

Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Open Board Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2021

The 658th Open Board Meeting of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by the Chairperson, Christopher Bishop, Psy.D.

Board Members Present:

Crystal Barksdale, Ph.D., Vice Chairperson
Stephen Bono, Ph.D.
James F. Gormally, Ph.D., ABPP
Neal R. Morris, Ed.D. MS, CBSM, ABPP
Reginald Nettles, Ph.D., CGP
Raj Razdan, Consumer Member
Samantha Rukert, Psy.D.
Zeno St. Cyr II, Consumer Member

Staff Present:

Lorraine Smith, Executive Director
Stephanie Coley, Licensing Coordinator
Patricia Morris English, Board Investigator
Brett Felter AAG, Board Counsel

Public Present:

Shalena Heard, Ph.D. – Maryland Psychological Association (MPA) Member At Large
Kimberly Link, MDH

Due to Covid-19 the February 5, 2021 Board meeting was held via teleconference. The public was asked to submit questions via email prior to the meeting.

A. Minutes

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on January 8, 2021 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 February law exam was reviewed. **A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the list and to approve others who may register later.**

Ms. Smith reported on the following bills:

SB 0072 – Open Meetings Act – Requirements for State Agencies and Local Boards of Elections (Maryland Transparency Act of 2021) Requires Boards to post live video or audio streaming of Open Meetings on their website. Collectively the Boards submitted a Letter of Concern citing current practices, privacy concerns and financial burden.

SB 0041 – Health-Mental and Emotional Disorders- Consent (Mental Health Access Initiative) Alters the minimum age of consent for mental or emotional treatment from 16 years old to 12 years old. The Board submitted a Letter of Concern citing the Bill may introduce bias by the provider in determining the competence of a 12-year-old to consent to treatment and it was unclear who would be liability for the cost.

HB 0224/SB 0262 – Department of Information Technology- Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards Requires the Department of Information Technology to review technology platforms used by Health Occupation Boards to determine the feasibility and cost of developing one platform used by all Boards.

C. Correspondence

Dr. Bishop reported that the Board received an email from DMV Neuropsychology Group inviting Board members to participate in a virtual panel on neuropsychology practice. After a discussion **a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to decline participation because the topic was not in the Board’s purview.**

D. Legislative Committee Report

HB0732 – Health Care Practitioners- Telehealth- Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners

Authorizes out-of-state practitioners to provide telehealth services to patients located in Maryland and requires Health Occupation Boards to register out-of-state practitioners who provide telehealth services to patients located in Maryland. Out-of-state practitioners would be required to complete an application, pay an application fee, and submit a criminal history records check. Registration information would be published on websites and Board’s would be responsible for disciplinary actions. After a discussion **a motion was made to Support the Bill with an amendment. The motion was seconded, and a vote called to accept the motion. For - 8; Abstention – 1.** The amendment would clarify that the standards under which an out-of-state provider was licensed must be parallel to or higher than the licensure requirements of the perspective health board.

SB0500- Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact - Requires the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists to enter into the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, PsyPact. PsyPact establishes certain criteria and duties for compact states and requires psychologists to meet certain eligibility requirements to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology and temporary authority to practice in-person. After a discussion **a motion was made to Oppose the Bill. The motion seconded, and a vote called to accept the motion. For – 7; Abstention – 1; Opposed – 1.**

Reasons for opposition:

- Educational requirements for a psychology license are lower than the requirements in Maryland. Program accreditation by the American Psychological Association is not required in Bill (regionally accredited).
- Financial burden on licensees and Board.
- Duplicates current out- of- state provider’s exception to practice process.
- Creates barriers to practice by requiring multiple certifications in addition to a license.

E. Public Comments

Dr. Heard inquired about the newly elected Board members. Ms. Smith stated that the names would be forthcoming.

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 10:29 a.m. unless recused those attending the open session remained for the Administrative session.