

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

Saturday, October 26, 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 meeting to discuss strategy and budgeting for prospective litigation. The final agenda was posted and emailed to individuals and the news media who have requested to receive notices of LSBEP meetings on October 25, 2024.

Attendance:

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

Board Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Executive Director, Jaime T. Monic; Executive Counsel/Prosecuting Attorney, Courtney P. Newton and General Counsel, Amy Groves Lowe

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum of members being present, the Board Chairperson, Dr. Shannae Harness, called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2024.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Holcomb moved to enter Executive Session to meet with Attorney Amy Groves Lowe to discuss the matters docketed for Executive Session pursuant to LA R.S. 42.17.A.(2) following opportunity for discussion, the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (4) Harness, Holcomb, Woods-Smith, Moore; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) Sam. Dr. Sam arrived and joined the Executive Session shortly thereafter at 10:46 a.m.

Dr. Moore moved to exit Executive Session and return to Open Meeting. Following opportunity for discussion, the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (5) Harness, Sam, Holcomb, Woods-Smith, and Moore; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (0)

OPEN MEETING

a. Executive Session Motions –

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss attorney representation and answering the petition in the prospective litigation: UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT: MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA: Case No. 3:24-cv00877 JULIE ALLEMAN, JULIET CATRETT, AND P. WELLNESS INSTITUTE, LLC vs. SHANNAE N. HARNESS, T. SHAVAUN SAM, MICHELLE B. MOORE, MATTHEW HOLCOMB, SHAWANDA WOODS-SMITH, JAMIE MONIC and COURTNEY PAPA LEWTON, each in their official capacities, AND THE DISTRICT

ATTORNEY FOR THE EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH. The Board's General Counsel joined the meeting via telephone to provide the board with a summation of the petition and discuss strategy for answering the petition. Following Executive Session, in Open Meeting, Dr. Michelle Moore moved in favor of hiring Amy Groves Low to represent the Board in the Matter of Alleman *et al* vs Harness *et al*, and to empower the Executive Committee to make decisions [regarding case strategy] consistent with the recommendations of Attorney Lowe. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (5) Harness, Sam, Holcomb, Woods-Smith, and Moore; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (0).

- b. **Budget Considerations** - The Board reviewed and discussed the prior Budget and proposed amendments, in consideration of impacts related to representation. The members of the board collectively discussed and agreed on the following amendments to FY 25: Income, adding a line item for "Application for Licensed Psychological Associate" \$20,000, increasing income for line items "Jurisprudence Examination to \$7,581 and "Continuing Professional Development Offerings (Board Sponsored)" to account for the additional training that Ms. Newton will be developing in the area of Ethics. Ms. Newton offered the option of two separate 1-hour courses at \$25 each or bundle 2 for \$45, the Board authorized this proposal. The Board also discussed reducing projections to contract labor for Investigator Henry Richardson to \$6000 and Complaint Coordinator Sasha Lambert to \$6,800. Following discussion, Dr. Moore moved for a formal resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, in consideration of the Board's obligation to continue to carry out its duties and delegated authority under Louisiana Revised Statutes, 37:2351 to safeguard life, health, property and the public welfare in order to protect the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified, and improper application of psychology, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, on October 18, 2024, Board Members met and thoroughly reviewed and discussed amendments to the Budget for the current Fiscal Year 2024-25; and adoption of a Budget for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2025-26, including but not limited to, income, expenses, unfunded operations, salaries, training, travel, and required long-term liabilities (OPEB and pension).

WHEREAS, following the October 18, 2024, board meeting, the Board met for a Special Meeting on October 26, 2024, to consider additional amendments due to emergent prospective litigation.

WHEREAS, following discussion, Dr. Michelle Moore, moved that the Board replace the previously adopted Budget of October 18, 2024, not yet filed, in order to incorporate additional changes, and formally adopt the ensuing 2025-26 Budget and amend the current 2024-25 Budget as discussed on October 18, 2024, and October 26, 2024.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the motion having been put to a vote of the members present, was adopted by unanimous roll call vote as follows: In favor: (5) Shannae Harness, T. Shavaun Sam, Matthew Holcomb, Shawanda Woods-Smith and Michelle Moore; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (0).

All business being completed, Dr. Holcomb moved to adjourn at 11:51 a.m. Following opportunity for discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: In favor: (5) Harness, Sam, Woods-Smith, Holcomb, Moore; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (0).

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.