

**Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
4334 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite #C-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70816**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 15, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Board Members Present: Matthew Holcomb, Ph.D., Shawanda Woods-Smith, Psy.D., T. Shavaun Sam, Ph.D., Marc Zimmermann, Ph.D., and A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Matthew Holcomb, Board Chair at 8:38 a.m.

Dr. Adrienne Brennan arrived late.

Board Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Executive Director, Jaime T. Monic, Administrative Assistant, Jalyne Brown, and Executive Counsel Prosecuting Attorney, Courtney Newton

Guests - in person: none

Guests - virtually: Tryphena Jenkins, John Simoneaux, Kim VanGeffen

B. DECLARATION OF PURPOSE:

Dr. Holcomb 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."*

C. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Dr. Holcomb moved to approve the agenda as posted. Dr. Holcomb called for discussion and comments; hearing none, the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Woods-Smith – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

D. CONSENT AGENDA REVIEW LOG (03/23/2026 – 5/11/2026):

Dr. Adrienne Brennan joined the meeting at 8:41 a.m..

Dr. Holcomb called for the review and consideration of item removal from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, Dr. Holcomb read aloud the Consent Agenda Items for affirmation, ratification, adoption, approval, and/or conferral as follows:

a. Minutes (Approval):

March 27, 2026

b. Financial Statements Received (Affirm and Ratify):

Financials: General Ledger, Balance Sheet, Budget vs. Actual, Profit & Loss for February and March 2026.
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c. Temporary Registrations Approved (Affirm and Ratify):

Name	State of Residence	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
Lauren Bartholomew	Pennsylvania	J. Monic	4/20/2026 Approved

d. Reviews: Supervised Practice Plan (Affirm and Ratify):

Applicant	Supervisor	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
REJUSTE, Ciara	Joy T. Bui	M. Zimmermann	4/9/2026 Approved

e. Reviews: Candidacy Status and issued Provisional Licensure (eligible for EPPP) (Affirm and Ratify):

Candidate	Supervisor	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
CHIASSEON, Cyrus	Michael Major	Full Board	3/27/2026 Approved
REJUSTE, Ciara	Joy T. Bui	M. Zimmermann	5/2/2026 Approved

f. Reviews: Candidacy Status (eligible for EPPP) (Affirm and Ratify):

Candidate	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
none		

g. Reviews: Oral Examination Scheduling (Affirm and Ratify):

Candidate	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
HOOVER, Sydney	M. Zimmermann	3/27/2026 Approved Invite for Oral Exam
RIDHA, Betool	S. Sam	4/30/2026 Approved Invite for Oral Exam
SWANBERG, Stephanie	S. Sam	4/30/2026 Approved Invite for Oral Exam
JENKINS, Tryphena	M. Zimmermann	5/2/2026 Approved Invite for Oral Exam
EVANS, Sarah	M. Zimmermann	5/2/2026 Approved Invite for Oral Exam

h. Reviews: Reciprocity for Face to Face Scheduling (Affirm and Ratify):

Candidate	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
PAUL, Robert	M. Zimmermann	3/27/2026 Approved, Schedule Face to Face.
CURRY, Shannon	M. Holcomb	5/11/2026 Approved, Schedule Face to Face.

i. License Reinstatements for Board conferral:

Name	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
None		

j. Reviews: Continuing Education (Affirm and Ratify):

Name	Review Type	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
WALKER, Douglas	Licensee Preapproval Application	M. Zimmermann	3/27/2026/Approved
MECHE, Scott	Licensee Preapproval Application	M. Zimmermann	3/27/2026/ Approved
HELLER, Sherryl	Licensee Preapproval Application	S. Sam	4/30/2026/Approved
Team Dynamics, LLC	Sponsor Preapproval Application	S. Sam	4/30/2026/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. Endorsement License Recommendations (Administrative Review)

Name	Reviewer	Date of review/Result
JACKSON, Yolanda	J. Monic	4/30/2026

n. Application for Registration of an Assistant to a Psychologist:

