillary Becker	10/20/2023 Approved/Sam

		Amy Henke Rebecca Rothbaum	
Diane Franz	Coniglio, Amy	Catherine Kiracofe Sarah Rayburn Koren Boggs Corinn Johnson Jessica Grande Jodi Kamps Michelle Niemeier Hillary Becker Amy Henke Rebecca Rothbaum	10/20/2023 Approved/Sam
Tina Myers	Faust, Stephanie	No additional	10/20/2023 Approved/Sam
Shawanda Woods-Smith	Exe, Rachel	No additional	11/15/2023 Approved/Moore
Shawanda Woods-Smith	Manuel, Ka'ma	No additional	11/15/2023 Approved/Moore
Shawanda Woods-Smith	Keller, Lauren	No additional	11/15/2023 Approved/Moore
Shawanda Woods-Smith	Clemons, Eroctonya	No additional	11/15/2023 Approved/Moore
Shawanda Woods-Smith	Butler, Victoria	No additional	11/16/2023 Approved/Moore
David, Kimberly B.	Touchet, Katherine	Joslyn McCoy	10/20/2023 Approved/Sam
Heaton, Eleanore C.T.	Breaux, Braylin	Joslyn McCoy,	11/29/2023 Approved/Sam
Jane Morton	Moore, Brielle	Emily Boudreaux Phillp Richard III	11/29/2023 Approved/Sam
Tiffany Jennings	Taylor-Watkins, Natalie	No Additional	12/14/2023 Approved/Sam
Kevin Bianchini	Cornejo, Gabriela	James McAbee Matthew Holcomb Megan Alsop Kevin Greve, Matthew Calamia Lauren Rassmussen	12/15/2023 Approved/Sam
Kevin Bianchini	Arcement, Bre'Shana	James McAbee Matthew Holcomb Megan Alsop Kevin Greve, Matthew Calamia Lauren Rassmussen	12/15/2023 Approved/Sam

**n. Withdrawal from licensure:**

Name	Reason
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NASO, Ronald C	Applicant Requested
HOYT, Chrysan D	Applicant Requested

Following the reading of the Consent Agenda, Dr. Moore called for motions to object or to approve the Consent Agenda. Regarding the items specified on the Consent Agenda, Dr. Sam moved that the record reflect the name of the reviewer under item “m. Application for Registration of an Assistant to a Psychologist”. Dr. Holcomb moved to approve, affirm, and ratify the items on the Consent Agenda accordingly, with the addition of the reviewer name on item “m”. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Moore, Harness, Sam, and Holcomb; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.

**COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISON/AD HOC/OTHER REPORTS**

- a. **Executive Committee:** No report
- b. **Executive Director Report:**
  - (i) Ms. Monic reported that the new licensing application was progressing and that the developer, Covalent Logic was in touch frequently. She plans to have a presentation on progress and development to share at the next regularly scheduled meeting in April.
- c. **Finance**
  - (i) Ms. Monic reported that the standard quarterly report she prepares for meetings has not been prepared due to the contract transfer to the new accounting firm and migrating to new accounting software. She plans to fully update the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting in April.
- d. **Complaints**
  - (i) Compliance Report – Mr. Wagner provided the following report to the Board:

<b><u>COMPLIANCE REPORT</u></b>
<p><b>Date Report Prepared:</b> January 18, 2024  <b>Name of Preparer:</b> Jonathon Wagner  <b>REPORTING PERIOD:</b> 10/20/23-1/18/24  <b>CURRENT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of Requests for Investigation (RFI) received since last report: <b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Board-initiated RFI’s since last report included in total RFI’s above: <b>1</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Total number of cases closed since last report: <b>1</b></li> <li>• Total number of open cases: <b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>4</b> are informal resolutions still under monitoring. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>3</b> Consent Orders</li> <li>▪ <b>1</b> IPPA</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>13</b> are active Investigations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>3</b> from FY19-20</li> <li>▪ <b>0</b> from FY20-21</li> <li>▪ <b>4</b> from FY 21-22</li> <li>▪ <b>4</b> from FY 22-23</li> <li>▪ <b>2</b> from FY 23-24</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>2</b> are under review/Respondent not yet noticed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>1</b> from FY 22-23</li> <li>▪ <b>1</b> from FY 23-24</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

FY 2023-24: (Thus Far...)

