



THE EXAMINER

Summer 2014 Edition

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ASPPB 2014 Midyear Meeting

By Anne-Marie Smith, Ph.D., Board Member.

This spring, I had the opportunity to represent OBPE at the Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) Midyear Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. ASPPB was formed in 1961 and its members include all of the United States and Canadian Provinces with the exception of Quebec. Most psychologists are familiar with ASPPB as the creator and regulator of the Examination of Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), which is used by the state boards as part of the requirements for licensure. It quickly became clear that ASPPB is far more than the EPPP. This organization is a wealth of information and support for state boards, each trying to navigate its own parallel issues. However, close involvement between the state boards and ASPPB saves considerable

time and avoids states having to recreate the wheel. A number of hot topic issues were discussed at length, including the issue of APA program accreditation as a requirement for state licensure. A growing number of states have already implemented this requirement and many are in the process, including Oregon. The Commission on Accreditation is moving from “guidelines” (which are not enforceable) to “standards” (which are enforceable). If a program does not meet the standards, they can be put on probation or have their accreditation revoked completely. These new standards will likely require general competencies, as well as discipline-specific competencies (i.e. clinical, pediatric, health, school, counseling, etc). Other standards will require on-site supervision during practica and a higher level of accountability for supervisors who may move along students who do not pass muster.

ASPPB is also considering significant changes to the EPPP. There is discussion about creating two or three types of EPPPs that a candidate would have to pass in order to get licensed. These proposed tests would cover knowledge (like the original EPPP), demonstrated competencies (instead of a simple signature of a program supervisor), and possibly relational skills that are often a critical part of a psychologist’s work. This proposal is in an infancy stage at this point and there continues to be plenty of heated debate on all sides of this issue.

Telepsychology remains a hot topic area. The Joint Task Force of

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ASPPB 2014 Midyear Meeting Continued....

Telepsychology (APA/ASPPB/APAIT) has come up with a proposed mechanism allowing psychologists to provide psychological services via phone or internet across state lines. Issues, such as which board has jurisdiction in regulations, investigations, and disciplinary actions, are being sorted through. As expected this task force has many attorneys working on these issues. OBPE has been starting to explore this matter in the past couple years and is currently looking towards ASPPB for their development of guidelines for telepsychology.

Lastly, there is much talk about the psychology license mobility. Although many states have similar standards, a licensee in one state has to jump through many hoops to get licensed in another state, in the same manner a never-licensed candidate would. ASPPB has recently developed the Psychology Licensure Universal System (PLUS), which is an online application and credential banking system, costing applicants roughly \$200 to start. ASPPB will collect documentation, ensure primary source verification, and place calls to supervisors, etc. This information will be sent to the state boards in a way that fits that state's specific requirements. Candidates will then have all their credentials banked at ASPPB for future applications to different states. About 20% of states are currently using the PLUS system, with another 15-20% moving towards the PLUS system.

Attending this conference was an eye-opening experience for me, not only as a licensing board member, but also as a psychologist. It is fascinating to see where our field is headed as it attempts to navigate both familiar territory and uncharted waters. For more information on these topics can be found at <http://www.asppb.net>. Ψ

Changes to the CE Requirements

At the May meeting, the Board adopted several changes to the continuing education (CE) rules that will become effective in 2015:

- The biennial requirement for CE credits will be reduced from 50 to 40. This means that renewals with a due date of 1/30/15 or later will only need to report 40 credits in order to renew their license.
- There will be a limit of 20 credits (reduced from 25) for the categories home study and study group combined, and for the categories lecturer and published material combined.
- The change makes it clear that programs covering Oregon State laws and regulations related to the practice of psychology (for example, mandatory reporting, psychotherapist-patient privilege, or protected health information laws) can be counted towards the four-hour ethics requirement.
- Up to 4 credits will be allowed for reading articles from peer-reviewed journals. One hour of CE credit will be given for four articles, subject to a limit of 16 total articles per reporting period. Up to 2 credits (8 articles) may be used to fulfill the ethics requirement, and up to 2 credits may be used towards the pain management requirement.
- The "Failure to Comply" Provisions will include clear audit procedures and a sanction schedule for late or deficient CE reports.

Please remember: The biennial birth month renewal schedule is not changing. Credit may not be claimed for reading articles prior to 1/1/15. If your renewal is due on or before 12/31/14, you will still need to complete and report 50 CE credits in order to renew.