Primary Supervisor	ATAP NAME	Secondary Supervisors(S)	Date of review/Reviewer/Result
Lisa Gallagher	Katherine Kennedy	Koren Boggs, Adrienne Brennan, Kristin Callahan Amy Henke, Sarah Miller Rayburn, Roberto Varela	4/2/2026 Approved/ J. Monic
Lauren Woodruff Rasmussen	Ashley Spencer	James McAbee, Kevin Bianchini, Kevin Greve, Matthew Calamia, Matthew Holcomb, Megan Alsop	5/6/2026 Approved/J. Monic
Jesse Smotherman	Elise Laurent		5/11/2026 Approved/ J. Monic

o. Applications Withdrawn:

Name	Date of Withdraw	Application Type	Notes
None			

**** FILE REVIEWS:** All file reviews are conducted independently.

Motion: Dr. Zimmermann moved to approve the Consent Agenda as read. The Board discussed the motion. Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

E. BOARD IN-SERVICE TRAINING:

Ms. Courtney P. Newton presented on the Board's policy and procedures regarding LSBEP's complaint intake and investigative process. The Board discussed its current policies and procedures following the presentation.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: Dr. Sam moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to LSA-R.S. 42:17.A(1) and 42:17A(4) to conduct oral examinations, file reviews, complaint reviews and personnel matters. The Board discussed the motion. Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none the motion was put to a vote.

Time: approximately 9:24 a.m.

Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

OPEN MEETING:

Motion: Dr. Woods-Smith moved to exit Executive Session and open the meeting. The Board discussed the motion. Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Time: 11:28 a.m.

Motion Passed

Motion: Dr. Woods-Smith moved to take the agenda out of order to hear executive session motions. The Board discussed the motion. Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION MOTIONS:

1. ORAL EXAMINATIONS [LSA-R.S. 42.17.A(1)]:

- a. **Brett Valette, Psy.D.**, appeared before Board Members, Drs. Shawanda Woods-Smith, T. Shavaun Sam, Marc Zimmermann and Adrienne Brennan for an oral examination. The Board discussed **Dr. Valette's** performance and qualifications in Executive Session. Dr. Matthew Holcomb recused from this examination.

Motion: Finding that **Dr. Valette**, met the requirements for licensure, Dr. Brennan moved to grant **Dr. Valette** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. After opportunity for discussion of the motion, Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – recused.

Motion Passed.

2. **Oral Examinations Conducted on May 14, 2026:** During Executive Session, the Board discussed oral examinations conducted on May 14, 2026, following Executive Session, the following motions were offered:

(Dr. Shavaun Sam left the meeting early)

- a. **Sydney Hoover, Psy.D.**

Motion: Finding that **Dr. Hoover**, met the requirements for licensure, Dr. Zimmermann moved to grant **Dr. Hoover** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. After opportunity for discussion of the motion, Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

- b. **Angela Pawley, Psy.D.**

Motion: Finding that **Dr. Pawley**, met the requirements for licensure, Dr. Holcomb moved to grant **Dr. Pawley** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. After opportunity for discussion of the motion, Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

- c. **Tryphena Jenkins, Ph.D.**

Motion: Finding that **Dr. Jenkins**, met the requirements for licensure, Dr. Zimmermann moved to grant **Dr. Jenkins** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. After opportunity for discussion of the motion, Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

d. **Betool Ridha, Ph.D.**

Motion: Finding that **Dr. Ridha**, met the requirements for licensure, Dr. Holcomb moved to grant **Dr. Ridha** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Counseling Psychology. After opportunity for discussion of the motion, Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

e. **Sarah Evans, Ph.D.**

Motion: Finding that **Dr. Evans**, met the requirements for licensure, Dr. Zimmermann moved to grant **Dr. Evans** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. After opportunity for discussion of the motion, Dr. Holcomb called for public comments; hearing none, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

3. **SUPERVISION AND CREDENTIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE File Reviews [LSA-R.S. 42.17.A(1)]:**

a. **Chinyere Hunter, Ph.D.** - The Application for Licensed Psychologist of Chinyere Hunter was reviewed in Executive Session.

Motion: Finding the applicant has not met the requirements for licensure, Dr. Brennan moved to deny the application.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

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

a. **NP22-23-15B** - During Executive Session, Attorney Newton presented this case to the Board, and the Board thoroughly discussed the case.