- Formal hearings scheduled: **0**
- Face to Face Meetings Scheduled: **3**
- Disciplinary Actions: **2**

Additionally, Mr. Wagner requested to personally report that he had turned in his two-week resignation to Ms. Monic because he was offered a position as a Legislative Attorney in the Senate. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with them and expressed satisfaction with the Board position, but that the new opportunity was something he could not pass up.

- Continuing Professional Development** – Dr. Sam reported on the success of the Board sponsored CPD activity: Impact of Poverty of Psychological Wellness & Practice by Expert Speaker, Dr. Rosie Davis-Phillips. Dr. Sam reported that the activity was now available On-Demand for credit for those who missed the live presentation.
- Jurisprudence Examination** - Dr. Holcomb reported that he had written 50 new questions for the Jurisprudence Examination. He discussed next steps would be to meet with LSBEP staff to discuss the most frequently asked questions and/or misconceptions, then coordinate a method to present the draft to the Board. Additionally, he is considering a recommendation to set the Jurisprudence Exam as a CPD activity for credit.
- Legislative and Regulatory Oversight** – No Update
- Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards** – No Update
- Long Range Planning**- Noted that it was presently underway.
- Oral Examination** – No update
- Public and Professional Outreach** – Dr. Moore reported with the resignation of Mr. McNeely, the chair position on this committee was vacant. Dr. Sam volunteered. Dr. Moore appointed Dr. Sam as Committee Chair to this committee.
- Supervision and Credentials** – Dr. Sam reported that there would be some discussion today regarding the Master’s Licensure Taskforce and wanted to acknowledge that the Louisiana Psychological Association was actively taking a strong roll in wanting to be involved, and as a result, has convened a Task Force to discuss the opportunity for Master’s Licensure in Louisiana, and invited board liaisons to participate. Dr. Sam reported her attendance at a few meetings and Ms. Monic reported her attendance at the last meeting on January 5, 2024. It was that the Board could anticipate recommendations from LPA on their ideas for training, scope, and title.

## **WORKING LUNCH**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Dr. Moore moved to enter Executive Session. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Moore, Harness, Sam, and Holcomb; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.

**OPEN MEETING:** at 12:21 Dr. Moore moved to exit Executive Session. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (3) Moore, Harness, and Holcomb; Against: (0); Abstained: (1) Sam; Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

### **1. Executive Session Motions:**

#### **1. DISCUSS ORAL EXAMINATION RESULTS [LSA-R.S.42.16.1]:**

- a. **Alania Mosley, Ph.D.** – Dr. Harness moved this item be tabled until January 19, 2024, when all members were available to discuss. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Moore, Harness, Sam, and Holcomb; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.

#### **2. SUPERVISION/CREDENTIALS: File Reviews [LSA-R.S. 42.17.A(1)]:**

- a. **Danbi Choe, Ph.D.** – Finding the additional information submitted in support of Dr Choe’s application acceptable, Dr. Sam moved that Dr. Choe’s status as a Candidate for licensure be approved and that Dr. Choe be scheduled to sit for the Oral Examination. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Moore, Harness, Sam, and Holcomb; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.
- b. **Shawanda Woods-Smith, Ph.D.** – Regarding the registration of Assistants to a Psychologist by Dr. Woods-Smith and ongoing discussion, it was noted that the Board would provide a response letter on the matter.
- c. **Nathalie A. Cahill, Ph.D.** – The Board reviewed the Application for License, submitted to reinstate Dr. Cahill’s Provisional License #1567 in Executive Session. Dr. Sam moved that the Board accept Dr. Cahill’s application for such purpose and to advise her of the next steps required to complete the process including continuing education reporting requirements and limitation on renewal. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Moore, Harness, Sam, and Holcomb; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.

