



Board Members

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Public Member, Salem

Janice Schermer
Public Member, Portland

Vacant Position
Public Member

Staff

Charles Hill
Executive Director

LaRéé Felton
Policy Advisor / Licensing Manager

Rogelio Daniels
Compliance Officer

Ashlie Rios
Licensing Program Specialist

Rebekah Talley
Program Assistant

Vacant Position
Investigator

A Word from the Executive Director

Greetings everyone! I hope you are all enjoying the mild summer weather that we are having. I know that I am appreciating the new leaves on the shade trees and the cool evening breeze here in Salem. Just like the change of the seasons, we are undergoing some positive changes here at the Mental Health Regulatory Agency.

We are nearing the completion and preparing to launch our much-anticipated re-designed websites in July. This project has been in the planning and development phase for a long time and I am thrilled that we will be able to check this project off as complete very soon. Our stakeholders have been gently nudging us about our website for at least 2 years, possibly longer. We needed to take care of other more pressing matters first before finally getting around to the website re-design. So, I am especially pleased that we will soon be rolling out the new websites for the Boards. The new websites will offer a more secure platform, be mobile friendly, and better organized. A special thank-you to LaRee Felton, our Policy Analyst/Licensing Manager, who has committed one day per week over the last four months to take on this challenging project.

We are also in the planning/negotiation phase for other IT projects; notably we are in discussions for a new database system and a new desktop support vendor. I am in hopes that we will be testing and have a new database system in place by the end of the calendar year, and I anticipate that our new desktop support vendor is in place by the end of July.

The next round of Senate confirmation hearings for Board members will be in September of this year, and the Boards need to have recommendations into the Governor's office by August 3rd, 2018. While the Boards are able to make recommendations, the Governor always has the final call on who she will appoint. Our Boards are composed of Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) and Psychologists. In addition to licensees, our Boards are also composed of Public Members who add balance and different perspectives to the composition and make-up of the Boards. Our pool of Public Member candidates for both the BLPCT and the BOP is especially shallow as we head towards the confirmation hearings, so, I am asking that the readers of this newsletter help to recruit. What characteristics are we looking for in a public member? Certainly, we want and desire a diverse Board. But, also we are seeking an individual that is interested in serving the mission of the Boards with an eye towards public protection. If you know of someone who has an interest in serving on either the BLPCT or the BOP Boards, please have them contact me or direct them to the Governor's website to submit an application. Here is a link to the application process: [How to Apply](#).

Charles Hill
Executive Director, Mental Health Regulatory Agency

"Plans are nothing, but planning is everything" – Dwight D. Eisenhower Ψ

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Don't Horse Around With Companion and Therapy Animal Evaluations

By
Cliff Johannsen, PhD
Board Chair

The Board has received a letter from an alleged advocacy organization claiming to represent individuals and/or organizations who feel aggrieved by clinicians' evaluations or letters of recommendation claiming that companion / therapy animals are required by disabled individuals. The backer(s) of this advocacy organization are not specified. An attachment to the letter offers a draft newsletter article for state licensing boards to publish, kind of like an editorial. It is conveyed in a confrontational manner, threatening board complaints and lawsuits. The Oregon Board of Psychology discussed this at its May 2018 meeting. Because the Board has received no such complaints, this kind of information did not seem urgent or appropriate to publish. Yet, the Board thought it prudent to alert licensees that this may have become a conflictual area of practice.



licensees that this may have become a conflictual area of practice.

The Board has adopted by rule the APA Ethical Principles as the standard for judging risk to the public. The Ethical Principles are necessarily vague and require interpretation and application to specific situations. This is accomplished by a variety of ethics committees and licensing boards. We all would like these judgments to be both fitting and consistent.

This can be facilitated by various publications including textbooks, casebooks, websites, or journal and newsletter articles. A search of the APA website yields an assortment of articles that are relevant to this task. I heartily recommend them for your consideration if you are practicing or considering practice in the area of companion / therapy animal evaluations and recommendations.

Clay, Rebecca A., Is that a pet or therapeutic aid? What should you do if your patients ask you to write letters certifying that their pets are emotional support animals?, *APA Monitor*, September 2016, Vol 47, No. 8. Retrieved at <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2016/09/pet-aid.aspx>.

Emotional support animal vs. psychiatric service animal, *APA Monitor*, September 2016, Vol 47, No. 8. Retrieved at <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2016/09/pet-aid-sidebar.aspx>.

Winerman, Lea. Allies, sidekicks and pals: Psychologists are investigating whether animal companionship benefits older adults, prison inmates, at-risk youth and other underserved populations, *APA Monitor*, June 2017, Vol 48, No. 6. Retrieved at <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2017/06/animal-companionship.aspx>.