Motion: Dr. Holcomb moved in favor of filing an injunction and reporting the individual to the proper authorities. Following opportunity for public comment, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

b. **NP22-23-15B** - During Executive Session, Attorney Newton presented this case to the Board; the Board thoroughly discussed the case.

Motion: Dr. Holcomb moved in favor of filing an injunction and reporting the individual to the proper authorities. Following opportunity for public comment, the matter was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

c. **P24-25-23C** - Attorney Newton presented this case to the Board in Executive Session, and reported that following thorough investigation and consideration, the Complaint Committee is recommending dismissal.

Motion: Dr. Zimmermann moved in favor of accepting the recommendation to dismiss. Following opportunity for public comment, the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

- d. **NP25-26-03C** - During Executive Session, Attorney Newton presented this case to the Board; the Board thoroughly discussed the case.
Motion: Dr. Woods-Smith moved in favor of filing an injunction and reporting the individual to the proper authorities. Following opportunity for public comment, the matter was put to a vote.
Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes
Motion Passed.
- e. **NP25-26-16C** - During Executive Session, Attorney Newton presented this case to the Board; the Board thoroughly discussed the case.
Motion: Dr. Brennan moved in favor of providing a letter of education and dismissing the matter. Following opportunity for public comment, the matter was put to a vote.
Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes
Motion Passed.
- f. **NP25-26-34C** - During Executive Session, Attorney Newton presented this case to the Board; the Board thoroughly discussed the case.
Motion: Dr. Zimmermann moved in favor of reporting the matter to the appropriate board and dismissing the matter. Following opportunity for public comment, the matter was put to a vote.
Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes
Motion Passed.
- g. **NP25-26-39C** - During Executive Session, Attorney Newton presented this case to the Board; the Board thoroughly discussed the case.
Motion: Dr. Zimmermann moved in favor of reporting the matter to the appropriate board and dismissing the matter. Following opportunity for public comment, the matter was put to a vote.
Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes
Motion Passed.
- h. **NP25-26-44C** - During Executive Session, Attorney Newton presented this case to the Board; the Board thoroughly discussed the case.
Motion: Dr. Woods-Smith moved in favor of dismissing the matter. Following opportunity for public comment, the matter was put to a vote.
Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes
Motion Passed.

4. **PERSONNEL MATTERS [LSA-R.S.42.17.A(1)]** - The Board discussed personnel matters during Executive Session.

G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: The Board received committee reports as follows:

1. **Continuing Professional Development Committee** - no report.
2. **Complaints Committee**
 - a. Complaint Committee Report

COMPLIANCE REPORT

Date Report Prepared: **May 11, 2026**

Name of Preparer: **Courtney P. Newton, No. 29373**

Reporting Period: **03/25/2026 – 05/11/2026**

CURRENT:

- Total number of Complaints Received in FY 24-25: **37**
- Total number of Complaints Received in **FY 25-26: 46**
- Total number of Requests for Investigation (RFI) received since last report: **13**
 - Board-initiated RFI's since last report included in total RFI's above: **0**

(Rap Back, Board Receipt of Information)

- Anonymous Complaints since last report included in total RFI's above: **5**
- Total number of open matters: **43**
 - **1** informal resolution(s) under monitoring
 - **0** Consent Orders
 - **1** IPPA
 - **42** are active Investigations
 - **1** from FY 21-22
 - **5** from FY 22-23 (*erroneously reported as 4 prior Report)
 - **1** from FY 23-24
 - **14** from FY 24-25 (*erroneously reported as 13 prior Report)
 - **21** from FY 25-26
 - **8** are under review/Licensee not yet noticed
 - **0** Informal Meeting since last meeting
- Closed Last Meeting: **4**
- Board Consideration: **5**

STATISTICS OF OPEN MATTERS:

- Non-Psychologists: **14**
- Impaired: **5**
- Forensic: **9**
- Boundaries/Sexual Misconduct: **1**
- Supervision / ATAP: **4**
- Applicant/Provisional Licensee: **1**

UPCOMING:

- Formal Hearings: 1 (Matter No. P25-26-35B)
- Face to Face Meetings Scheduled: **2 docketed (1 Licensee)**

- a. Presentation on Complaint Process (C. Newton) - Ms. Newton conducted a presentation on this matter during the Board Meeting.