You may visit our [website](#) for more information about these changes. Ψ

Proposed Rulemaking

The Board is currently proposing the following rule amendments:

- Changes the educational requirements for psychologist and psychologist associate licensure.** The Board proposes to modify the definition of “approved doctoral program in psychology” and phase out its acceptance of doctoral degrees in psychology from programs at regionally accredited or provincially/territorially chartered institutions but which are not accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). Degrees from programs at regionally accredited institutions will qualify only if 1) the applicant enrolled in his or her program prior to July 22, 2014 and applies by July 22, 2019; or 2) the program submitted an application to the APA or CPA for accreditation prior to the date the applicant’s degree was conferred, and has been granted a site visit by the APA or CPA. The proposed amendment would also add a requirement of one continuous year in-residence at the master’s program as a qualification for licensure as a psychologist associate. There are some clarifying language changes as well. Please note that qualifying regionally accredited master’s programs will still be accepted for psychologist associate licensure. *A public hearing will be held for oral testimony at 3218 Pringle Road SE; Salem, OR 97302 on 10/20/14, 2014 at 10am. You may submit your written comments until 10/20/14 at 5pm.*
- One-time license renewal fee reduction for psychologists and psychologist associates pursuant to ORS 291.055(3).** The Board proposes to temporarily reduce license renewal fees for psychologists and psychologist associates. The proposal will modify fees as follows: active status will be reduced from \$750 to \$255; semi-active status will be reduced from \$375 to \$127.50; and inactive status will be reduced from \$100 to \$34. The proposed reduction would be effective from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016 such that all licensees in a biennial birth month renewal schedule will receive a one-time reduction. On January 1, 2017, fees will return to the prior level. *The public comment period remains open until 10/20/14 at 5pm.*
- Clarifies post-doctoral supervised work experience requirements.** The Board proposes to make clarifying amendments to the post-doctoral supervised work experience requirements for licensure as a psychologist. The change will specify that the 24 month time limit on the psychologist licensure requirement statutory exemption under ORS 675.090(2)(a) does not restart or reset. The proposal also reorganizes some content for clarity and makes other helpful language changes.. *The public comment period remains open until 10/20/14 at 5pm.*

Notices and proposed rule text can be found on the main page of the website under “Headlines.”

Please send any comments to laree.felton@state.or.us or 3218 Pringle Road SE, Ste. 130, Salem OR 97302. All comments must be received by the specified deadline. Ψ

Welcome to the Board



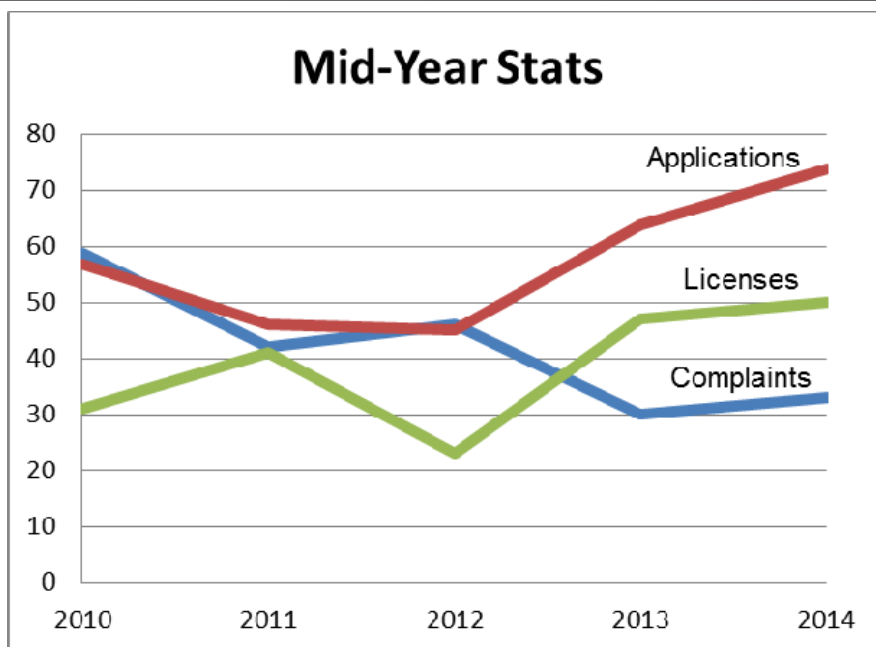
Dorothy “Dottie” Mellon

Our newest public board member, Dottie Mellon, is a retired elementary school teacher, having worked for 20 years for the Woodburn School District. She is a native of Salem, Oregon, and is currently active in her church, the ALS Association (Lou Gehrig’s Disease), and a volunteer tutor at Clackamas Community College. Ψ

Mid-Year Statistics

This chart shows the mid-year numbers (as of June 30th) for the past 5 years of applications received, licenses issued, and complaints opened. We are expecting some record highs this year. To address this level of growth, the Board is proposing increases of 0.5 FTE for administrative support staff and 0.5 FTE for investigative staff beginning in 2015.

If you have a suggestion for statistics you'd like to see in an upcoming newsletter, please email us at Oregon.bpe@state.or.us Ψ



OBPE Disciplinary Actions

During the period of time from January 17, 2014 to August 27, 2014, the Board reviewed and dismissed 28 cases involving psychologists, ended mandated supervision in three cases, issued one emergency suspension, and withdrew one order. In addition to issuing remedial action in two cases, the Board took the following actions:

Nina Bingham, M.S. - **DEFAULT ORDER** was approved and signed on July 21, 2014. Ms. Bingham was found to have engaged in the unlicensed practice of psychology and for representing herself to be a psychologist by offering or rendering services in the practice of psychology. The Board ordered Ms. Bingham to pay a civil penalty of \$10,000 within 30 days from the date the order was signed.

