



## Examining Board of Psychology Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2023

Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams and in-person at Washington State Department of Health, Town Center East 2 (TC2) Building, Room #153, 111 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501

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Board members present: Cedar O'Donnell, Ph.D., Chair  
Florence Katz Burstein, Public Member  
Erin Olson, Ph.D.  
Phillip Hawley, Psy.D. (\*attending ASPPB, joined at 1:10 pm)  
Jessica Carlile, Ph.D. (\*left early)  
Jan Bleakney, Public Member  
Evan Freedman, Ph.D., ABPP  
Vanessa Goosen, Psy.D.

Board members absent: Leslie Cohn, Ph.D.  
Ruth Varkovitzky, Ph.D., ABPP, Vice Chair  
Elena M. Lopez, Psy.D., CSOTP (\*other work travel)

Staff members present: Eve Austin, Executive Director  
Zachary Patnode, Program Manager  
Nancy Delgado, Program Manager  
Joan Simmons, Program Support  
Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst  
Bill Kellington, Supervising Staff Attorney  
Lilia Lopez, Assistant Attorney General  
Cori Tarzwell, Strategic Policy Manager  
Brandon Williams, Project Manager  
Erin Obenland, Case Manager  
Ashley Miller, Staff Attorney  
Nicole Herrera, Staff Attorney

Guest Speaker(s): None

On September 29, 2023, the Examining Board of Psychology held a hybrid meeting via Microsoft Teams and in-person at Washington State Department of Health, Town Center East 2 (TC2) Building, Room #153, 111 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501. Notice of the meeting was published on the Examining Board of Psychology [profession website](#) and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

## 1. Opening of Public Meeting – Cedar O'Donnell, Ph.D., Chair

- 1.1. Call to Order: The chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. followed by introductions of board members, department staff, the Assistant Attorney General, and guests.
- 1.2. Approval of the Agenda: *Motion to approve the agenda, seconded, vote 6-1, opposed by Dr. Freedman.*
- 1.3. Approval of July 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes: *Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, vote 7-0.*

## 2. Public Comment – Evan Freedman, Ph.D., ABPP, Professional Member

- 2.1. Board Member Dr. Freedman read aloud the public comment statement:  
“Thank you for taking the time to be with us today. We are eager to hear from you. We typically provide notice to our constituents and other interested parties before taking action on any topic, so we seldom take action on topics unexpectedly raised by the public or others if not on the agenda. While individual board members may ask questions or make comments about your presentation, please be aware that individual board members do not represent the board as a whole and that the subject of your comment may not be acted upon today or in the near future. We will include your comments in our meeting minutes for possible review if the matter you raise is brought up for formal discussion and/or a vote at a subsequent board meeting.”
- 2.2. Multiple members of the public and the profession expressed concern for the shortage of psychologists.
- 2.3. Support for non-APA schools and having the path in Washington state to provide individuals the ability to achieve a career and provide services in a timely manner compared to that of an APA approved school.
- 2.4. Chuck Benincasa read a written statement, “I'm a psychologist that provides clinical and forensic services with Spectrum Psychological Associates of Washington, and I also serve as an adjunct professor in the city and clinical psychology program through Antioch, University of Seattle.  
I'm here to provide public comment today to invite the examining board of psychology to join with WSPA, the Department of Health, the Washington Healthcare Authority and various state legislature legislators in formally endorsing your support of the psychological associate credential that's been developed in as a part of House Bill 1724. It is our belief that this credential will dramatically expand the number of quality training opportunities for doctorate level psychology trainees in the state of Washington and expand much needed access to competent clinical services to the public. Furthermore, this credential returns to the board of Psychology the ability to provide oversight for the clinical training experiences that psychology trainees are already required to complete in pursuit of their degrees and subsequent license eligibility. Under the current professional practice laws, psychology trainees from practicum to postdoc are often compelled to obtain credentials such as agency affiliate licenses or associate licenses in other disciplines to be able to complete their required clinical training.”
- 2.5. Barbara Cox read a written statement in support of the Psychology Associate credential, “There are many ways to protect the public.  
One of the greatest threats to the public is a growing shortage of mental health

psychology professionals in Washington state.

