



ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND PROVINCIAL PSYCHOLOGY BOARDS (ASPPB)
September 2018 Report

Submitted by

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ASPPB represents the psychology regulatory bodies throughout North America. Its primary objective is protection of the public and promotion of excellence in the regulation of the profession of psychology. ASPPB's membership is comprised of state, provincial and territorial jurisdiction members, and individual members who are former board members or staff of psychology regulatory bodies. Any organization involved in the regulation of the practice of psychology outside the United States and Canada shall be entitled to apply for affiliate membership in the Association. ASPPB works to meet the needs of its members through the provision of services such as the EPPP, model legislation, mobility programs and consultation and topics related to psychology regulation such as graduate training, supervised experience and continuing professional development. Further, ASPPB serves its member jurisdictions through its collaboration with the training community and other professional psychology organizations, its efforts to demystify the licensure process for applicants, its promotion of common standards and processes for licensure, and its development of model programs that promote public protection. In 2011, ASPPB celebrated 50 years of providing these essential services to licensing boards throughout the United States and Canada.

ASPPB 2018 Board of Directors: President: Sharon Lightfoot, PhD (MO); President-Elect: C. Gerald O'Brien, Jr., PhD (MS); Past-President: Don Meck, PhD, JD (GA); Secretary-Treasurer: Karen Messer-Engel, MA, R. Psych (SK); Members-At-Large: Sheila Young, PhD (NV), Tomas Granados, PsyD (NM), and Alan Slusky, PhD (MB).

Important Announcements: Dr. Mariann Burnetti-Atwell serves as the third Chief Executive Officer for ASPPB.

Mariann began working at ASPPB on August 1, 2018 as the incoming CEO and transitioned to CEO on September 1, 2018. Dr. Burnetti-Atwell has a history of exemplary leadership and a passion for public protection. Dr. Burnetti-Atwell was appointed by Governors Matt Blunt and Jeremiah Nixon to the board of the Missouri State Committee of Psychologists. She served on ASPPB's Finance and Audit Committee and was the Criminal Justice Committee Member on the University of Missouri's Internal Review Board. Dr. Burnetti-Atwell understands the importance of, and the challenges to, consistency in regulation. She served as Senior Vice-President of Behavioral Health Operations for Corizon Health where she provided program leadership for city, county and state correctional systems throughout the nation. Prior to her role with Corizon, Dr. Burnetti-Atwell served as the Manager of Behavioral Health Services for the Missouri Health Net Division (Medicaid) of the Missouri Department of Social Services. She has deep respect for collaborative and diverse relationships, and clear and forthright communications.

The Board of Directors is excited to bring Dr. Burnetti-Atwell aboard and trusts her leadership will assure that our work ahead will continue to be based on ASPPB's core values of quality, respect, responsiveness, accountability and transparency.

Changes in Enhanced EPPP Implementation: The Board of Directors have heard both strong support for the Enhanced EPPP and strong concerns about implementation details. On Sunday, August 12, 2018, the ASPPB Board of Directors passed a motion to rescind our decision of August 2017 (and announced at the 2017 Annual Meeting in

October) that made the Enhanced EPPP (including both knowledge and skills portions) the single licensure exam offered by the ASPPB. We have lifted the requirement for use of the Enhanced EPPP and the deadline for implementation.

Member boards will now have two options for licensure examination. One option will be to continue to use the EPPP, a standardized assessment of knowledge. Jurisdictions will determine the methodology for skills assessment.

A second option, the Enhanced EPPP, will be one exam with two parts—a standardized assessment of knowledge and a standardized assessment of skills. The skills portion of the enhanced exam cannot be taken without passing the knowledge portion of the exam and will not be offered as a stand-alone exam. We continue toward launch of the Enhanced EPPP in 2020 and will make it available to states and provinces interested in serving as early adopters.

Important News for Training Directors: The ASPPB Credentials Bank is now free for everyone. Previously, only students and interns could open a Credentials Bank record for free. However, the ASPPB Board of Directors voted to allow any graduate student, intern or licensed psychologist to open a Credentials Bank record without charge to encourage the collection of workforce data and the creation of a comprehensive psychology licensee data base. The ASPPB Credentials Bank provides primary source verification and electronic storage of licensure-related documents, forms and materials. Going forward, the only fees associated with the credentials bank will be a nominal service fee charged when one requests to have his or her information released or transmitted to another agency or organization.