#### **3. COMPLAINTS [LSA-R.S.42.17.A(4)]:**

- a. **P20-21-15P** – This matter, currently deferred as the Respondent completes and IPPA with the Board, was reviewed for compliance in Executive Session. Dr. Holcomb moved that the Board grant the return of the Respondent to supervised practice. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Moore, Harness, Sam, and Holcomb; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.
- b. **B23-24-05P** – (*Complaint Committee: Jonathon Wagner, Attorney, Dr. Sasha Lambert, Complaint Coordinator, and Dr. Michelle Moore, Board Chairperson*) In Executive Session, Mr. Wagner reported on the completion of the investigation and findings in this matter by the Complaint Committee. Mr. Wagner presented a recommendation to dismiss without further action. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Moore,

Harness, Sam, and Holcomb; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.

4. **JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION [LSA-R.S. 42:17]** This discussion was deferred/no motions.
  
2. **2024 Annual Public Hearing Requirement pursuant to R.S. 49:953(C)(2)(a)** – Ms. Monic advised the board that it was required to hold an annual public hearing pursuant to R.S. 49:953(C)(2)(a) for the purpose of hearing comments and concerns related to rules. The Board discussed the matter and set the date and time for the hearing to be held congruent with their regularly scheduled board meeting on April 19, 2024, from noon – 12:30 p.m.
  
3. **ASPPB Mid-Year Meeting – Boston Massachusetts, April 25, 2024 – April 28, 2024: Budget and Attendees** – Dr. Moore reported that the next ASPPB meeting was scheduled for April 2024 and that given timelines, the Board should determine who they would be sending and who their delegate would be. The Board discussed the matter given the availability of board members. Dr. Holcomb expressed his interest and willingness to fund his own expenses if his schedule later permits him to attend. Dr. Moore reported that she was involved in the planning committee for the meeting. Following discussion, Dr. Moore moved that the Board cover expenses for conference fees, travel, and accommodations as previously budgeted for one Board Member and the Executive Director. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by majority roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (3) Moore, Harness, Holcomb; Against: (1) Sam; Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.
  
4. **Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Chairs and Board Members and Staff** – Dr. Harness requested clarification on roles of Committee Chairs, Board Members and Staff, specifically where there is disagreement from a committee member and a staff member; and determining chain of command. Dr. Moore pointed out that policies were written on staff delegations and committee roles when the Board moved to quarterly meetings. Ms. Monic explained that in order to have a committee decision, there needed to be a formally noticed Committee Meeting. The Board adopted an alternative policy where staff could designate a reviewer to move an application forward. Reviewers are selected based on the committee's they serve. Per policy, if the reviewer's findings are likely to have a negative outcome for the applicant, the Reviewer must refer to the Board for a decision. Determinations by the Board are typically communicated to the applicant by the Board Chair or Executive Director. After some discussion on the matter, Dr. Holcomb recommended a policy on conflict resolution. No recommendations on policy revisions were proposed. Dr. Sam also questioned the authority of the Chair, related to the calling of a Board Meeting on December 15, 2023, stating that there was a vote for a meeting that the Chair then called anyway, after Board members voted against it; Dr. Sam expressed that she did not believe the Minutes of October 2023 were complete or did not accurately reflect the motion that the Board members voted on which she believed there was some agreement to in the room.

Notwithstanding the particulars raised by Dr. Sam, Ms. Monic and Mr. Wagner explained that the Board Chair has the statutory authority to call a special meeting of the Board, as does the Governor, and that authority cannot be removed by a vote of the Board.



5. **Review Renewal Process and Application Workflow for registration of Assistant To A Psychologist** – Ms. Monic reported this would be a new procedure that needed consideration prior to renewals in July. Dr. Holcomb and Dr. Sam agreed to review the process for discussion at the April board meeting. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (3) Moore, Harness, Holcomb; Against: (1) Sam; Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.
6. **Long Range Planning Topics:** Dr. Moore moved to take the agenda out of order, in light of individuals present to speak on topics of interest and discuss in the following order: a) Examinations: Jurisprudence, Oral Examinations, and EPPP2; b) Continuing Professional Development; c) Supervision; and d) Master’s Level Licensing. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (3) Moore, Harness, Holcomb; Against: (1) Sam; Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Woods-Smith.

