

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF  
EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS  
Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2013**

The Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists met Friday August 23, 2013, at the Professional Licensing Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

**Members Present:**

Marsha B. Sauls, Ph.D., President  
Linda F. Campbell, Ph.D., Vice President  
Donald S. Meck, Ph.D.  
William F. Doverspike, Ph.D.  
A. Melton Strozier Jr., Ph.D.  
Judy Grammer, Consumer Member

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director  
Serena Gadson, Licensure Supervisor (Apps-Oral Exams)  
Chrissy Lewis, CCA I (Complaints)  
Hope Harrison, Board Support Specialist

**Assistant Attorney General:**

Reagan Dean, AAG

Dr. Sauls, presiding officer, established that a quorum was present and declared the meeting open at 9:03 a.m.

**Agenda:** Approved as amended to add the following discussion topics:

- Post-doctoral requirement
- House Study Committee on Professional Licensing Boards survey

**GPA Liaison Report:**

Dr. Barbara Calhoun, Ph. D. - GPA Liason, and the Board discussed the following topics:

- Psychological testing legislation - defining psychological testing
- Behavioral analyst licensure
- Psychologists defined as independent practitioners for Medicare.

Dr. Meck reported that he and Dr. Strozier met with Representative Austin Scott at the request of APA to promote legislative support for a bill to recognize psychologists as independent practitioners with Medicare. Dr. Meck noted that currently Medicare patients were required to have a physician referral to receive qualified services from a psychologist. Dr. Meck recommended GPA encourage members to voice their concerns to their Representatives and Senators.

Dr. Sauls requested a three hour position at the GPA Convention to present changes in the application process and any rule changes. The continuing education rule changes were adopted and posted but do not take effect until January 1, 2015.

Dr. Meck requested a position for him and Dr. Campbell to conduct a presentation of tele-psychology. [Note: this is not a Board presentation but is an individual presentation based on rules developed through APA and ASPPB.]

**Approval of Minutes:**

- July 26, 2013

**Dr. Campbell motioned, Dr. Strozier seconded, and the Board voted to approve the minutes from the July 26, 2013 meeting as amended. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Correspondence:**

- A. Mabe – Rule 510-2-.05 Resident/residency terminology

The Board reviewed the correspondence submitted by Dr. Mabe. Rule 510-2-.05 was adopted as proposed at the July 26, 2013 meeting.

**PLUS Program:**

- The Board reviewed and determined the application document tabs needed for endorsement applicants on the ASPPB website.
- The form to initiate the application process at the Board office was reviewed.
- The general application instructions form was reviewed.
- Rules 510-2 and 510-3 will be reviewed for any changes necessary for participation in the ASPPB PLUS (Psychology Licensure Universal System) program.

**Post-Doctoral Discussion:**

The Board discussed an option to allow applicants to complete their post-doctoral requirement during their first licensure cycle rather than prior to licensure. A recommendation was made to call this option a post-doctoral fellowship. This will be an on-going discussion item.

**Professional Licensing Boards Survey Discussion:**

The following letter will be submitted to the House Study Committee on Professional Licensing Boards on behalf of the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

**August 23, 2013**

**To: House Study Committee on Professional Licensing Boards**

Chair, Representative Ed Rynders  
Members: Representatives: James Beverly, Terry Rogers, Robert Dickey,  
Ron Stephens, Terry England, and Jan Tankersley.

**From: Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists**

Chair, Marsha B. Sauls, Ph.D.  
Vice Chair, Linda Campbell, Ph.D.  
Members: Don Meck, Ph.D., J.D., Mel Strozier, Ph.D., Bill Doverspike, Ph.D.,  
Judy Grammer (consumer member)

**Re:** Review of existing Secretary of States processes in place for professional licensing and recommendations for improvements

Dear Representatives:

Thank you for your request of information. In compliance with Secretary of State Kemp's desire to decrease operating costs for the licensure process, **the Psychology Board is in the process of completing two new licensing procedures designed to save both money and staff time in the process of licensing Psychologists without sacrificing any quality or standards in the licensing process we now have.** The board would like to explain those to you first and then give you our recommendations for any future changes.

