



Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards

February 2019 Report

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 2019 Board of Directors: President: C. Gerald O'Brien, PhD (MS); President-Elect: Sheila Young, PhD (NV), Past-President: Sharon Lightfoot, PhD (MO); Secretary-Treasurer: Cindy Olvey, PsyD (AZ); Members-At-Large: Tomas Granados, PsyD (NM), Alan Slusky, PhD (MB), and Herbert Stewart, PhD (VA).

Chief Executive Officer: Mariann Burnetti-Atwell, PsyD

Important News for Training Directors. The ASPPB Credentials Bank is free for everyone. Any graduate student, intern, post-doc, or licensed psychologist can open a Credentials Bank record without charge. With this option for individuals, ASPPB hopes 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. The only fee associated with the credentials bank will be a nominal service fee charged when one requests to have 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. This system allows individuals applying for licensure to submit an application online to a jurisdiction through the PLUS portal. Information provided by the applicant is a 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 16 jurisdictions. 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. 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. Once a seventh state is ready to become a part of PSYPACT, it

will become operational, and a commission will be established to manage operation of the compact. At this time, eight (8) additional states have introduced PSYPACT legislation. It is hoped that the compact will be operational by 4th quarter 2019. You can also follow this on Twitter @PSYPACT.

Exam Program Initiatives:

Enhanced EPPP: 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 above said, ASPPB jurisdictions have raised some concerns about their ability to make the changes that need to be made in order to begin using the Enhanced EPPP. As a result, the ASPPB Board of Directors recently changed the requirement for jurisdictions to begin using the Enhanced EPPP in January 2020 and decided to go with a "rolling adoption" for the Enhanced EPPP.

Member boards will now have two options for licensure examination. One option for licensing boards will be to continue to use the EPPP, the standardized assessment of knowledge. A second option, the Enhanced EPPP, will be one exam with two parts – the standardized assessment of knowledge, and a standardized assessment of skills. The skills exam cannot be taken without passing the knowledge exam and will not be offered as a stand-alone exam.

ASPPB is continuing toward the launch of the Enhanced EPPP in 2020 and will make it available to member jurisdictions interested in serving as early adopters of the exam.

EPPP Scores for Doctoral Programs: The ASPPB report of EPPP scores for accredited and designated doctoral programs is available on the ASPPB website (www.asppb.net). The report contains rolling, aggregated EPPP pass rates of Doctoral programs to assist programs in preparing self-studies and annual reports for accreditation. The data also allow programs to track the pass rates for their graduates in the most recent five-year period. These data are provided to programs, potential students and the public free of charge. ASPPB is currently working with Pearson VUE to create 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.

Psychopharmacology Examination for Psychologists (PEP): In 2015, ASPPB agreed to take over responsibility for the development and maintenance of the PEP from the American Psychological Association. This exam is used in those jurisdictions that have enacted prescription privileges for psychologists and serves as the exam required for that credential. The PEP launched January 2018, with 32 candidates who took the beta exam to determine the cut score and six candidates who have taken the exam since then.

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*, *Supervision Guidelines for Mandatory Supervision* and *Supervision Guidelines for Licensed Psychological Associates* are available on our website. Currently under development is *Supervision Guidelines for General Applied Psychologists*. It is hoped this final section will be available by the end of the year.

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, 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 reliefwork. 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.