With that, Dr. Moore opened discussion on the following items in preparation of tomorrow’s meeting to outline and confirm understanding of issues and to designate discussion leaders.

**Item 6.c. on the Agenda: Examinations: Jurisprudence, Oral Examination, and EPPP2** – Dr. Moore invited comment from Dr. Chanelle Batiste who provided oral and written comments as follows:

*“Good afternoon. I am coming before you today to discuss the EPPP Part I and its impact on the licensing process of Black psychologists. My interest in this topic came after my first attempt in October of 2022 but was reignited after my second attempt in May of 2023. On my first try, I received a 460 and reasoned with myself that maybe I didn’t prepare enough, and I just needed to work harder. I found a community on Twitter, and we began studying together weekly for several months. Half of us were preparing to take the test again while the other half were on their first try and we shared our experiences and leaned on each other throughout the process. Across time zones and busy schedules, we made a way, studying silently on Zoom together to hold each other accountable, sharing multiple resources to add to our study materials, quizzing each other and discussing our responses to questions... the list goes on. As our test dates approached, which for several of us happened to be scheduled quite close together, we calmed each other’s nerves knowing we worked hard and did our due diligence. And then test days came and went with no good news to report. 494, 480, 470, 480... months of hard work being dashed by a few missed questions. If any of you experienced not passing this test on the first try, you are aware of the feelings that follow. For anyone who had the privilege of not experiencing failing on more than one occasion, I’m here to tell you I would not wish that feeling on anyone. As gut-wrenching as this experience was, though, it underscored a need for action, an explanation. How could that amount of effort result in failures? We connected with more people seeking answers and formed an advocacy group called Radical Psychs. We started by looking to the literature and found two studies completed by Dr. Brian Sharpless that suggested what we had already suspected, that Black people were failing at a higher rate than our white counterparts. His findings in these separate studies revealed that the first-time failure rate for Black applicants in Connecticut was 23.3% compared to 5.75% for white applicants, and in New York Black applicants failed at a rate of 38.5% while white applicants had a failure rate of 14.07%. I decided to create my own online survey to see if other Black psychologists had similar experiences to our group, and to our dismay, many had. Of the 110 people who have responded since May of last year, only 43% passed on the first attempt. The vast majority of those who did not pass on their first attempt and reported a score scored within the 400s, and 66% of those respondents scored 450 or better. A score of 450 is ASPPB’s recommended score for supervised practice.*

*After years of training, which includes supervision from practicum through post-doc, a score between 450 and 499 on a test that claims to only be assessing your general knowledge, indicates you still require more supervision. While our sample size is small, we believe it adds credence to Dr. Sharpless' work and puts under the spotlight a serious concern. If I had more time, I would share the many comments we received from respondents. So many people sharing about the financial and psychological toll this has taken on them, some whose careers hang in the balance if they do not pass, a few who have left the field all together. I cannot emphasize enough that we are more than just statistics. The people behind the numbers are experiencing the real world impact of not passing this exam and inspirational anecdotes and well-meaning but often unsolicited study tips (that many of us are using I might add) are not a solution. As we collected data, we've also been advocating. Our group have met with both APA and ASPPB to express our concerns. Responses to our questions only led to more questions, and highlight why what we are doing is necessary. For example, why do several boards not know how many Black psychologists are licensed in their state? Why is ASPPB not collecting data on the breakdown of pass rates by race for the EPPP? Without this information, how can it be determined that adverse impact is not happening, and for those who say that Black people are not disproportionately impacted, where is the data to support that? What is being done to address the concerns about a test that's validity and significance as a gatekeeping strategy has been questioned for years? My group is still working on figuring out where the answers to these questions are and will continue to do so. I come to you to ask if you will join us in these efforts. This is not an issue exclusive to psychologists. For those who are unfamiliar, the Association of Social Work Boards confirmation of concerns over racial disparities with their licensing exam has prompted action. If the field of psychology is committed to continuing to diversify the profession, all potential roadblocks must be addressed. And as the EPPP Part 2 looms near, the sense of urgency is ever more present. There are too many brilliant minds being held back by a hurdle that does not measure if they're a good clinician or not. For my team members who are watching, I think your impact in you're and professional spaces and communities is a testament of how worthy and competent you are. This is a call to action that is not just coming from a fellow professional, but a regular person who is scared to think of what will happen if I don't pass on my third try, who is dealing with anxiety I have never felt before but holds out hope that this work is going to make a difference for those coming behind me. I hope my state and others will answer. Thank you.*