Workforce Data Efforts. ASPPB received grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support the development of a work force survey of licensed psychologists in the U.S. who are providing direct client care. This Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey project is an expansion of HRSA's earlier efforts to develop rosters of medical practitioners in the U.S. which allowed for the inclusion of behavioral health care providers in the data set. ASPPB, in collaboration with APA's Center for Workforce Studies, designed a survey instrument that captures not only a census of all licensed psychologists, but also information about training, practice settings and diversity. Initial data collection efforts have found that linking the survey to licensure application and renewal provides a robust return rate. ASPPB has the software in place to receive data in electronic form and is currently focusing on initiatives to engage member jurisdictions in the U.S. ASPPB is also working with the Association of Canadian Psychology Regulatory Organizations (ACPRO) to develop the same database of registered psychologists in Canada.

Advocacy for Best Practices in Psychology Regulation. Member boards, with increasing frequency, have faced board consolidation, sunset review, and new legislative initiatives that present challenges to best practices in psychology regulation. ASPPB offers advocacy services to assist member boards as they respond to regulatory challenges. ASPPB is committed to increasing the regulatory literacy of key constituents as they make impactful decisions regarding the licensing of psychologists and investing in initiatives that advance best practices.

HRSA Grants Support Universal Application and PSYPACT. Over the past few years, ASPPB has received \$1.25 million in grant funding from HRSA's Office for the Advancement of Telemedicine to support the implementation of ASPPB's universal application and credentials verification service called PLUS and the development and implementation of the telepsychology compact called PSYPACT. In July 2016, ASPPB was notified that it had been awarded another three years of federal funding to continue the expansion of both PLUS and PSYPACT. With this latest grant, ASPPB has been awarded approximately \$2,000,000 in federal funding to support this effort. Details about PLUS and PSYPACT are presented below.

Psychology Licensure Universal System (PLUS). The PLUS is a universal application system that is designed for use by member jurisdictions in their licensure processes. The system allows individuals applying for licensure to

make application online to a jurisdiction through the PLUS portal, and the information provided by the applicant is primary source verified by ASPPB and is maintained electronically for future use should the individual wish to apply for licensure in other jurisdictions. In utilizing the PLUS, applicants do not have to worry about issues such as obtaining signatures from their internship or post doc supervisors, documenting the content of special topic seminars or having to request a transcript after their first application for licensure. ASPPB is working with APPIC to create a seamless system for transferring practicum and internship information directly to licensing boards and is working with ABPP to create a similar system for transferring specialty recognition applications to the PLUS. The PLUS is currently utilized in 14 jurisdictions with another 5 jurisdictions scheduled to begin using the PLUS in the next few months. When fully implemented across North America, PLUS will dramatically change the way applicants for licensure obtain their first and all subsequent licenses to practice psychology and will ease the administrative burdens related to professional mobility by providing easy access to licensure-related information throughout a psychologist's career.

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). A joint APA/ASPPB/APAIT Task Force produced *Telepsychology Guidelines* that were approved by the APA Council and by the ASPPB Board of Directors in August 2013. ASPPB established a separate Telepsychology Task Force whose charge was to explore new models to regulate telepsychology practice. The Task Force developed the concept of an "E-Passport" which would allow the provision of psychological services by qualified licensed psychologists via electronic means across jurisdictional boundaries and limited in person practice, without additional licensure in the jurisdiction in which the client was physically present when receiving those services. The work of this task force was further expanded to include the exploration of an interstate compact - the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). The compact provides a consistent structure for temporary in-person face-to-face practice, as well as the practice of telepsychology. ASPPB currently maintains a website dedicated to PSYPACT that can be found at www.psypact.org. It includes background materials like a resource policy toolkit, handouts, a frequently asked questions section and a map to track the progress of PSYPACT in each state legislature. You can also follow this on Twitter @PSYPACT. PSYPACT becomes operational when at least seven states have passed legislation for it. To date, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, and Illinois have enacted PSYPACT legislation. However, PSYPACT legislation in Illinois includes an effective date of January 1, 2020, and therefore will not be considered as having joined PSYPACT until that date

Exam Program Initiatives:

Competency Assessment: After years of exploration and discussion with ASPPB member boards and other psychology stakeholder groups, the ASPPB Board of Directors approved the development and implementation of new content and question types designed to assess foundational professional skills at entry-level licensure along with the foundational knowledge currently assessed by the EPPP. Adding the assessment of professional skills to the assessment of professional knowledge, the Enhanced EPPP will provide member boards with a comprehensive examination package by which to assess a licensure candidate's competency to practice independently. The Enhanced EPPP will consist of the knowledge portion, and the new skills portion will be called the EPPP Part 2. This assessment package will assist member boards in meeting their mandate of public protection and in meeting the public's expectations regarding a board's assessment of competence of psychologists at the point of licensure. Our target date for implementation is January 2020. ASPPB has been communicating with its member jurisdictions, training directors, applicants for licensure and other relevant stakeholders as details about the EPPP Part 2 content, validation studies, registration process and cost become available. We are actively listening to feedback and concerns as we move forward in exam development. Up-to-date information about the Part 2 is available on the ASPPB website (www.asppb.net).