2. Executive Committee Report

- a. Operations/Updates

Dr. Matthew Holcomb advised that a rule had been adopted permitting temporary license holders and graduate students to bill Medicaid for authorized services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT ON OPERATIONS

Prepared for May 2026 Meeting

Regular operations of the Board continued as planned.

Meetings

- The Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) Committee met on March 4, 2026.
- Presented at Louisiana Department of Health, Healthcare Workforce Mini Summit on February 3, 2026 @ 1:55 P.M.

Projects Completed

- Biannual Non-Criminal Justice Agency Audit completed on 1/22/2026, no findings.
- Property Audit completed on 3/11/2026, no findings.

Current and Ongoing Projects

- **Rulemaking** - Chapter 8 and Chapter 40: Continuing education requirements, Chapter 1: Removal of the

limitation on attempts to pass the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) - Notice of Intent published 3/20/2026; Final Rule anticipated 6/20/2026

- **Web Accessibility Compliance** -Staff continues to update paper forms to meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards in compliance with Louisiana Title 4, Part V, Chapter 61 (PPM 74) and applicable federal requirements. Deadline has been extended until April 24, 2027.

New Applications Received

	License Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
	Licensed Psychologist (LP)	3	1	4	5	13
	LP Reciprocity	1	0	1	0	3
	Temporary Registration	12	8	2	0	22
	Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP)	1	2	2	1	6
	Provisional Licensed Psychologist	0	0	0	0	0
	Reinstatement Applications	0	1	0	0	1
	ATAP New/Reallocation	3	1	1	7	12
	Totals	21	13	10	13	57

License Verifications Processed - 445

Board Vacancy - The public member position remains vacant. Elections will open in February for the upcoming professional vacancy.

Litigation / Legal Matters

Two pending legal matters:

- Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, Inc. vs. Louisiana Department of Health through the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. 19th JDC, Suit No. C-768897, Section 21
- Julie Alleman, Juliette Catrett, and P. Wellness Institute, LLC, v. Matthew Holcomb, et al., US District Court for Middle District of Louisiana, Case No. 3:24-cv-00877

Canvas - Experienced cyberattack, and is down. We are currently sending paper jurisprudence examinations. Researching options for new electronic exam platform.

3. Finance Committee

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Date Report Prepared: 5/14/2026

Name of Preparer: Jaime T. Monic

REPORTING PERIOD: January 1, 2026-March, 2026

This report summarizes the Board's financial information. The narrative and analysis are provided for Board discussion and do not replace the financial statements prepared by the Board's CPA.

Summary

Eight months into FY 2025–26, total income for the period was **\$403,979.26**, compared to a total budget of **\$431,073.55**. Total expenses for the period were **\$422,530.75**, compared to a total budget of **\$556,126.42**.

The Board remains in a stable financial position at mid-fiscal year. Variances between actual and budgeted income amounts are primarily attributable to the timing of revenue collections and planned expenditures that are expected to occur later in the fiscal year.

Budget vs. Actual Overview

Category	Actual	Budgeted	Trends / Notes
Income	\$403,979.26	\$431,073.55	Total income is slightly below budget and is generally consistent with the prior fiscal year for the same period. Variances are primarily related to lower-than-anticipated application and examination activity.
Expenses	\$422,530.75	\$556,758.00	Total expenses remain below budget overall, despite increases in legal and complaint-related costs compared to the prior fiscal year. Expenditures to date reflect controlled spending across major categories, with certain anticipated costs not yet realized.

Income Summary

	January	February	March	FY 2025–26 YTD
Monthly Income	\$8,603.81	\$8,342.00	\$13,186.97	\$403,979.26
Monthly Expense	(\$44,403.45)	(\$44,047.09)	(\$43,974.49)	-\$422,530.75
Net Income	(\$35,799.64)	(\$35,705.09)	(\$30,787.52)	(\$18,551.49)

Cash Position - The Board began FY 2025–26 with a fund balance of **\$96,400.00**. As of March 31, 2026, cash on hand totaled **\$77,579.09**, with an additional **\$2,406.08 in receivables**. This total does not include debt owed to the Board in matters older than 91 days. Based on current projections, existing cash reserves are expected to carry the Board through the end of the fiscal year; however, the margin is tight and dependent on the timing of remaining expenditures, particularly legal costs. The Board will continue to monitor expenditures closely to ensure sufficient liquidity until renewal revenue is received.

