

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

**Friday, December 13, 2024**  
**FINAL APPROVED: January 17, 2025**

A Special Meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board or LSBEP) was noticed pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2353(B) for the sole purpose of considering licensing recommendations and other matters that required board decisions prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. The final agenda was posted and emailed to individuals and the news media who have requested to receive notices of LSBEP meetings on December 11, 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:**

Board Members Present: Dr. T. Shavaun Sam, Dr. Shawanda Woods-Smith, Dr. Matthew Holcomb, Dr. Marc L. Zimmerman

Board Members Absent: Dr. Shannae Harness

Staff Present: Executive Director, Jaime T. Monic; Executive Counsel/Prosecuting Attorney, Courtney P. Newton, No. 29373

In-person Guest Attendees: None

Zoom Guest Attendees: Amy Henke, Greg Gormanous, Kim VanGeffen, Lee Purvis and Dayle Lattie.

**CALL TO ORDER:** A quorum of members being present, the Board Vice-Chairperson, Dr. T. Shavaun Sam, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. on Friday, December 13, 2024

**DECLARATION OF PURPOSE:** Dr. Sam 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. Sam moved to approve the agenda. Following opportunity for discussion, Dr. Sam called a roll call vote. The motion to approve the agenda passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.

**DISCUSSION**

1. Master's Licensure: Review rules for Licensed Psychological Associate

Dr. Sam presented draft proposed rules on behalf of the Task Force drafting rules for Licensed Psychological Associate (§§ 108, 109, 304, 503, 703). Dr. Sam encouraged all Board members to be prepared discuss with proposed revisions at the January 16/17, 2025 Board Meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Holcomb moved to enter Executive Session to discuss Oral Examinations conducted by LSBEP examiners per LA R.S. 42.17.A.(1), discussion of the character, professional competence, of physical or mental health of a person. Dr. Sam opened the matter for discussion and then called for a roll call vote.

The motion to enter into executive session passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.

During Executive Session, the Committee discussed the Oral Examinations, licensing credentials, and recommendations of the following:

- a. Michelle M. Rhodes, Ph.D. *Reciprocity* – 9:00 a.m. Oral Examination\
- b. Dayle Cathleen Lattie, Psy.D. - 9:00 a.m. Oral Examination
- c. Raquel Gutierrez, Ph.D. – 10:00 a.m. Oral Examination
- d. Michael E. Ray, Psy.D. – 10:00 a.m. Oral Examination
- e. Andrew James Swiantek, Psy.D. – 11:00 a.m. Oral Examination
- f. Christine M. Wolfe, Psy.D. – 11:00 a.m. Oral Examination
- g. Lee N. Purvis, Ph.D. *License Reinstatement* – 12:00 p.m. Oral Examination
- h. Recommendation from the LSSP Committee to Reinstate the License of Shanette Dominick

Dr. Sam moved to exit Executive Session and enter open meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OPEN MEETING**

## **DISCUSSION CONTINUED**

### **2. Consider Licensing Recommendations following Executive Session.**

- a. **Michelle M. Rhodes, Ph.D.** appeared at 9:00 a.m. on December 13, 2024, before Examining Board Members Dr. Sam and Dr. Holcomb for licensure via reciprocity. Finding that **Dr. Rhodes** has successfully completed the requirements for licensure, Dr. Holcomb moved that the Board grant **Dr. Rhodes** a license to practice psychology with a registered specialty in clinical psychology. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.
- b. **Dayle Cathleen Lattie, Psy.D.** appeared at 9:00 a.m. on December 13, 2024, before Examining Board Members Dr. Woods-Smith and Dr. Zimmerman for licensure. Finding that **Dr. Lattie** has successfully completed the requirements for licensure, Dr. Zimmerman moved that the Board grant **Dr. Lattie** a license to practice psychology with a with a registered specialty in clinical psychology. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.
- c. **Raquel Gutierrez, Ph.D.** appeared at 10:00 a.m. on December 13, 2024, before Examining Board Members Dr. Sam and Dr. Holcomb for licensure. Finding that **Dr. Gutierrez** has successfully completed the requirements for licensure, Dr. Holcomb moved that the Board

grant **Dr. Gutierrez** a license to practice psychology with a with a non-registered specialty. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.

