

Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Open Board Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2013

The 581st Open meeting of the Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by the Chairperson, Steven Sobelman, Ph.D.

Board members present:

Joann Altiero, Ph.D.
Irene W. Leigh, Ph.D.
Lydia McCargo-Redd, Consumer Member
Neal R. Morris, Ed.D, MS, CBSM, ABPP
Harriet Rakes, Consumer Member
Myra Waters, Ph.D.

Board member absent:

Jeffrey Barnett, Psy.D, ABPP, Vice-Chairperson
Robert Brown, Ph.D., ABPP

Staff present:

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

Public Present:

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

Interpreters

Sandra Brown and Justine Garrett

A. Minutes

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on January 11, 2013 were reviewed. **A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as submitted.**

B. Announcements

Executive Director – Ms. Smith reported that 11 individuals took the state law exam on January 25, 2013 and all passed. The list of registrants for the February 22, 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 who may register for the exam later.**

Ms. Smith reported that the legislative session was in full swing. The Board's legislative committee consists of Drs. Barnett, Sobelman, and Brown. Ms. Smith stated that other Board members may be asked to testify on a Bill or to just show support by attending a hearing in Annapolis.

Ms. Smith announced that the hearings for the *State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – License Renewal* bill was held on January 24, and February 6, 2013. The bill will allow the Board to send renewal notices via email and by first class mail. Ms. Smith testified on this bill. This bill is expected to pass.

The hearing on HB 274 *State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – Psychology Associates – Licensure* was held on January 31, 2013. Ms. Smith testified on this bill. However, MPA representatives were present and opposed the bill. The bill will be heard in the Senate on February 20, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Members were encouraged to be present to show support.

The hearing for HB 474 *Health Occupations – Maryland Behavior Analysts Act* bill is scheduled for February 12, 2013. This bill establishes a Behavior Analyst subcommittee within the Maryland Board of Psychology.

HB 67 *Health Care Decisions Act - Incapacity to Make Informed Decision - Certification by Psychologist* was initiated by the Maryland Psychological Association. This bill allows a psychologist to render a second opinion in an emergency room setting when a patient cannot make an informed decision. The Board took no position.

The hearing for the governor's bill SB 273 – *Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013* was held on February 7, 2013. The bill fast-forwards the licensing processes for veterans and their spouses. This bill is expected to pass.

Chair – Dr. Sobelman reminded the Board that licensing psychology associates had been discussed over a period of a couple of years. A retreat on the subject was held with representatives from MPA. He also reminded the Board that licensing psychology associates was a recommendation from the Board's sunset review. In December a letter was received from MPA stating the following concerns with licensing psychology associates: (1) licensure will lead to independent practice by psychology associates and somehow diminish the relevancy of the doctoral standard in the practice of psychology and (2) allowing psychology associate representation on the Board lays the groundwork for potential independent practice of psychology. This was the first time the Board was informed that MPA was not in agreement with licensing psychology associates.

Dr. Sobelman asked the MPA representatives to report to their organization that the Board was open to suggestions for amending the bill.

With regard to the behavior analysts' bill, Dr. Sobelman reported that it appears that MPA is in support of the bill with amendments. After discussion it was agreed that the Board would support HB 474 *Health Occupations – Maryland Behavior Analysts Act* with amendments. The primary amendment will be to fold the BA bill into the Board's psychology associates bill and allow behavior analyst to become psychology associates. Drs. Sobelman and Morris and Ms. Smith will provide testimony on this bill.

C. Continuing Education

Ms. Smith reported that she received a call asking that an exception be made to allow licensees who have already renewed be able to count the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's training the next renewal period. After discussion, it was the consensus not to approve an exception.

D. EPPP Contract

Ms. Bethman reported that a new contract with the Association of State Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) for the Examination for Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP) was received. The contract stated that an applicant had to wait 60-days before retaking the exam and the exam could only be taken four times a year. After discussion, **a motion was made to amend the contract** to allow applicants to retake the exam after 30 days and could be taken six times in a year. **A vote was called:** For - 6; Abstention - 1

E. Committee Reports

Operations – Dr. Waters reported that budget hearings were scheduled for February 28 and March 1, 2013. Ms. Smith reported that the contractual office secretary position has been filled.

F. Public Comments

Dr. Cohen stated that he would report to MPA that the Board felt it was blindsided by the opposition to the psychology associate bill, since the Board thought MPA was in agreement. However, the Board is willing to work cooperatively with MPA.

G. Closed Session/Administrative Session/Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to enter into closed session to engage in medical review deliberations. The Board entered into closed session at 11:55 a.m. and came out at 12:02 p.m. **A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to enter into administrative session at 12:30 p.m. to discuss disciplinary matters and to consult with Counsel.** The Board came out of administrative session at 1:15 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven A. Sobelman, Ph.D.
Chairperson