EPPP Scores for Doctoral Programs. ASPPB recently re-launched its report of EPPP scores for accredited and designated doctoral programs. Historically, ASPPB has made available rolling, aggregated EPPP pass rates of Doctoral programs to assist programs in preparing self-studies and annual reports for accreditation. The data allowed

programs to track the pass rates for their graduates in the most recent five-year period. With ASPPB's transition to Pearson VUE as our test vendor, we have been unable to produce the same five year rolling aggregate because of difficulty migrating historical data from one vendor to another. Consequently, the currently available report has the EPPP data by doctoral program only for the time we have been with Pearson VUE. The report will be expanded to include additional years of data by program as those data are accumulated. The data are provided to programs, potential students and the public free of charge at www.asppb.net. ASPPB is currently exploring with Pearson VUE additional formats for providing performance data that would allow programs and prospective students to evaluate the EPPP performance of individual programs on an annual or more targeted basis to track the impact of curricular changes or other program developments.

Liaison Activities. The ASPPB Board of Directors strongly believes in the importance of communication between ASPPB and other psychology organizations, councils of training directors and regulatory federations from other professions. ASPPB has endeavored to promote these relationships by attending meetings as liaisons when possible, and providing consultation and resources that will help other groups to understand the regulatory process and the common problems that disrupt initial licensure/registration, professional mobility, and regulation of professional conduct in psychology. The ASPPB web site (www.asppb.net) continues to undergo renovation and improvement to provide better licensure information for all interested parties, including faculty, supervisors, and students. Faculty and supervisors can find resources to aid in preparing their students, interns, and trainees for the EPPP, and they can also view the licensure requirements for each ASPPB member jurisdiction.

ASPPB Supervision Guidelines. The *ASPPB Supervision Guidelines for Education and Training Leading to Licensure as a Health Service Provider* are available on our website. Currently under development are *Supervision Guidelines* for regulatory bodies to use with disciplinary cases. After these are completed, we will begin working on *Supervision Guidelines for General Applied Psychologists*, and for licensed non-doctoral level providers and non-licensed persons providing psychological services (e.g., psychology technicians).

Mobility Program Initiatives. ASPPB offers several programs designed to facilitate professional mobility. The Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) attests that the individual holding the certificate has met specific requirements for licensure including acceptable graduate education, examination performance and supervised experience and has never had disciplinary action taken against his or her license. The CPQ facilitates obtaining an additional license in a new jurisdiction for those licensed psychologists meeting the requirements for the CPQ. There are 44 jurisdictions in Canada and the U.S. that accept the CPQ, 11 other jurisdictions that essentially accept the CPQ but may require a transcript or oral exam, and an additional two jurisdictions in the process of accepting the CPQ. The benefits of the CPQ include: expedited licensure application process, integration with a Credentials Bank record, free EPPP Score Transfer service, and promotion of greater uniformity in licensure standards. The Inter-Jurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) facilitates temporary practice for psychologists involved in short-term practice (max 30 days/yr.), such as I/O and consulting psychology, forensic evaluations, or for disaster relief work. CPQ holders automatically receive an IPC. There are currently six jurisdictions that accept the IPC credential. Our mobility initiatives will be responsive to changes in regulation as they occur, such as recent legislative action concerning sequence of training requirements.

International Project on Competences in Psychology (IPCP). The IPCP arose out of the 5th International Congress on Licensure, Certification and Credentialing in Psychology. The Congress focused on issues of a coherent global identity for psychologists, international quality assurance and mutual recognition promoting mobility and global practice for qualified and ethical practitioners. The IPCP was created following the Congress to explore the development of a set of internationally recognized and endorsed core competences in professional psychology. The IPCP work group submitted a final document called the *Declaration of International Competences in Psychology* to both the International Association of Applied Psychologists (IAAP) and the International Union of Psychological Sciences (IUPsyS) in the Spring of 2016, and both organizations have endorsed the Declaration as of July 2016.