- d. **Michael E. Ray, Psy.D.** appeared at 10:00 a.m. on December 13, 2024, before Examining Board Members Dr. Woods-Smith and Dr. Zimmerman for licensure. Finding that **Dr. Ray** has successfully completed the requirements for licensure, Dr. Woods-Smith moved that the Board grant **Dr. Ray** a license to practice psychology with a with a registered specialty in clinical psychology. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.
- e. **Andrew James Swiantek, Psy.D.** appeared at 11:00 a.m. on December 13, 2024, before Examining Board Members Dr. Sam and Dr. Holcomb for licensure. Finding that **Dr. Swiantek** has successfully completed the requirements for licensure, Dr. Holcomb moved that the Board grant **Dr. Swiantek** a license to practice psychology with a with a registered specialty in clinical psychology. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.
- f. **Christine M. Wolfe, Psy.D.** appeared at 11:00 a.m. on December 13, 2024, before Examining Board Members Dr. Woods-Smith and Dr. Zimmerman for licensure. Finding that **Dr. Wolfe** has successfully completed the requirements for licensure, Dr. Zimmerman moved that the Board grant **Dr. Wolf** a license to practice psychology with a with a registered specialty in clinical psychology. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.
- g. **Lee N. Purvis, Ph.D.** appeared at 12:00 p.m. on December 13, 2024, before Examining Board Members Dr. Woods-Smith and Dr. Zimmerman for reinstatement of licensure without specialty designation. Finding that **Dr. Purvis** has successfully completed the requirements for licensure, Dr. Woods-Smith moved that the Board reinstate **Dr. Purvis** a license to practice psychology with a with a non-registered specialty designation. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.
- h. **Shanette Dominick.** The Board considered the recommendation of the LSSP Committee to reinstate the License of Shanette Dominick. Finding that Ms. Dominick has successfully completed the requirements for licensure, Dr. Holcomb moved to accept the recommendation of the LSSP Committee to reinstate the license of Shanette Dominick. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.

**3. Reimbursement for Board Members and Staff for expenses incurred related to *Alleman et al v. Harness et al* (CA No. 2:24-cv-00877-JWD-SDJ)**

Jaime Monic, Executive Director presented existing policy and rules concerning reimbursement of costs and expenses of Board member stating that the existing policy and rules are silent to legal costs pertaining to litigation.

Dr. Sam moved to allow for reimbursement expenses incurred at direction of counsel for both Board members and staff that are related to *Alleman et al v. Harness et al* (CA No. 2:24-cv-00877-JWD-SDJ). Dr. Sam opened the matter for discussion. Dr. Zimmerman questioned the need for putting a cap on expenses automatically reimbursed. Ms. Newton provided an option of placing a cap on automatic expenses and expenses in excess be presented to Board for approval. Mrs. Monic suggested all expenses be submitted on an expense report to be approved by the Board. Dr. Sam withdrew her motion.

Dr. Zimmerman moved that all expenses necessitated by *Alleman et al v. Harness et al* (CA No. 2:24-cv-00877-JWD-SDJ), as determined by counsel, be submitted to the Board in the form of an expense report for review and approval prior to issuance of reimbursement. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.

**4. LEASE STATUS: 4334 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Ste. C150, Baton Rouge, LA**

Attorney Newton presented the matter to the Board. Ms. Newton discussed history of communications with landlord/management company, status of compliance with terms of the lease, condition of the facility, and status of AC/HVAC issues and mold concerns. Ms. Newton also discussed progress in located new office facility and option of vacating the property due to breach of lease. Dr. Woods-Smith questioned the quality of the repairs due to the exposed hoses and locations of the AC units. Dr. Zimmerman questioned whether the work performed by the landlord resolved all issues and satisfied the terms of the lease. Ms. Newton stated that she would be monitoring and tracking the issues.

Dr. Holcomb moved to empower the staff to research cost of further mold testing and air purifiers for presentation and consideration at the next Board meeting. Dr. Sam opened the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (3) Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (1) Sam; Absent: (1) Harness.

Dr. Holcomb asked about process of vacating property. Mrs. Monic explained steps required to vacate property and provided rough timeline for relocating Board office.

Drs. Zimmerman and Holcomb requested that updates on status of the repairs/office and communications with the landlord be provided at future board meetings.

All business being completed, Dr. Holcomb moved to adjourn at 1:11 p.m. Dr. Sam opened up the matter for discussion, and hearing none, called for a roll call vote. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Zimmerman; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Harness.

**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.