

# MARYLAND BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

SUMMER 2023

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## **Chair's Column** **Samantha Rukert, Psy.D.**

*Hello Licensees and Registrants,*

The Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the Board) is pleased to bring you this newsletter after a hiatus. I was appointed to the Board in February 2020 during the final weeks of the (pre-COVID) "before times." My swearing-in ceremony that summer was surreal. I'll never forget taking my oath in a mask while standing on the sidewalk outside of the courthouse. Now in June of 2023, the federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 has only just expired.

Needless to say, a lot has happened in the last three years! I hope this newsletter begins to catch you up and inform you about what's to come.

First, on behalf of the current Board, I'd like to recognize former Board members Drs. Linda Berg-Cross and Irene Leigh who finished their service in 2020. In addition, Drs. Neil Morris and James Gormally who completed their second terms in 2021. Thank you all for your commitment and many contributions to the Board.

The Board would also like to honor two former officers, Drs. Christopher Bishop and Crystal Barksdale. Dr. Bishop was a member of the Board for eight years and served as Chair from 2018 until 2021, when his second term ended. Dr. Barksdale completed a four-year term in 2022. She was Vice Chair from 2020-2021 and Chair from 2021-2022. Thank you both for your dedicated service to the Board and your leadership during the pandemic. Later in this newsletter, we'll introduce our newest members—six psychologists who have joined the Board in the last three years.

The extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic accelerated trends in psychology that were already emerging. The use of technology hit warp speed, bringing profound changes to many aspects of psychological treatment, assessment, research, teaching, and supervision. Many of us were forced out of the office, lab, or classroom and into a virtual space with no blueprint for what to do or how to do it. Continuing to meet our professional obligations required significant effort, creativity, and flexibility, all in the face of fear and uncertainty. If that wasn't "building the car while driving 90 miles an hour", I don't know what is.

During the height of COVID, with critical mental health services in high demand, the Board continued to process new licensure and renewal applications, issued temporary exceptions to practice, and investigated complaints. A cyber-attack on the Maryland Department of Health in December of 2021 was an additional challenge that affected but did not interrupt the work of the Board and its staff.

As we transition out of the emergency phase of the pandemic, you may be considering which changes to your practice or workplace, born out of sheer necessity, should remain moving forward. The Board continues to discuss which temporary COVID-19 modifications might be adopted permanently. Please continue to check the Board's website regularly for updates and announcements.

In April, I attended the Association for State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) midyear meeting in Denver, Colorado. The theme of the meeting was "Hot Topics in Psychology Regulation." Several presenters focused on the ever-evolving state of telehealth practice. This spurred fascinating discussions about regulating corporate online therapy businesses, emerging technology like virtual reality therapy and other wearable technology, and the growing role of artificial intelligence in healthcare. I also attended presentations about PSYPACT, the EPPP (Part 2-Skills), and forthcoming updates to the APA ethics code.

In May, our Board and Board staff gathered at the Turf Valley Conference Center for our 2023 retreat. We discussed how many of these new and anticipated developments in psychology might impact our work as a regulating body. Being a member of the Board is a unique and exciting opportunity to serve and protect the public by setting standards for the dynamic and rapidly evolving practice of psychology in Maryland. If you want to participate in these efforts, please consider applying to the Board when openings arise.

It's been a privilege to serve as Chair over this last year. I'll pass the torch when we elect officers at the end of June. Our new year starts on July 1, with all nine members of our current Board returning.

Onward and upward!

## ***2023 OPEN BOARD MEETING DATES***

**September 8, 2023, October 13, 2023, November 3, 2023, December 1, 2023**

**Open meetings begin at 9:00 am**

## Two Additional Requirements for 2023 and 2024 Renewal Cycle Only

### **Implicit Bias Training**

During the 2021 legislative session, Senate Bill 5/House Bill 28, Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities passed requiring licensees upon renewing a license or certificate issued by a health occupations board to attest to the completion of an approved implicit bias training program, the first time they renew their license or certificate after April 1, 2022.

Implicit bias is defined as:

A bias in judgment that results from subtle cognitive processes, including the following prejudices and stereotypes that often operate at a level below conscious awareness and without control:

- (1) Prejudicial negative feelings or beliefs about a group that an individual holds without being aware of the feelings or beliefs.
- (2) Unconscious attributions of particular qualities to a member of a special social group that are influenced by experience and based on learned associations between various qualities and social categories, including race and gender.

Implicit bias training for psychologists and psychology associates must be approved by an authorized sponsor listed in COMAR 10.36.02.06. 06 - *Authorized Sponsors*. This is a onetime training requirement. Implicit bias training is in addition to the regular required continuing education (CE) credit for renewal. In addition, it cannot replace the required CE for diversity training.

