

Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Open Board Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2013

The 583rd Open meeting of the Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists was called to order at 9:19 a.m. by the Chairperson, Steven Sobelman, Ph.D.

Board members present:

Jeffrey Barnett, Psy.D., ABPP, Vice-Chairperson
Robert Brown, Ph.D., ABPP
Irene W. Leigh, Ph.D.
Neal R. Morris, Ed.D., MS, CBSM, ABPP
Harriet Rakes, Consumer Member

Board members absent:

Joann Altiero, Ph.D.
Lydia McCargo-Redd, Consumer Member
Myra Waters, Ph.D.

Staff present:

Lorraine Smith, Executive Director
Dorothy Kutcherman, Licensing Coordinator
Linda Bethman, AAG, Board Counsel
Brett Felter, Staff Attorney

Public present:

Paula Hollinger - DHMH
Robert Cohen, Ph.D. - MPA
Georgia Royalty, Ph.D. - MPA

Interpreters: Sandra Brown and Justine Garrett

A. Minutes

The minutes of the Open meeting held on March 8, 2013 were reviewed. **A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes.**

B. Announcements

Executive Director – Ms. Smith reported that of the 12 individuals that took the law exam on March 15, 2013 one failed. The list of registrants for the April 19, 2013 exam was distributed. **A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the list and to authorize the licensing committee to approve others that may register for the exam later.**

Ms. Smith reviewed a summary sheet of legislative bills developed by Kristen Neville, Legislative and Regulatory Coordinator that were introduced during the session that will or would have impacted the Board.

HB 140 – *State Government – Open Meetings Act – Penalty – Withdrawn by the sponsor*. This bill would have imposed penalties on the Board if they violated the Open Meetings Act. A joint letter of concern was submitted by the Boards.

HB 331/SB 826 – *Open Meetings Act – Violations and Penalties – Passed*. This bill was amended to set the civil fine for violating the Open Meetings Act to \$250 for a first violation and \$1000 for subsequent violations occurring within three years of the first violation.

HB 225/SB 273 – *Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 – Passed*. The amended bill requires the Board to give certain veteran/spouse priority status when they apply for a license.

HB 897/SB 570 – *Professional Licensing and Certification Governing Bodies – Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training and Discipline – Failed*. Sponsor plans to introduce a similar bill in 2014. The bill required applicants for licensure to take a child abuse course and required the Board to investigate complaints alleging failing to report child abuse.

Chairperson – Dr. Sobelman reported on the following bills:

SB254/HB98 – *State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – License Renewal - Passed*. This bill allows the Board to send renewal notices electronically.

HB274/SB 345 – *State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – Psychology Associates – Licensure – Failed*. The Board will reintroduce this bill in 2014.

HB 60 *Criminal Law – Professional Counselors and Therapists – Conduct (Lynette's Law) – Failed* This bill was amended to prohibit all mental health professionals from engaging in any kind of sexual act with a patient within a specified period of time. The Board wrote a letter of concern and the MPA opposed the bill.

HB474/SB611 – *Health Occupations – Maryland Behavior Analysts Act - Failed*. This bill established a Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee within the Board of Examiners of Psychologists. The Board supported this bill with amendments to include this group in the psychology associate bill. However, an agreement between the Behavioral Analysts and the Board could not be reached.

Dr. Sobelman reported that MPA wrote a letter to Kim Bennardi, DHMH Appointment Office concerning the Board's interpretation that Dr. Gregory Chasson, Ph.D. did not

meet the five year requirement to be a Board member. After discussion, it was agreed that since the letter was not addressed to the Board, the Board should not respond.

C. Committee Reports

Licensing – Dr. Brown reported that the committee did not have a recommendation pertaining to if doctoral students should be allowed to take the EPPP before finishing school. However, other states were said to be all over the place with it. The committee was said to be working with the Board's staff attorney, Mr. Felter in drafting definitions for continuing education terms, courses, seminars, workshops, and symposia. The Board will need to make a decision as to whether all continuing education hours can be done online.

Public Affairs – Ms. Smith will contact Ms. McCargo-Redd in reference to the spring/summer newsletter.

D. Public Comment

Dr. Cohen stated that he would address the Board's concerns with MPA and agreed that the two organizations should work together.

E. Administrative Session/Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to enter into administrative session at 10:40 a.m. to discuss disciplinary matters and to consult with Counsel.

Unless recused, those attending the open session remained for the administrative session. The Board came out of administrative session at 12:52 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven A. Sobelman, Ph.D.
Chairperson