Having this credential would lead to creating new training sites and stabilizing existing sites that are being threatened by a lack of funding to continue providing high quality training.

Lack of funding is a direct threat to excellent training and can make a difference between having a training site and not having one.

And I believe this credential also would diversify our workforce with new training opportunities and settings that do not have funding to provide training.

Thank you.”

### **3. Management Reports - Zachary Patnode, Program Manager**

- 3.1. Budget – The board reviewed the budget numbers for June 2023. The current fund balance was \$442,253. Mr. Patnode shared that due to the concern of the fund reserve, DOH financial services is working on an analysis as part of the second round of fee increases across all professions to maintain the budget.
- 3.2. Credentialing Report / Program Update – Mr. Patnode shared licenses issued and average times as of 9/28/23 showing applicants who applied prior to 12/9/22 on average waited 536 days for full licenses and 188 days for temporary licenses. Applicants who applied after 3/9/23, with Project Pathway in place, the average days between application date and first issuance was 94 for full licenses and 26 for temporary licenses.
- 3.3. Policy Analyst Updates – Mr. Patnode reminded the board of the CR-102 rules hearing scheduled on October 13, 2023 regarding the health equity continuing educations.

### **4. SSHB 1724: Increasing the Trained Behavioral Health Workforce Update – Nancy Delgado, Program Manager**

Section 5 recommendations – Ms. Delgado led the board through proposed recommendations that have been suggested as a result of the work done for SSHB 1724.

- 4.1. 1. Change JP Exam to match other professions. *Motion to support, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.2. 2a. Remove EPPP 2-month waiting period. *Motion to not support due to not in favor of eliminating the wait time altogether, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.3. 2b. Reduce EPPP 2-month waiting period. *Motion to support, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.4. 2c. Allow EPPP authorization earlier in credentialing process. *Motion to support, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.5. 3a. Create a Washington exam alternative. *Motion to not support, rather board would like to explore accommodations and other language options with the ASPPB, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.6. 3b. Become an early adopter of EPPP2. *Motion to not support and wait until 2026 when the change would happen as currently planned, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.7. 4. Create an ESL alternative exam. *This recommendation was skipped. Instead, will be included as part of what is explored with ASPPB as decided in recommendation 3a.*
- 4.8. 5a/5b. Reduce CE hours. *Motion to not support because the requirement of 60 hours every three years is reasonable, seconded, vote 6-0.*