For more information visit the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities website at <https://health.maryland.gov/mhhd/Pages/Implicit-Bias-Resources.aspx>.

### **Criminal History Records Check**

As required in §18–309, Term and renewal of licenses and in accordance with § 18–302.1, a criminal history records check is required every six (6) years to renew a license or registration. A Criminal History Records Check includes both State and FBI checks. Instructions on how to obtain a background check will be sent with renewal information to those scheduled to renew in 2024 (even number licenses and registrations).

### ***Telepsychology Survey***

The Board's Legislation/Regulations committee is reviewing COMAR 10.36.10 Telepsychology regulations to determine if revisions are needed to reflect current telepsychology practices. A link to Survey Monkey was sent to all active, licensed psychologists, and asked to complete the telepsychology survey. The survey results will be used to make any necessary revisions to COMAR 10.36.10 Telepsychology regulations. Thank you for participating in the survey.

## ENROLLED LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

### 2023 Legislation

**HB 0019/SB 0349 – *State Board of Examiners of Psychologists*** – License and Registration Issuance and Renewals-Electronic Means passed. As a result, effective October 1, 2023, the Board will no longer provide paper licenses. Licensees and psychology associates can print their license/registration status from the Board’s website under the license verification tab. In addition, renewal notices will no longer be mailed. Renewal notices will be sent electronically (email). **It is paramount that the Board has your current email address on file.**

**HB 0026 – *Health Occupations-Psychologists- Licensure Qualification***, Bill passed and is effective October 1, 2023. The Bill expands the eligibility qualifications to become a licensed psychologist in Maryland by allowing individuals with degrees from regionally accredited psychology programs who complete a respecialization program and meet other licensing requirements to apply for a Maryland license.

**SB 726 – *State Board of Examiners of Psychologists - Sunset Extension Bill***, that continues the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) by extending the Board’s existence to July 1, 2033. The Bill was amended to extend the Board to July 1, 2025, instead of 2033, and the amendment passed with an effective date of June 1, 2023. Five other Boards were also amended from the customary ten years to 2025.

### 2021 Legislation

**SB 500 - *Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)*** Bill passed. PSYPACT is an interstate occupational compact designed to facilitate the practice of both telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries. Maryland is a member of PSYPACT. For more information visit <https://www.asppb.net/page/PSYPACT>.

## News From ASPPB

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) announced that they will implement the Examination **for Professional Practice in Psychology 2 (EPPP 2)** exam on January 1, 2026. The EPPP 2 is a skills exam, to evaluate the skills of a candidate applying for a psychology license while the EPPP 1 evaluates the knowledge of a candidate applying for a psychology license.

Currently, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Guam, Manitoba, Nevada, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island require the EPPP 2 – Skills exam for licensure. ASPPB has authority of both the EPPP and the EPPP2. The Board will examine available options. For more information about EPPP2 visit <https://www.asppb.net/page/EPPPPart2-Skills>.

## **Ethics Trainer, Peer Supervisor, and Competency Expert: We NEED You!!**

The Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists maintains a list that includes names of individuals qualified to serve as ethics trainers, peer supervisors, and competency experts in specific areas relevant to psychology. We are recruiting psychologists who are qualified to serve.

**Ethics tutorial trainer:** From time to time, we refer to a psychologist to provide an ethics tutorial. This is used as a remedy to fill in gaps in a licensee's understanding of laws, standards, and regulations. The licensee is responsible for costs associated with this ethics tutorial provided by the ethics tutorial trainer.

**Peer Supervisor:** There is a need for psychologists to provide supervision to licensed psychologists. Peer supervisors are often used to provide guidance in cases involving standard of care issues. The licensed psychologist being supervised is responsible for costs associated with peer supervision.

**Competency Expert:** Competency experts are used in judicial proceedings and submit expert reports and testimony at hearings. The Board will provide compensation for expert services provided.

In order to serve in one of these roles, the psychologist must have an active license in good standing for a minimum of 5 years with no history of adverse disciplinary actions. The Board reserves the right to limit the number of applicants approved. The Board will provide relevant orientation for those applicants whose credentials are approved by the Board. The application form for these roles can be retrieved from the Board's website at <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/psych/pdfs/ethicstrainerpeersupervisorandespertapplication.pdf>.

By applying for one of these roles, you will be providing a significant service to the State of Maryland. We look forward to hearing from you.

## **REQUIREMENT**

Licensees and registrants must notify the board in writing of a change to email address, home address, and cell phone number within ten (10) days of the change.

## MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

**Samantha Rukert, Psy.D.**, is a licensed psychologist and a sixth-generation Marylander. She joined the Board in 2020 and was elected Vice Chair one year later. Now in her third year, Samantha serves as Chair of the Board. Samantha started her career as a mobile crisis and jail diversion clinician. She later served as the Director of Mental Health Services for Anne Arundel County Detention Facilities. Samantha has taught in the Department of Psychology at Loyola University Maryland since 2009. In that time, she has taught nearly 70 classes, ranging from undergraduate introductory psychology to doctoral-level courses in ethics, substance abuse, and the history of psychology. Teaching future practitioners and being a member of the Board fulfill Samantha's professional mission—to serve and protect the public and ensure that individuals and families have access to high-quality, ethically-sound, and culturally competent mental health care. Dr. Rukert has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Smith College. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from Antioch University New England.

**Brenda Terry-Leonard, Ph.D.**, is a licensed psychologist who joined the Board in 2021 and was elected Vice Chair in 2022. She currently serves as Chair of the Disciplinary Subcommittee. Dr. Terry-Leonard has extensive experience providing clinical services to children and families across the developmental spectrum and provides consultation to educators and interdisciplinary clinicians. She has practiced in various settings, including public schools, private full-day special education placements, outpatient mental health centers, and residential facilities. Dr. Terry-Leonard has also served at local universities as an adjunct faculty providing instruction for a child and adolescent mental hygiene course, as a clinical coordinator for practicum and internship students, as a clinical supervisor for psychology doctoral trainees, and as a therapy supervisor for a psychiatry fellow. Dr. Terry-Leonard holds her doctorate from Howard University.

**Stephen F. Bono, Ph.D.** was appointed to the Board in April 2020 to complete the term of a Board member. In 2022, Dr. Bono was appointed to the Board. He is a licensed behavioral health psychologist with experience in chronic and acute pain management, behavioral medicine, primary care, posttraumatic stress disorder, and geriatrics. Dr. Bono received his B.S. degree in psychology from Georgetown University and his Ph.D. from West Virginia University in 1978. His professional career of over 40 years has been primarily in academic medicine serving as a faculty member, supervisor, interdisciplinary mentor, researcher, and administrator. At the time of his retirement in 2015, he was a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland Medical School Department of Anesthesiology and, before that, a psychologist at the University of Maryland VA Health Care System in Baltimore. He has over 20 publications in academic journals and is a member of the American Psychological Association. He also serves as an Accreditation Site Review Chair for the APA.

**Shelley McDermott, Ph.D.**, is a licensed psychologist and Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. She received her Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of Oregon in 2012 and completed pre- and postdoctoral training at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. McDermott has been a practicing psychologist at the Kennedy Krieger Institute since 2014 and provides psychological evaluations for preschool and school-age children presenting with neurodevelopmental concerns. In addition, Dr. McDermott is the co-director of the child clinical psychology postdoctoral fellowship within the Neuropsychology Department at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, and in 2023 she was promoted to Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. McDermott joined the Board in 2021 and currently serves as the Chair of the Public Relations Committee.

***Make sure the Board has your current email address on file.***

## **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

**Reginald Nettles, Ph.D., CGP**, is a licensed psychologist in Maryland and the District of Columbia and a Certified Group Psychotherapist (CGP) in independent practice in Columbia, Maryland, providing individual, couples, and group psychotherapy. He completed a pre-doctoral internship in the Minority Training Program in Community and Clinical Psychology, Boston, Mass., and his Ph.D. in Psychology at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He is an alumnus of the Group Psychotherapy Training Program and the Advanced Psychotherapy Training Program at the Washington School of Psychiatry. Dr. Nettles has served on several committees focused on LGBT, racial and ethnic minority, and disability issues in The American Group Psychotherapy Association, The American Psychological Association, The Maryland Psychological Association, and the Mid-Atlantic Group Psychotherapy Society, and has written, presented, and consulted on these areas of identity and their intersections over many years. In addition, he is the founding chair of The Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Culture at The Washington School of Psychiatry in Washington, D.C."

**Mr. Raj Razdan** retired as a Vice President for Asia, stationed at Johnson Controls Inc. in Hong Kong. Prior to this assignment, he worked as Director of Global Sales at York International, York, Pa. He has traveled extensively internationally. Raj has lived in Baltimore County since 1974. He holds a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Aligarh University in India. Raj is a Volunteer Board member at GBMC Hospital and enjoys volunteering as an Income Tax counselor for AARP. Raj is married and has two children.