#### *Data points:*

- 47% of respondents earned a PhD and 53% of respondents earned a PsyD.
- Overall pass rate on the first attempt was 43%.
- Of those who passed on the first attempt, 72% had a PhD and 28% had a PsyD.
- On the first attempt, 39 respondents scored in the 400s, and 66% of the respondents scored 450 or above.
- Three respondents scored in the 200s, 14 scored in the 300s, 26 scored in the 500s, 11 scored in the 600s, and 1 person scored in the 700s.

#### *Comments:*

*Below are some of the comments we received on our survey.*

- *I don't know any Black clinician who has passed this test on the first or second try without an abundance of financial support.*
- *This test does not assess competency and therefore is just a measure of how well you can remember information. Because of this test, I have been stalled on a job opportunity and increased pay. Knowing that the EPPP Pt 1 already adversely impacts Black clinicians and attempting to add a part 2 that does not have the data to back up its validity (and if there will be similar issues for Black people) is absurd.*
- *The test doesn't actually assess true readiness for the field and like all standardized tests, it isn't reflective of diverse learning styles and experiences resulting in a lower pass rate for Black/Latinx folks and since we often lack the support and resources (esp financial) to test more*

*often and buy more materials we're already at a disadvantage. Programs (graduated from TCSPP) also don't prep you for the exam or provide materials which is problematic. The cost is also a barrier that more likely impacts BIPOC, low income, and disabled testers. Adding the EPPP2 was also a mistake that only complicates the process.*

- *Although I passed but it was very stressful. I was blessed to have some resources to get some study materials. I found prepjet with coaching the best. I also had a Black colleague who was studying around the same time be my accountability partner. If I would have taken it outside of my postdoc year...I don't think I would have passed on my first attempt. I was able to control my postdoc schedule to honor my study period.*
- *I feel like I had to take the test from a strategic standpoint as some of the "correct" answers on the practice materials were out of date, incorrect, or biased. This test has nothing to do with being a licensed psychologist providing equitable, evidence-based, and culturally responsive. It is also very expensive!*
- *I have placed so much anxiety on myself with the exam and finances, it will feel like a relief to pass and then anger with the absurdity of a test with adverse impact and yet we're tested on how to avoid that on the EPPP. The irony is baffling."*

- i. The Board also discussed the following: potential for early admission by the Board to sit for Oral Examination of Candidates or Provisional Licensees; EPPP – Part 1 concerns about equity and number of attempts to take examination before denying licensure; EPPP – Part 2 updates and discussion about ASPPB's plan to roll out 2026; the need to identify what laws/rules would need to be considered for clarification/amendment.

**Item 6.a on the Agenda: Continuing Professional Development** – The Board discussed the use of the Jurisprudence Examination as a potential CPD opportunity as well as a competencies review. The Ontario Model was provided as an example. They discussed the review LAC:46.LXIII.Chapter 8. Continuing Education and the need to identify what laws/rules need to be considered for clarification/amendment. Also included for this group was future planning for Board Sponsored workshops.