- **First:** The board is completing plans to have all Psychology license applications approved and verified for our board by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). This is a group of licensing regulators and psychologists that is working toward a universal application for all states. There already are several states using their process (PLUS program). There will be no cost to the state for this service. **This process, however, will save the Secretary of State's Office the cost of assigning an administrator to obtain, copy, file, check applications for completeness, and prepare them for presentation to the board. In addition there will no longer be calls to the call center regarding psychology license applications (the major complaint received by psychologists applying for licensure is the non-responsiveness of the call center).** The board plans on beginning this process before the end of this current calendar year.
- **Second:** The board will begin to institute a new timeline for the completion of our required postdoctoral supervision year. We will require this the year after a license is issued rather than before as we do now, in order to comply with the request made to us to decrease the time between initial licensure application and the issuance of a license. **This will solve the problem expressed to us by the Secretary of State's office that our licenses take a year to process.** Currently, after application for a license, a candidate must complete a year of post doc work. This is a national standard for most states. Therefore, the board considers this necessary training, not a barrier to licensure. With our modification of the post-doctoral year of supervision we will remain in compliance with the national standards and comply with the request of the Secretary of State that applications not be on file for a year while we wait for completion of the post-doctoral supervision year.

**The board strongly supports the need for the discipline process for our doctoral level health care profession to occur as it currently does, by a board of experienced and vetted, doctoral level peers and one consumer member all of whom are appointed by the Governor.** We would like you to be aware that as a doctoral level profession, the ethical and professional requirements to offer services to the public as a Psychologist are developed during the courses and structured experiences we are required to take in our graduate programs. It is important to note that the board members are the least expensive, most well trained people, dedicated to their profession, working for the office of the Secretary of State. The board members work all through the month on licensure issues remotely on computers, in addition to board meetings.

Currently, a cognizant board member reviews cases as they are posted and recommends those that have merit be brought before the board. Not having this process would pose a significant difficulty for psychologists against whom frivolous complaints are made. Psychologists would forever have to report frivolous cases to 3<sup>rd</sup> party payers. In addition, it would also create useless work for an already overworked investigative staff, if they should have to do this work.

The primary problem with the discipline time lines occurs after the case is reviewed by the cognizant board member who then sends it to the Secretary of State's investigation unit. The non-responsiveness of the investigation department has led to cases being drawn out and unresolved for many months.

Our board disciplinary process currently works in a timely manner and does not need to be changed. The slowing down of the disciplinary process is created by the non-responsiveness of the investigation unit, when we are required to use their services.

**The Psychology Board recommends to the committee that two changes would increase the effectiveness of the operations of all of the licensing boards at this time.**

- **First: It would be helpful to create 2 divisions of licensure at the Secretary of State's Office: A division for Licensure of Health Care Boards and a division for Licensure of Trade Boards.** Health Care Boards are distinctly different from Trade Boards because of required professional training. This difference was evident during the last year when both the Dental Board and Pharmacy Board severed ties with the Secretary of State's office because of proposed measures reportedly to enhance effectiveness. It is important to note that the professional training standards for Health Care Boards are frequently established according to national standards, not just at the state level. The Psychology Board therefore desires to both ensure that the Psychologists practicing in Georgia adhere to the national standards and that our Psychologists have mobility with regard to licensure in other States. Separating into two divisions would create an opportunity for the boards to develop their own improvements, tailored to the requirements necessary to maintain national standards, to responsibly protect the Georgia population, and to adequately respond the needs of the Secretary of State's Office to be efficient and cost effective in its operation as the Psychology Board is currently doing.
- **Second: We would recommend that the Secretary of State's Office consider options to enhance the investigative services provided to the board, so we can then proceed in a more timely manner with the disciplinary actions that require our use of investigations.**

Our board believes that with the processes we are implementing this year, we have already contributed significantly to a leaner more cost effective and "speedy" licensure process. The Secretary of State's office is well aware of the changes the Psychology Board has initiated in regard to speeding up the licensing process and conserving the resources of the Secretary of State's office. However, little has been done to increase the investigation unit's ability to respond in a timely manner to our requests for their services in disciplinary cases we need their services to complete.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your consideration. The board would be happy to meet with you or your committee at any time to give further input about these important matters that concern providing the citizens of this state with qualified, safe, ethical, and responsibly delivered health services.