**Kimberly Sanschagrín, J.D., Ph.D.**, holds licenses as a psychologist and an attorney. She joined the Board in 2021 and currently holds the position of Chair for the Licensure/Telepsychology/PSYPACT Committee and serves on the Legislation Committee. Licensed in 2008, Dr. Sanschagrín has devoted her career to conducting forensic mental health evaluations specifically focused on young offenders entangled in various legal issues. Her primary areas of interest revolve around the quality of forensic mental health evaluations, the impact of expert testimonies in courtrooms, and the intricate relationship between psychology and the law. Throughout her career, Dr. Sanschagrín has actively participated in committees of esteemed organizations, including the American Psychology Association's Committee on Legal Issues and the Ethics Committee of the Maryland Psychological Association. Dr. Sanschagrín is a proud alumna of the joint-degree program in law and psychology at the Villanova University School of Law and Drexel University. Her education led her to earn her law degree from Villanova and her doctoral degree from Drexel.

**Sybil Smith-Gray, Ph.D.** I am a mother, sister, aunt, activist, mentor, and friend. I am also a forensic psychologist in private practice in the Washington DC metropolitan area and Assistant Professor at George Mason University in the Psychology Department's forensic concentration. My passion for the field emerged early on in my education. I majored in psychology as an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin ('78), where I first studied racial bias in death penalty sentencing. This was a formative period in what would become an enduring forensic career with justice-involved youth and young adults who have committed felony offenses. I became licensed to practice psychology in the State of Maryland in 1997. My appointment to the Board in July 2022 is a capstone in my professional accomplishments, one which reflects the heritage of my grandmother's sister, Dr. Inez Beverly Prosser, who the American Psychological Association formally acknowledges as the nation's first Black woman psychologist. It is such an honor and a privilege on so many levels to carry forth my great aunt's legacy of excellence, and always has been. It is not hard for me to envision the hardships and injustices she must have endured on her journey. Still, she persisted. It is my responsibility to pass the baton firmly into the hands of a future generation that is well prepared to do likewise. My sincere thanks to the senior members of the Board for their warm and gracious welcome! I look forward to working with my colleagues to execute the mission of the Board in a way that continues to recognize and embrace the value of diverse perspectives and lived experiences in the practice of psychology in the State of Maryland.



## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

**Mr. Zeno W. St. Cyr, II, MPH** is a retired healthcare executive and, in 2018, was appointed as a public member of the Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Mr. St. Cyr retired from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (H.H.S.) in 2015. His most recent position as director for legislative coordination and senior legislative advisor in the H.H.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response capped a 35-year federal, state, and private sector career in public health. Since 2017, he has served as a Public Director at Large on the Board of Directors of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. He also serves on the nccPA Health Foundation PA Mental Health Steering Committee. Mr. St. Cyr has demonstrated a commitment to public service, having served nearly 30 organizations in volunteer and leadership capacities. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the housing non-profit, H.O.P.E., Inc., and previously served as Vice-Chair of the Prince George's County M.G.M. Local Development Council. He serves as a public member on the annual meeting planning committees of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. He also served as a public member of the Maryland State Boards of Pharmacy and Dental Examiners. He graduated from Morehouse College and received a Master's in Public Health Administration from Tulane University.

### PUBLIC ORDERS

Craig, Douglas LN: 05322 - Date of Order (8/17/2022)  
Schaler, Jeffrey LN: N/A - Date of Order (06/24/2022)  
Heaton, Aaron LN: 04297 – Date of Order (10/14/2021)

### TERMINATION OF PROBATION ORDERS

Daniels, Lindsey S. LN: 03672 - (12/04/2020)  
Lasson, Jonathan RN: A0073 - (06/07/2019)  
Mannis, Robert LN: 02233 - (03/01/2022)  
McCamant, Kevin J. LN: 03213 - (06/09/2020)  
Sachs, Kenneth LN: 00457 - (04/08/2022)  
Wise, Matthew L LN: 04448 - (06/05/2020)

## KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT

Go to [mdh.psychologyboard@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.psychologyboard@maryland.gov) and select Other Forms to update your EMAIL address and other contact information.



## BOARD MEMBERS

**Samantha Rukert, Psy.D., Chairperson**

**Brenda L. Terry-Leonard, Ph.D., Vice-Chairperson**

**Stephen Bono, Ph.D.**

**Shelley M. McDermott, Ph.D.**

**Reginald Nettles, Ph.D., CGP**

**Raj Razdan, Public Member**

**Kimberly A. Sanschagrin, J.D., Ph.D.**

**Sybil Smith-Gray, Ph.D.**

**Zeno St. Cyr, II, MPH, Public Member**

## STAFF

**Lorraine Smith, MA, MPH, Executive Director**

**Erika Malone, Administrative Assistant**

**Erin Turner, Office Secretary II**

**P. Morris English, MS, Investigator**

**Vacant, Licensing Coordinator**

**Brett E. Felter, JD, Assistant Attorney General**