Outlook and Operational Notes - Revenue performance is expected to remain modest for the remainder of the fiscal year. Additional income is anticipated from applications, examinations, and continuing education activities, with increased participation expected as the next renewal period approaches. The Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA) has not yet generated application activity as initially anticipated, and related revenue has not materialized to date. The Board has initiated the last of the rulemaking initiatives to amend continuing education requirements, examination policies, and legislatively mandated revisions. Additionally, the Board has conducted two hearings during the fiscal year, which is atypical and has contributed to increased legal expenses. While one legal matter has been resolved, two matters remain pending, and additional legal costs are anticipated. Taking these factors into consideration, increased expenditures in the remaining months of the fiscal year.

Board Strategy Recommendations

- Consider new processes and procedures in response to Legislative Performance Audit recommendations, including administrative mechanisms to enforce regulatory compliance if legislatively authorized.

- Complete remaining rulemaking initiatives.
- Budget for the future implementation of the Licensed Psychological Associate program within the online licensing management system.
- Consider establishing a reserve target sufficient to cover deferred liabilities, unexpected expenses (e.g., hearings, litigation, major technology needs, relocation), and three to six months of operating expenses; and adopting policy guidelines governing the use of reserves, including conditions for Board approval and a plan to replenish reserve balances after use.

4. **Jurisprudence Examination Committee** - Dr. Shawanda Woods-Smith reported that implementation of the Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA) Jurisprudence Examination was progressing.
5. **Legislative Oversight Committee** - Dr. Holcomb advised that the Legislative Oversight Committee report would be addressed later in the meeting.
6. **Liaison to Professional Organizations** - Dr. Holcomb further reported on liaison activities with professional organizations, noting that he and the Executive Director had provided updates at a recent meeting.
7. **Long Range Planning Committee** - no report.
8. **Oral Examination Committee** - no report.
9. **Public and Professional Outreach Committee** - no report.
10. **Supervision and Credentials Committee** - no report.

H. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Open Enrollment - Invitation from Office of the Attorney General to participate in the Occupational Licensing Review Program (OLRP) for the 2026-27 fiscal year.**
 Director Monic reported the Attorney General's Office has invited them to participate in the OLRP and provided the invitation letter and letter outlining the benefits of the program. The Board discussed the intent of the program to provide active oversight in anti-trust matters; that the Board would have the option to send any order of the Board to them to review when it involves anti-trust issues and the Board would make decisions about what qualifies as anti-trust; the OLRP also reviews rule-making.
Motion: In consideration of the timeline to enroll by May 31, 2026, and the fee due immediately (1.75 per licensee, approximately \$1517.25 for the LSBEP), Dr. Holcomb moved that the Board invite Rhonda Boe, the Executive Director of the La Behavior Analyst Board to present on their experience with the OLRP before the next open enrollment and reconsider the opportunity at that time. There were no objections or additional discussion on the matter. Following opportunity for public comment, the matter was put to a vote.
Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan - Yes, Holcomb - Yes
Motion Passed.
2. **Strategic Personnel Restructuring – Shared Administrative Assistant Role with the Louisiana State Behavior Analyst Board and Retention of Ms. Jalyne Brown**
 Dr. Holcomb informed board members of the proposal to share Ms. Jalyne Brown with the La Behavior Analyst Board (LBAB), following LBAB's loss of their front desk person. LSBEP would

retain her in same position, but utilize her as a shared employee with LBAB; proposal is to split hours: 10 - LSBEP and 30 - LBAB/week; LBAB would be responsible for funding future raises.

