

Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Open Board Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2016

The 610th Open Board Meeting of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists was called to order at 9:13 a.m. by the Chairperson, Neal R. Morris, Ed.D. MS, CBSM, ABPP.

Board Members Present:

Linda Berg-Cross, Ph.D
Christopher Bishop, Psy.D.
Cyndie Buckson, Psy.D.
James F. Gormally, Ph.D., Vice-Chairperson
Irene W. Leigh, Ph.D.
Lydia McCargo-Redd, Consumer Member
Rivka Olley, Ph.D.
Harriett Rakes, Consumer Member

Staff Present:

Lorraine Smith, MPH, Executive Director
Sally Mitchell, Licensing Coordinator
Stephanie Coley, Administrative Assistant
Brett Felter,, Board Counsel

Interpreters:

Crystal Kenney and Charmine Johnson

Public:

Shreya Patel Hessler, Psy.D. (MPA)
Daphne Washington, LCPC

A. Minutes

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on February 5, 2016 were reviewed. **A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to accept the minutes as submitted.**

B. Announcements

Executive Director – The list of registrants for the March law exam was reviewed. **A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the list and to authorize the licensing committee to approve others who may register later.**

Ms. Smith reported that *HB 1103 – Health Care Practitioners – Use of Teletherapy*, Delegate Reznik's Bill on telehealth has been filed and the hearing is scheduled for March 9th. The Board agreed to submit a Letter of Support. Ms. Smith also reminded the Board that regulations will need to promulgated, hopefully by October 1, 2016 when the bill takes effect.

Ms. Smith reported that HB 885 – *Behavioral Health Administration - Creation and Maintenance of Mental Health Professional Profiles (Patient Protection Provider Information Act)* was introduced and requires certain health professions to create a database of licensees listing disciplinary actions and schools that the licensees attended. Currently, the Bill does not include the Board of Psychology; however an amendment was made to include the Board.

House Bill 0944 *Criminal Law - Professional Counselors and Therapists - Misconduct (Lynette's Law)* was introduced again. The Bill criminalizes a sexual relationship between a therapist and their patient. Ms. Smith stated that in past the Board submitted a Letter of Concern and the legislative committee agreed that a similar letter should be submitted again. The hearing is scheduled for March 10, 2016.

Senate Bill 1083 *Secretaries of Principal Departments - Supervision and Review of Decisions and Actions by Units within Department* was introduced and authorizes the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to disapprove or modify a certain decision or determination of a certain board or commission under certain circumstances; requiring the secretary of each principal department to be responsible for the supervision of certain units within the jurisdiction of the secretary; requiring the secretary to adopt certain regulations for the supervision of certain units within the jurisdiction of the secretary for certain purposes; requiring that the regulations specify certain decisions or actions that require review by the secretary, or the secretary's designee, certain review processes, and that the decisions or actions are not final decisions or actions until after a certain review; prohibiting a secretary from designating a certain individual as the secretary's designee; and generally relating to the powers and regulatory authority of secretaries of principal departments. The executive directors are working together to submit a response. The hearing is scheduled for March 16, 2016.

Dr. Morris reported that he and Dr. Gormally may be attending the telehealth summit in April. He also stated that the Board needs to introduce a Bill next legislative session that requires criminal background check every six (6) years. Ms. Smith will distribute bill language as soon as it is drafted.

C. CLEAR Module IV (Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulations)

Dr. Buckson presented Module IV *Professional Discipline* of the CLEAR training. The module addressed the disciplinary process that includes intake, assessment, investigation, review, resolution, findings and orders, and compliance.

D. Committee Reports

Licensing – The committee continues to review psychology and psychology associate applications. Dr. Berg-Cross recommended that the Board consider tracking Registered Psychology Associates who do not list a supervisor on their application. It was agreed that letters will be sent to registered psychology associates at least every six months inquiring about their supervision status.

Operations – The committee had nothing to report.

Public Affairs – Ms. McCargo-Redd reported that she is still accepting articles for the newsletter.

Disciplinary – The committee had nothing to report.

E. Public Comments

No public comment.

F. Administrative Session/Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to enter into closed session to discuss disciplinary matters and to consult with Counsel. The open meeting was closed at 11:47 a.m. unless recused those attending the open session remained for the Administrative session.