Robert Torres, Ph.D. - **CONSENT AGREEMENT** was approved and signed on May 30, 2014. Dr. Torres failed to satisfy the Board's continuing education requirements, violating ORS 675.070(2)(d). Dr. Torres has agreed to close this matter with the entry of a Consent Agreement, subject to the following terms: practice under a pre-approved practice supervisor and meet face to face at least every two weeks to discuss cases and review chart notes. Additionally, Dr. Torres agreed to pay a \$500 civil penalty upon signing the order.

Douglas R. Kutner, Ph.D. - **STIPULATED ORDER** was approved and signed on April 24, 2014. The Board found Dr. Kutner violated ORS 675.070(2)(d)(A), immoral or unprofessional conduct. In order to address the Board's concerns, Dr. Kutner agreed to close the investigation by entering into an order with the following terms and conditions: Permanently surrenders license to practice psychology under investigation and prohibited from applying for a license to practice psychology in the State of Oregon. Ψ

Upcoming Events in 2014

August

8/4 – Consumer Protection Committee Meets
8/8 – Oregon Jurisprudence Examination

September

9/1 – Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday
9/5 – **Board Meeting**
9/12 – Oregon Jurisprudence Examination

October

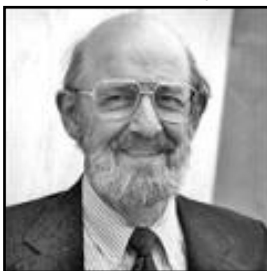
10/6 – Consumer Protection Committee Meets
10/10 – Oregon Jurisprudence Examination
10/20 – Public Rulemaking Hearing

November

11/3 – Consumer Protection Committee Meets
11/7 – Oregon Jurisprudence Examination *
11/11 – Office Closed for Veterans Day Holiday
11/14 – **Board Meeting**
11/15 – **Board's Strategic Planning Session**
11/27 – Office Closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Ψ

In Memory of...

Emanuel Raymond Lewis, Ph.D.



Emanuel Raymond Lewis, Librarian Emeritus, the last and longest serving Librarian of the US House of Representatives, a prolific author, archivist, educator, humorist, historian, illustrator, tenured psychology professor, inveterate traveler, and recognized expert on military and naval history, died May 14 in Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, MD. The cause of death was dementia. He was 85. Dr. Lewis was appointed House Librarian in 1973, and served until January 1995. The Library was the official custodian of all documents generated by the House of Representatives. Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), a long-time friend of Dr. Lewis, said upon learning of his death, "Ray Lewis was a man of the House, and so much more. Ray lived a life of vast experience - he was a genuine Renaissance man. He loved his work, and his scholarship and service to the House and to this country left us all enriched." Born to Siberian immigrants in Oakland, CA, November 30, 1928, Dr. Lewis honored his father, Jacob A. Lewis, in 2008, by donating ten acres to the city of Hayward, CA - the "J.A. Lewis Park" is now part of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District. Dr. Lewis attended the University of California at Berkeley (BA/MA) and received his PhD in Educational Psychology at the University of Oregon. Dr. Lewis had a passion for travel. Accompanied by his wife, he visited 112 countries over 40 years. Dr. Lewis is survived by his wife of 47 years, Eleanor G. Lewis of Washington, DC; a son by his now deceased first wife, Joseph J. Lewis of Eugene, Oregon; cousin Ruth Lycette, her son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Kathy Lycette of Palo Alto and San Carlos CA respectively; cousin-in-law, Eve DeLanis of Virginia Beach, VA; sister-in-law, Roberta Foulke and husband, Robert, of Las Vegas, NV; 10 nieces and nephews, and many great nieces and nephews. Burial will be private at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

If you know of an Oregon Licensed Psychologist/Psychologist Associate who has recently passed, please inform the board. We appreciate the feedback and do not want to exclude recognizing anyone in The Examiner. Ψ

Reminders

BE GREEN! Please make sure to update your email address with us if it changes so that you continue to receive correspondence. If you have not provided one, please do so. **Also, we are now collecting public email addresses.** Your current email is, of course, kept private, but if you would like to provide a public email please send it to: oregon.bpe@state.or.us.

The Examiner is the official newsletter of the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners and is edited by board staff. Please visit our website at www.Oregon.gov/obpe, email, or call 503-378-4154 with any comments or suggestions. Ψ



OBPE Staff

Becky Eklund, Executive Director
Janelle Houston, Operations & Policy Analyst
Karen Berry, Investigator
LaReé Felton, Program Analyst
Ashlie Rios, Office Specialist



Phone: (503) 378-4154
Fax: (503) 374-1904
E-mail: Oregon.BPE@state.or.us



Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners
3218 Pringle Rd., SE, Ste. 130
Salem, OR 97302

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