- 4.9. 6. Reduce Residency hours. Reduction TBD. *Motion to support, seconded, vote 3-0-3. In favor: Dr. Olson, Dr. Goosen, and Ms. Bleakney. Opposed: None. Abstained: Ms. Katz Burstein, Dr. O'Donnell, and Dr. Freedman.*
- 4.10. 7a. Remove in-person residency requirement. *This item was skipped as it was addressed with recommendation #6.*
- 4.11. 7b. Allow all or a portion of residency to be met by virtual means. *Motion to not support, seconded, vote 4-1-1. In favor: Drs. Goosen, Freedman, Olson, and O'Donnell. Opposed: Ms. Katz Burstein. Abstained: Ms. Bleakney.*
- 4.12. 8. Provide Residency alternative. *Motion to not support as articulated by the board, seconded, vote 4-0-2. In favor: Drs. Goosen, O'Donnell, Olson, and Freedman. Opposed: None. Abstained: Ms. Katz Burstein and Ms. Bleakney.*
- 4.13. 9. Simplify hours requirements. *Motion to not support as articulated by the board, seconded, vote 4-1-1. In favor: Drs. O'Donnell, Olson, Goosen, and Freedman. Opposed: Ms. Katz Burstein. Abstained: Ms. Bleakney.*
- 4.14. 10. Reduce total supervised experience hours required. *Motion to not support for the reason that supervised practical experience is a critical aspect of one's training to serve effectively. Reducing the requirement will reduce the level of expertise that psychologists will need to demonstrate in order to practice in Washington state, seconded, vote 5-1. In favor: Drs. Goosen, Freedman, O'Donnell, Olson, and Ms. Katz Burstein. Abstained: Ms. Bleakney.*
- 4.15. 11. Remove Practicum hours limit (300). *Motion to support, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.16. 12a/12b. Remove or reduce non-APA education content areas. *Motion to reduce, clarify, and consolidate the list of classes, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.17. 13. Provide separate online/hybrid education requirements. *Motion to direct the department to reorganize the FAQ to include a careful description of what students in online programs should meet and not create a separate pathway to the specifics of an online program, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.18. 14a. – *This item was covered in recommendation 14b.*
- 4.19. 14b. Allow more courses outside Doctoral degree. *Motion to support, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.20. 15. – *This item was covered in recommendation #14b.*
- 4.21. 16. Add PCSAS as equivalent to APA accreditation. *Motion to support, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.22. 17. Clearer pathway for out-of-country applicants. *Motion to support, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.23. 18. Accredited and non-accredited pathways to licensure. *This item was skipped. Recommendations 12 and 16 helped address this item.*
- 4.24. 19. Move application process WAC higher in the chapter. *Motion to support and update rule 246-924-495, seconded, vote 6-0.*
- 4.25. 20. Create an associate-level Psychologist credential. *Motion to support, seconded, vote 6-0.*

- 4.26. 21a/21b. Support requesting legislature to add a second pathway in the Temporary Permit requirements *Motion to support, seconded, vote 5-0-2. In favor: Ms. Katz Burstein, Ms. Bleakney, Drs. Olson, Freedman, Goosen. Abstained: Drs. O'Donnell and Hawley.*
- 4.27. 22. Support requesting legislature to add long-time practicing pathway. *Motion to support, seconded, vote 7-0.*

## **5. Requests for Lists & Labels - Cedar O'Donnell, Ph.D., Chair**

- 5.1. There were no Requests for Lists and Labels received.

## **6. Board Membership: Interview Updates – Zachary Patnode, Program Manager – *This item was tabled for a future meeting.***

## **7. Subcommittee Work & Reports – Cedar O'Donnell, Ph.D., Chair – *This item was tabled for a future meeting.***

- 7.1. Communications Subcommittee
- 7.2. Diversity Workgroup
- 7.3. Applications Subcommittee
- 7.4. Rules Subcommittee

## **8. Future Agenda Items – Cedar O'Donnell, Ph.D., Chair - *This item was tabled for a future meeting.***

- Board Operations – In-person vs. Hybrid and timekeeping
- PSYPACT Report
- Guidelines for communicating via digital platforms: confidentiality and recordkeeping
- Full administrative rule chapter review
- EBOP-DOH operating agreement
- Fee adjustment timeline

## **9. Break for Lunch**

- 9.1. Lunch was taken at 12:33 pm near the end of agenda item #4.

## **10. Examining Board of Psychology Disciplinary Calibration – Erin Obenland, OILS Case Manager and Ashley Miller, Staff Attorney**

- 10.1. Ms. Obenland provided a background of discipline and shared the process of authorization of new cases and to make a determination on whether or not to investigate.
- 10.2. Ms. Miller shared anonymous examples of cases after investigation.

## **11. Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

**Submitted by:**

Zachary Patnode, Program Manager  
Examining Board of Psychology

Signature on file

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SIGNATURE

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DATE

**Approved by:**

Cedar O'Donnell, Ph.D., Chair  
Examining Board of Psychology

Signature on file

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SIGNATURE

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DATE