Sincerely for the Psychology Board,

Marsha B. Sauls, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist  
Chair, Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychology

Cc: Secretary of State Brian Kemp  
Craig Foster craigfoster@house.ga.gov  
Brig Zimmerman

**Executive Session:**

**Ms. Grammer motioned, Dr. Campbell seconded, and the motion carried for the Board to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §43-1-2(k) (1) (2), §43-1-2-(k) (3) (4), §50-14-2(1) and §43-1-2 (k) (4) to deliberate on applications, oral examinations, complaints, and to receive the Assistant Attorney General’s and Cognizant reports. Voting in favor of the motion were Sauls, Campbell, Meck, Doverspike, Strozier and Grammer.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, August 23, 2013, Dr. Sauls declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No Board votes were obtained during Executive Session.**

**Applications:**

**Dr. Strozier motioned, Dr. Campbell seconded, and the Board voted to accept the recommendations on Applications for Licensure by Examination and Endorsement. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Licensure by Examination:**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 1. E. B. | Approved to sit for exam                  |
| 2. W. H. | Approved to sit for exam                  |
| 3. B. H. | Approved to sit for exam                  |
| 4. L. H. | Approved to sit for exam                  |
| 5. S. J. | Pending receipt of additional information |
| 6. K. R. | Approved to sit for exam                  |

**Licensure by Endorsement:**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 1. J. N. | Pending receipt of additional information |
| 2. D. T. | Approved to sit for exam                  |

**Dr. Doverspike motioned, Dr. Meck seconded, and the Board voted to accept the recommendations on Applications for Oral Examinations. None opposed, motion carried.**

## Oral Examination

1. Bryan, Tammara	Approved for licensure
2. Castriota, Lauren	Approved for licensure
3. Gandy, Paris	Approved for licensure
4. Glusman, Laurie	Approved for licensure
5. Goeltz, William	Approved for licensure
6. Grant, Bruce	Approved for licensure
7. Lawson, Kathryn	Approved for licensure
8. Poulos, Jennifer	Approved for licensure
9. Stewart, Destin	Approved for licensure
10. Vilhauer, Jennice	Approved for licensure

## Assistant Attorney General's Report:

Assistant Attorney General, Reagan Dean provided the Board with a written status report which included information on any cases referred for action.

**Dr. Strozier motioned, Dr. Campbell seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Attorney General's report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Dr. Doverspike motioned, Dr. Strozier seconded, and the Board voted to withdraw referral of cases PSYC130024 and PSYC130025 from the Attorney General's office and move back to the Board office to take action as recommended. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Dr. Strozier motioned, Dr. Doverspike seconded, and the Board voted to authorize the Executive Director to accept and sign the Cease and Desist Order for Case PSYC130016 on behalf of the Board. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Dr. Meck motioned, Dr. Strozier seconded, and the Board voted to revise the proposed voluntary surrender for Case PSYC130042 as discussed. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Cognizant/Enforcement Report:** Dr. Meck updated the Board on the status of all open complaint cases.

### Complaint cases discussed:

- PSYC120044, PSYC120054, PSYC120061, PSYC130037, PSYC130051, PSYC140004, and PSYC140005.

**Dr. Strozier motioned, Ms. Grammer seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Cognizant report and recommendations as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

## Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

- July 26, 2013

**Ms. Grammer motioned, Dr. Meck seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Executive Session minutes of the July 26, 2013 meeting as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Additional Discussion Items:**

The members of the Board recognized and congratulated Dr. Linda Campbell on her appointment to the American Psychological Association (APA) Board of Directors.

**There being no further business, Dr. Meck motioned, Dr. Doverspike seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn today's meeting at 4:32 p.m. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Minutes recorded by:**

Hope Harrison, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed and edited by:**

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director HC-1

DR. MARSHA B. SAULS, PH.D.

BRIG ZIMMERMAN

Chair

Executive Director Healthcare 1

These minutes were approved on: September 27, 2013