**Item 6.d on the Agenda: Supervision:** The Board discussed supervision issues that have been raised by the members of the Supervision and Credentials Review Committee. Including whether there is a need to clarify Opinion No. 002: Clinical/Counseling Experience based on the last revision to the LAC:46:LXIII. §305. Specialty Areas. For example, it is not clear whether the Board would accept an individual with a designated school specialty supervising an individual wanting a clinical specialty; Additionally, workgroups should discuss moving forward with clarifying specific supervisory requirements related to clinical contact hours in the postdoctoral experience; the need to limit the number of ATAPs to Psychologist Supervisors and how would that be determined; and what laws/rules would need to be considered if these changes are developed. Some additional consideration brought up were to define "Client Contact" for individuals who may be in a research setting; and to take into consideration requirements under §705.B.

**Item 6.b on the Agenda: Master's Level Licensing** – The Board discussed the need to determine how prepared are we in Louisiana to accept future applicants at a Master's Level; what the public and association perspectives/ impacts; and what laws/rules would need to be considered to allow for Master's Level licensing.

Dr. Moore assigned the following individuals to lead workgroups:

- a. **Continuing Professional Development** - Dr. Harness requested to float between CPD and Supervision groups, Dr. Moore agreed to lead the workgroup.
- b. **Master's Level Licensing** – Dr. Sam and Ms. Monic offered to join the workgroup given her involvement with LPA on the issue.

- c. **Examinations: Jurisprudence, Oral Examination, and EPPP2** – Dr. Holcomb
- d. **Supervision** – Dr. ~~Moore~~ Woods-Smith

7. **Rule Making Requirement Public and Board Participation in Board Meetings, Special Accommodations and Virtual Meetings pursuant to Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session**- This discussion was tabled, rules were not prepared for board review.

From 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., Anti-trust Training was provided by Amy Groves Lowe to staff and board members covering roles in investigating matters concerning the unauthorized practice of psychology by unlicensed individuals, reporting violations, actionable findings, and other related anti-trust issues including rulemaking, denial of licensure and when to involve an attorney.

**RECESS AT 4:30 PM until January 19, 2024**

**DAY 2: LONG RANGE PLANNING**  
**January 19, 2024**

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board or LSBEP) was noticed, and the final agenda was posted and emailed to individuals and the news media who have requested to receive notices of LSBEP meetings on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. The notice included information on how to view the meeting virtually via Zoom at [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82507059591?pwd=ecboDCWAcFEbJxz\\_zXEEtBpZ-82zps.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82507059591?pwd=ecboDCWAcFEbJxz_zXEEtBpZ-82zps.1) Passcode: S46L5k; Or One tap mobile: US: +13017158592, 82507059591#, \*143629# or +13126266799, 82507059591#, \*143629#; Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):US: +1 301 715 8592; +1 312 626 6799; +1 929 205 6099; +1 253 215 8782; +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 **Webinar ID: 825 0705 9591** Passcode: 143629

**Attendance Day 2:**

Board Members Present: Dr. Michelle Moore, Dr. Shannae Harness, Dr. T. Shavaun Sam, Dr. Matthew Holcomb, and Dr. Shawanda Woods-Smith

Board Members Absent: None

Guests Participants: Darlyne Nemeth (Former Board Member), Kelley Ray (La. Asso. of Medical Psychology), Cynthia Lindsey (Northwestern State University), Kelley Pursell (LSSP Committee), Katherine Chenier (LSSP Committee Chair), George Hebert (LSSP Committee)

Staff Present: Executive Director, Jaime T. Monic, Administrative Assistant, Jalyne Brown, and Executive Counsel (Prosecuting Attorney) Jonathon Wagner

Zoom Attendees: Alannia Mosley, Richard Niolon, Ph.D. Sonia Blauvelt (LPA), Amy Henke (Former Board Member/Honoree)

Ms. Monic reported that our honorees Dr. Amy Henke and Koren Boggs would not be able to attend due to the backlog that was created with the weather closures earlier in the week. Dr. Gina Gibson had also expressed her regrets in not being able to attend. Dr. Greg Gormanous did not respond.