Motion: Dr. Zimmermann moved in favor of restructuring personnel and revising the Memorandum of Understanding with the LBAB for review and approval by the Board Chair, Dr. Matthew Holcomb.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

3. **Consolidated Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology - Roll out timeline**

The Board discussed the anticipated implementation of the Consolidated Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), reviewed the informational materials provided, and considered the need for future rulemaking regarding candidates who pass the current EPPP after the transition date, including whether the Oral Examination would remain applicable. The Board was advised that ASPPB would host a virtual town hall meeting on June 2, 2026, to discuss the implementation timeline, with the current transition date anticipated to be April 1, 2027. Discussion also included establishing a deadline for admission to the current EPPP, with a proposal to notify candidates approved for candidacy that they must complete the current examination by March 31, 2027, or request admission to the Consolidated EPPP, and to communicate the transition through an email notice. No action was taken, and the matter was tabled until the next Board meeting to allow members to participate in the ASPPB town hall and consider additional information before establishing Board policy.

4. **In the Matter P17-18-04C, Christopher D. Garner, Psy.D. - Consideration of extinguishment of outstanding consent order obligation due to death of licensee.**

Prosecuting Attorney Courtney Papale Newton presented the matter for the Board's consideration. Following discussion, the Board determined not to extinguish the outstanding financial obligation under the Consent Order.

Motion: Dr. Matthew Holcomb moved to authorize Prosecuting Attorney Newton to file the debt in the appropriate mortgage and conveyance records and to pursue collection of the debt on behalf of the Board. Following opportunity for public comment, the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

5. **In the Matter P23-24-08C, John Simoneaux, Ph.D.**

a. **Motion to Amend “Opinion and Order”**

Dr. Matthew Holcomb presented the motion filed by John Simoneaux, and the Board briefly recessed to review the filing.

Motion: Following discussion, Dr. Zimmermann moved to deny the Motion to Amend the Opinion and Order, finding that the Opinion and Order accurately reflected the Board's decision. Following opportunity for public comment, the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

b. **“Rule for Attorney Fees and Expenses”**

Dr. Holcomb opened the matter for discussion. The Executive Director clarified for the record that counsel for Respondent, John Simoneaux objected to the Board's original decision regarding reimbursement of attorney fees and expenses, and is again seeking reimbursement of attorney fees and expenses.

Motion: Finding no legal basis to grant the request. Dr. Holcomb moved to deny the request for reimbursement of attorney fees and expenses. Following opportunity for public comment, the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

6. **2026 Board Member Election (Term 2026-2031) Nominees**

- i. **Diane Franz, Ph.D.**
- ii. **James Van Hook, III, Ph.D.**
- iii. **Brandon P. Romano, Psy.D.**

The Executive Director advised the Board that Dr. James Van Hook, III had withdrawn his name from consideration, leaving Dr. Diane Franz and Dr. Brandon P. Romano as nominees for the upcoming Board election.

The nominees' candidate statements were read into the record by Dr. Adrienne Brennan.

Motion: Following discussion, Dr. Matthew Holcomb moved to accept the nominations and authorize staff to conduct the Board election from May 18 through June 15, 2026, and to receive and communicate the official election results to the appropriate parties to avoid unnecessary delay in filling the vacant Board positions. Following opportunity for public comment, the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

7. **RecoveryTrek: Consideration of new third party administrator for drug/alcohol testing/monitoring.**

The Board considered engaging RecoveryTrek as the Board's third-party administrator for drug and alcohol testing and monitoring services in place of the Board's current provider, Vault.

Motion: Dr. Holcomb moved to authorize the Executive Director, Jaime Monic, or Board Chair to execute a contract on behalf of the Board with RecoveryTrek and to discontinue the Board's use of Vault for testing and monitoring services. Following opportunity for public comment, the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

Motion Passed.

8. **BUDGET: Consideration of Amendments to 2025-26 Current; 2026-27 Proposed**

Director Monic presented proposals for amending the 2025-26 Budget and proposed 2026-27 Budget based on actual income and expenses to date, including salary and retirement contribution adjustments.

