

Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Open Board Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2012

The 570th Open Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by the Chairperson, Steven Sobelman, Ph.D.

Board members present:

Joann Altiero, Ph.D.
Jeffrey Barnett, Psy.D, ABPP
Robert Brown, Ph.D., ABPP
Laurie Friedman Donze, Ph.D.
Lydia McCargo-Redd, Consumer Member
Neil R. Morris, Ed.D., ABPP
Harriett Rakes, Consumer Member

Board member absent:

Myra Waters, Ph.D., Vice-Chairperson

Staff present:

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

Public Present:

Paula Hollinger – DHMH
Sharon Bloom - DHMH
Julie Bindeman, Psy.D., MPA

A. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on November 4, 2011 were reviewed and approved.

B. Announcements

Executive Director – Ms. Smith reported that of the 21 individuals that took the jurisprudence exam on December 16, 2011, there were 6 failures. The list of registrants for the January 27, 2012 exam was reviewed. **A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the list and to authorize the Licensing Committee to approve others eligible to take the exam who may register at a later date.**

Ms. Smith reported that the legislative session would run from January 11 - April 9, 2012. The Board's bill, *State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – Penalties and Fines*, allows the Board to impose a civil penalty not more than \$50,000 on persons that practice psychology without a Maryland license, and increases the maximum fine amount from \$500.00 to \$10,000 and jail time from 6 months to 1 year on those guilty of a misdemeanor. Senator Karen Montgomery and Delegate James Hubbard are the sponsors.

Chairperson – Dr. Sobelman reported, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, DHMH Secretary is proposing a bill to address scope of practice issues between boards. The bill would establish a committee comprised of representatives from each Board and people with no direct involvement to recommend solutions. Discussion ensued on the proposed bill but no decision was reached.

Dr. Sobelman reported that once all of the reports from the retreat committees were received, the retreat would be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Dr. Sobelman reported that the University of Maryland has a new child abuse reporting policy. It appears that the Chancellor/President must be informed of all such reports.

A letter was received from Russell Hibler, Ph.D. asking about psychology associates and insurance billing. Medicaid requires that an initial assessment be performed by the psychologist. Dr. Hibler wanted to know if this was also a Board standard. After discussion, Ms. Bethman agreed to write a response stating that although an initial assessment by the psychologist is not required, he should adhere to the insurance company's policies.

Board Counsel – Ms. Bethman gave a synopsis of a pre-filed bill requiring that Orders appearing on board websites be removed after a period of 10 years. Ms. Hollinger informed the Board that she spoke with the sponsor of the bill and his concern was with deceased licensees. The sponsor stated that the bill would be change. **After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried, that if the bill was not changed, the board would oppose the bill.** Ms. McCargo-Redd and Dr. Sobelman will be available to testify, if needed.

C. Committee Reports

Licensing – Dr. Brown reported that the committee would meet following the Board meeting. They will review the law exam; discuss requiring intended area of practice on the application; and discuss the growing applied behavior analyst issue. In addition the committee continues to review applications for licensure and is currently auditing continuing education documentation.

Public Affairs – Dr. Donze reported that the winter issue of the Board's newsletter is in the final stages and asked members to begin submitting articles for the spring/summer edition. The committee met on November 4, 2011 and discussed several changes to be

implemented on the Board's web site. These changes include revising the FAQ page to separate questions into the following categories: Psychologists; Students; and Consumers. The committee discussed hosting booth at the MPA's convention or another event as an outreach activity.

Operations – Ms. Smith asked the committees to try to limit their 'face-to-face' meetings for the balance of FY 2012. She will give an update on the Board's budget at the March meeting. Legislative budget hearings are scheduled for February 8 & 9, 2012. Ms. Smith is the fiscal liaison for the Boards, therefore she will testify for the boards.

D. Public Comment

Ms. Hollinger stated that her office has been working closely with the Secretary's IT personnel to improve the State STATs as it relates to customer service and the complaint process, i.e. timeliness and outcome. As a result, the possibility of launching a survey on websites for visitors to complete is being considered.

E. Administrative Session/Closing

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to enter into administrative session at 11:25 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 2:00 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven A. Sobelman, Ph.D.
Chairperson