**CALL TO ORDER:** A quorum of members being present (Dr. Moore, Dr. Harness, Dr. Holcomb, and Dr. Woods-Smith), Board Chairperson, Dr. Michelle Moore, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. on Friday, January 19, 2024.

**DECLARATION OF PURPOSE:** Dr. Moore welcomed guests read the mission statement as follows, “*It is hereby declared that the creation of a state board of examiners of psychologists is necessary in order to*

*safeguard life, health, property, and the public welfare of this state, and in order to protect the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified, and improper application of psychology.”*

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Dr. Woods-Smith moved to approve the agenda, with an amendment to complete any outstanding Executive Session discussions from the prior day, January 18, 2024. The motion to approve the agenda as amended passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Moore, Harness, Holcomb, and Woods-Smith; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Sam.

**Review and vetting for Nominations for 2024 Election for July 1, 2024 Vacancy** – Dr. Moore opened and read nominations for Dr. Mark Zimmermann. Dr. Zimmermann was the only candidate nominating for the election. The Board confirmed his eligibility and will open elections in February 2024.

**LSSP Committee Report** – Dr. Cheniere, Dr. Hebert and Ms. Pursell presented to LSBEP on the activities of the LSSP Committee as follows: This year the Committee had focused on the following issues:

- analyzed similarities between LDOE certification requirements and the LSBEP LSSP and LP requirement;
- made recommendations based on similarities between the certified psych and LSSP requirements;
- discussed telesupervision of LSSPs and started to update the regulations for LSSP telesupervision (ongoing project);
- discussed the composition of the current LSSP committee and recommended a rule change to allow for one licensed psych, one LSSP and the third member to be either an LP or an LSSP;
- followed initiatives pertaining to Medicaid/CPT Code updates relevant to psychologist, master's level accreditation through APA;
- updated the LSSP application to mimic the LP updates, including new background check procedure; and
- the completion of file reviews and providing recommendations to LSBEP on licensing of LSSP's.

**WORKGROUPS:** Board Members, Staff and Guests broke out into workgroups and later reconvened to report on discussions and any recommendations coming out of the workgroup discussion as follows:

- i. **Continuing Professional Development** – Participants in this workgroup included Dr. Harness (floating), Dr. Moore, Dr. Chenier, Dr. Hebert, Ms. Pursell (floating) – The workgroup recommended the following: 1. that the board put out a statement clarifying the allowance of on-demand workshops from acceptable sponsors; 2. Suggested there was a need to clarify the pre-approval process, including what activities require pre-approval. Additionally, the workgroup suggested that the language about timing for requesting pre-approval is not clear and recommended clarification on the rule. Specifically, it is not clear that pre-approval must happen before engaging in the activity and the group is not sure that always makes sense for every single activity; 3. Suggested an allowance for increased number of pre-approved hours per reporting period (possibly 20 instead of 10); Recommended clarification on the rule to correct citations, specifically, Section 806.C. refers to "E of this section" which does not exist. 4. If the jurisprudence exam were offered as a CPD activity, it was recommended that it be for 1 credit but there was concern about test security if we didn't have a very large bank of questions that were credit multiple versions of the CPD activity. The group found the webinars offered by the Board that reviewed the rule changes to be helpful and would like to continue to see those offered for credit in the future. They were informative and help people to stay up-to-date. LSSP CPD criteria are currently different but they would like theirs to mirror the general LSBEP rules. Lastly, the group discussed changes to the rules and recommended increasing the number of credit hours awarded for other non-traditional activities. The recommended increase was to a maximum of 20 credit hours.
- ii. **Master's Level Licensing** – Participants in this workgroup included Dr. Lindsey, Ms. Pursell, Ms. Monic, Ms. Brown, and Dr. Sam. The group piggybacked on some of the ideas and opinions that had been shared by workgroup participants who had also participated in LPA's workgroup to answer the outline requested by the Board. They also reviewed APA's guidelines on accrediting master's