Resolution. Following discussion, Dr. Holcomb resolved to adopt the current 2025-26 Budget and proposed 2026-27 Budget as amended. Following opportunity for public comment, the resolution was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Sam – Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

9. **POLICY:**

a. **Licensed Psychological Associate Policy Discussion: Application of Postgraduate Training Hours for Terminal Master's Degrees vs. Doctoral Programs Without a Terminal Master's Degree.**

The Board considered adopting an opinion regarding relevant training of applicants for Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA) to distinguish postgraduate training hours for applicants holding terminal master's degrees compared to applicants who may be enrolled in doctoral programs without a terminal master's degree; and further considering how advanced training obtained by an LPA, for licensure at a doctoral level may be acceptable.

Motion: Following discussion, Dr. Marc Zimmermann moved to adopt the draft Opinion as revised for clarification of the supervision requirements relative to an applicant for Licensed Psychological Associate under the Louisiana Administrative Code, 46:LXIII, Chapter 73 (attached). Following opportunity for public comment, the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes
Motion Passed.

b. **Nicole Tucker, Louisiana State Civil Service – Inquiry regarding the Board’s position on use of the title “Psychology Post-Doctoral Fellow”/ “Post-Doctoral Fellow”**

Dr. Matthew Holcomb opened the matter for discussion. The Board considered an inquiry from Louisiana State Civil Service regarding the use of the title "Psychology Post-Doctoral Fellow" and reaffirmed its prior guidance regarding the distinction between Civil Service job classifications and the Board's statutory and regulatory authority governing the practice of psychology. The Board discussed the applicability of the exemptions set forth in La. R.S. 37:2365(C), Candidate status, Board-approved supervised practice, and the requirement that individuals who no longer qualify for the postdoctoral training exemption must register as an Assistant to a Psychologist before continuing to engage in activities regulated by the Board.

Motion: Following discussion, Dr. Matthew Holcomb moved to authorize the Executive Director to prepare a written response consistent with the Board's discussion and applicable law, subject to his review and approval prior to issuance. Following opportunity for public comment, the motion was put to a vote.

Roll Call Vote: Woods-Smith - Yes, Zimmermann - Yes, Brennan – Yes, Holcomb – Yes
Motion Passed.

c. **Review Assistant To A Psychologist registration requirements for**

i. **Supervised Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSP)**

ii. **Supervised Licensed Psychological Associates (LPA)**

iii. **Temporary Practice Registrants utilizing ATAP’s, including implications on proposed PSYPACT legislation.**

The Board discussed the applicability of ATAP registration requirements in several practice settings.

With respect to Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSPs), the Board discussed that an LSSP is not required to register as an Assistant to a Psychologist (ATAP) while practicing within the authorized scope of the LSSP license. The Board further discussed that an LSSP practicing outside that scope under the supervision of a licensed psychologist would be subject to the requirements of LAC 46:LXIII, Chapter 11, including registration as an Assistant to a Psychologist, where applicable..

Regarding Licensed Psychological Associates (LPAs), the Board discussed that an LPA performing activities outside the authorized scope of the LPA license under the supervision of a licensed psychologist would be subject to the requirements of LAC 46:LXIII, Chapter 11, including registration as an Assistant to a Psychologist, where applicable.

The Board also discussed Temporary Practice Registrants and the implications of proposed PSYPACT legislation, reaffirming that individuals functioning as assistants under a psychologist's supervision must be registered as ATAPs where required by law, and that temporary practice registration or PSYPACT authority extends only to the licensed psychologist and not to subordinate personnel; PSYPACT participants remain subject to the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which services are provided. Accordingly, individuals practicing in Louisiana are subject to the requirements of LAC 46:LXIII, Chapter 11, including the registration requirements applicable to unlicensed assistants.

Dr. Holcomb recommended that the Board adopt Opinions relative to this discussion, and ask that the PSYPACT Commission publish clear guidance on this subject also. Dir. Monic will provide draft opinions for consideration at the next board meeting.

10. **REVIEW LONG RANGE PLANNING TOPICS OF JANUARY 15, 2026**

a. **Enforcement Framework Review: Disciplinary Actions and Administrative Penalties (all license types)**

The Board reviewed the long-range planning topic regarding the enforcement framework for disciplinary actions and administrative penalties applicable to all license types. Following discussion, the Board directed staff to begin drafting proposed language for future consideration and requested that representatives of the Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA) profession be invited to participate in the discussion as the proposals are developed.

b. **License Requirements and Application Process Efficiency (all license types)**

The Board agreed to table this discussion pending additional information from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Board's regarding the implementation of the revised Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology and the potential impacts on the necessity for continuing the oral examination for licensure.

