TO: Texas Psychological Association
FROM: Aaron Gregg
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DATE: December 4, 2023
RE: Q4 Advocacy Report

It was a pleasure connecting with numerous TPA members face-to-face during the annual convention! We had insightful conversations about your practices and the issues that matter to you. We also enjoyed giving brief presentations on the importance of participating in TPA’s PAC and the achievements from this past legislative session. Finally, we were thrilled to see Rep. Terry Canales receive the Legislator of the Year award.

Here is a brief recap of the highlights of this quarter and our plans for next quarter.

**RxP Lunch & Learn**

Cheryl Hall presented virtually to a room filled with Capitol staff about RxP. As the staffers enjoyed Gus’s Fried Chicken (a Capitol favorite) from Rep. Rosenthal’s office, Dr. Hall explained the need for granting psychologists prescribing authority in Texas, the potential benefits, and the legislative history of attempting to pass this legislation in Texas. Over 20 people attended the event (including Rep. Goodwin, who carried the bill last session, and many staffers from the House and Senate).

This was our first event to initiate the RxP discussion in the capitol after TPA’s bill HB343, Relating to the prescriptive authority of certain psychologists; authorizing a fee, failed to receive a hearing in the House Public Health Committee. In addition to this event, we have had one-on-one conversations with members and staff about RxP.

**The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) Meeting**

At the October 24th, BHEC Open Meeting, the council discussed the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), who administers the EPPP licensing exam for psychologists in Texas, recently requiring states to accept Part II (a skills based exam) of the EPPP exam in order to keep Part I (a knowledge based exam). Currently, Texas only administers the EPPP Part I.

The ASPPB’s proposal raises concerns because of potential antitrust violations for making the test mandatory for states and the potential barriers the test may introduce to students from certain backgrounds. However, some psychologists agree that having this test will be an important evaluation method for candidates and a meaningful replacement to the oral exam, which Texas did away with in 2019. Additionally, psychologists are concerned that not agreeing with ASPPB’s terms will leave the state without a licensing exam. BHEC is currently investigating the issue and will make a decision before ASPPB’s January 2026 deadline.
**Q1 Action Items**

For the next quarter, we are in the process of:

- Scheduling meetings with members and staff of the House Public Health Committee and the Senate Health & Human Services Committee (and other members and staff when helpful)
- Monitoring the interim hearings of the House Public Health Committee and the Senate Health & Human Services Committee and other hearings discussing pertinent issues
- Continuing to monitor developments from BHEC
- Connecting with think tanks and associations to find opportunities to collaborate