programs, but found no specific requirement for coursework. Regarding the readiness for Louisiana to support a Masters License the workgroup reported that there were currently 3 graduate training programs in Louisiana with terminal masters training programs in psychology including Northwestern University, Southeastern University and University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The workgroup recommended that only licensed psychologists would be qualified to provide graduate and post-graduate supervision required for licensure. The workgroup discussed the requirement for internship/externship/practicum I & II experiences. Ms. Pursell shared her perspective as a master's level Licensed Specialist in School Psychology, explaining that her training prepared her to conduct 1508 evaluations for students, and how it would be important that any statute or rule not impact that current practice. The workgroup discussed the individual perspectives which included ideas that a masters license would increase the diversity of clinicians and allow for needed access to mental health care in rural communities. The workgroup outlined some of the conditions the laws should address, including consideration for training program (course work), scope, a test of knowledge, jurisprudence examination, supervised internship/externship hours, postgraduate training, and Ms. Monic reported that the Board was also waiting for recommendations from LPA.

- iii. **Examinations: Jurisprudence, Oral Examination, and EPPP2** – The participants in the workgroup included Dr. Holcomb, Dr. Harness (floating) and Mr. Wagner. The workgroup reported discussing a recommendation to setup the Jurisprudence Exam as a CPD activity for credit; they also discussed continuing concerns regarding replacing the Oral Examination with the EPPP2 as the assessment of skill in 2026. The committee reported that a statutory change would be required to replace the Oral Examination with the EPPP2.
- iv. **Supervision:** Participants in the Supervision workgroup included Dr. Woods-Smith, Dr. Nemeth, and Dr. Ray. Dr. Woods-Smith reported that the workgroup discussed recommendations on limitations of five (5) Registered ATAPs per Supervisor for facilities/organizations which work with multidisciplinary teams; two (2) Registered ATAPs per Supervisor for independent practice. Regarding the need to limit specific clinical contact hours in postdoctoral experience the committee suggested 500 hours/25%; and a recommendation to rewrite law related to ATAP registration so that the number of ATAP's a supervisor can register is clear and concise. The workgroup recommended that the topic of Medical Professionals Supervising Registered ATAPs warrants further discussion, including whether there is a potential for the Board to consider a discount for Psychologists who are registered with both the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners and LSBEP and whether there is a way for both boards to work together to support individuals working in the field. There was also a reference made to VA Psychologists having different qualifications and some choosing not to be licensed in Louisiana because of the difficulty of being licensed in the state.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Dr. Moore moved to enter Executive Session to complete outstanding executive session discussion items from the following day. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (5) Moore, Harness, Sam, Holcomb, and Woods-Smith; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (0).

**OPEN MEETING:** Dr. Harness moved to exit Executive Session. Following an opportunity for discussion, the matter was put to a vote. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (5) Moore, Harness, Sam, Holcomb, and Woods-Smith; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (0).

**Alania Mosley, Ph.D.** appeared on December 15, 2023 for an Oral Examination for Licensure before Examining Board Members: Moore, Holcomb and Woods-Smith. The Board discussed the results of the examining members. Finding that **Dr. Mosley** has successfully completed the requirements for licensure, Dr. Moore moved that the Board grant **Dr. Mosley** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Counseling Psychology. The Board discussed this motion. The motion passed by unanimous

roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (3) Moore, Holcomb, Woods-Smith Against: (0); Abstained: (2) Sam, Harness; Absent: (0)

All business being completed, the meeting adjourned at 12:29pm

LEGAL NOTICES

LA R.S. 42.14.D. Public comments\*\* – In accordance with LA R.S. 42.14.D., the LSBEP shall allow public comments at any point in the meeting prior to action on an agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. Individuals who wish to comment on a matter must sign in and state their intent to comment on a matter. La. R.S. 44:33.1 - In compliance with La. R.S. 44:33.1, the LSBEP hereby gives notice that information submitted to the LSBEP may become public record pursuant to the provisions of Louisiana Public Records Law, La. R.S. 44:1, et seq.