11. **2026 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION** - Ms. Monic reported the following proposed legislation as having the ability to impact the Board operationally and/or fiscally:

- a. HB23 BACALA RETIREMENT/STATE EMPS: Grants a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible retirees and beneficiaries.
- b. *HB197 DOMANGUE. Provides for the use of AI by healthcare providers.
- c. HB250 TURNER ETHICS: Provides with respect to disclosure of certain information by members of boards or commissions
- d. HB437 MELERINE. Provides relative to expert witness fees (qualification of expert)
- e. HB486 SPELL - PSYCHOLOGISTS. Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)
- f. *HB563 MANDIE LANDRY WEAPONS/FIREARMS. Provides for the creation of the "Louisiana Voluntary Do Not Sell List"
- g. HB578 MIKE JOHNSON - CIVIL/LAW Restoring Biological Truth Act
- h. HB615 MIKE JOHNSON PUBLIC MEETINGS: Requires certain public meetings to be broadcast live
- i. *HB627 KNOX PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides relative to live-stream video and recording of the public meetings of entities created by law
- j. HB648 BRASS PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides relative to attendance at meetings of public bodies
- k. HB763 BILLINGS PUBLIC RECORDS: Provides for a public Settlement Agreement Information Database to contain certain information regarding settlements entered into by state agencies
- l. HB1049 OWEN. Provides relative to public meetings
- m. *HB1145 VENTRELLA: Provides relative to psychologists
- n. *SB5 HENSGENS MENTAL HEALTH. Provides for the regulation of mental health chatbots that use artificial intelligence technology.
- o. SB21 PRICE STATE EMPLOYEE RET. Provides relative to payments toward the unfunded accrued liability of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and the amortization of certain actuarial gains.
- p. SB 47 MIZELL PUBLIC RECORDS. Requires certain email and telephone contact information for individual members of a board and commission.
- q. SB 131 PRESSLY ATTORNEYS. Provides for limitations on recovery of attorney fees and costs in occupational licensing board disciplinary hearings.

- r. SB 233 MIZELL STATE AGENCIES. Establishes the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact.
- s. *SB 266 PRESSLY FEES/LICENSES/PERMITS. Provides relative to occupational licenses.

ADJOURNED: Dr. Zimmermann moved to adjourn at 3:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jaime T. Monic,
Executive Director

Certification of Approval:

I hereby certify that these minutes were approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on July 17, 2026.



Matthew J. Holcomb, Ph.D.

Chairperson

Date: 7/17/26

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.

Opinion No. 026: Supervised Practice relative to Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA)

RENDERED: July 17, 2026

Postgraduate Supervised Training for Applicants for Licensed Psychological Associates (LPA):

Supervised experience obtained as part of a doctoral internship training program may be credited toward the 2 years and 3,500 postgraduate supervised training hours required pursuant to Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC), Title 46:LXIII. Chapter 73, provided that the applicant holds a conferred doctoral degree in psychology from an acceptable program as defined by the Board. The absence of a terminal master's degree shall not, by itself, preclude consideration of otherwise qualifying supervised experience obtained as part of a doctoral program in psychology that meets the requirements of LAC 46:LXIII. Chapter 73. Each application shall be evaluated on its own merits.

Advanced Training of Licensed Psychological Associates: The Board recognizes that individuals applying for licensure as a Licensed Psychological Associate may later seek a license as a Licensed Psychologist. The Board's acceptance of supervised training for licensure as a Licensed Psychological Associate pursuant to LAC, 46:LXIII. Chapter 73 shall not be construed as satisfying post-doctoral supervised training requirements for licensure as a Psychologist unless the experience also meets the requirements expressly provided for under LAC 46:LXIII. Chapter 7. The Board seeks to avoid unnecessary duplication of training where permitted by rule; however, supervised experience may be applied toward eligibility for more than one license category only where the experience satisfies the requirements applicable to each license.