Galietti, Connie. A Psychologist's Role in Providing Letters for Emotional Support. *Good Practice*, Winter 2018, Pp. 8-9 +22. Retrieved at <http://www.apapracticecentral.org/good-practice/secure/2018-winter.pdf>.

Please note that this is only a sample of recent articles related to this topic. Ψ

New Website

The Board's new website, which is expected to launch in late-June or early-July, will include many improvements:

- ◆ Better-organized content; easier to find information
- ◆ Fresh look and feel, consistent with other State agencies
- ◆ Elimination of clutter and outdated information
- ◆ Improved security and accessibility
- ◆ Mobile device friendly

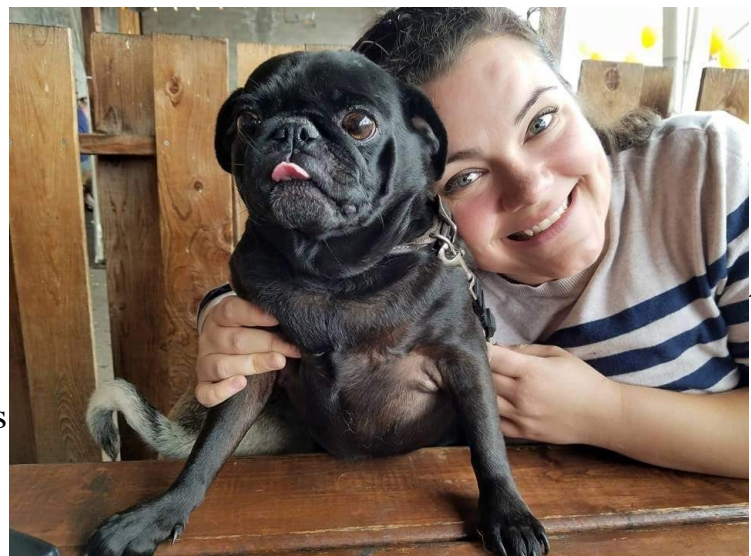
This change is part of a statewide website migration project that is needed in major part because the current website will no longer be supported in 2020. The Office of Chief Operating Officer has provided direct support to Board staff through day-long migration sessions held each week from March through the first week of June. This sizeable project has included research, planning, performance of website analytics, content audit and review, task metadata, usability testing, new web structure development, submission and approval by the Office of the State Chief Information Officer, web redesign building and staging, coordination with stakeholders, staff training, and publishing.

The web address will change, consistent with the Board's recent name change, from Oregon.gov/OBPE to Oregon.gov/Psychology. For user convenience, there will be site redirects set for some time following the launch of the new site. Some final work still needs to be completed, but we are very excited to release the new website very soon! Ψ

Welcome to the Board!

Rebekah is the Board's new Program Assistant. She has a degree in Economics from the University of California, Riverside and is a former Peace Corps. Volunteer.

Rebekah is now the main point of contact for licensees and applicants who reach out to the Board. She will be providing administrative support to the Agency office, including processing application files. She is excited for the opportunity to work with the Board. Ψ



Administrative Rulemaking

On May 23, 2018, the Board filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearing for the following proposed amendment:

Grounds for disciplinary action and notice required for contested case hearings.

The proposed amendment sets forth that failure to comply with terms of a Board order or cooperate with a Board investigation constitutes a violation of ORS 675.070(2) and is grounds for disciplinary action. It also **changes the time to request a contested case hearing subsequent to the Board issuing a notice of proposed disciplinary action from 30 day of mailing of the notice to 21 days of the issuance of the notice.**

The agency requests public comment on whether the options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business. Please email your comments to laree.felton@state.or.us or mail them to the Board's office at 3218 Pringle Road SE, Ste. 130, Salem, OR 97302. All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 27, 2018. A public hearing will be held at 10 a.m. on June 27, 2018 at 3218 Pringle Road SE, Salem, OR 97302.

Website: The above document, along with rule text (for the proposed rules, new language underlined, deleted language with strike-through), is available at www.oregon.gov/OBPE under "Headlines." Ψ

Upcoming Events 2018

July

7/2: Social Media Committee Meeting
7/4: Office Closed for Independence Day
7/6: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
7/13: Board Meeting
7/20: Education Committee Meeting

August

8/6: Social Media Committee Meeting 8/10: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
8/16: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
8/17: Education Committee Meeting

September

9/3: Office Closed for Labor Day
9/7: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
9/10: Social Media Committee Meeting
9/14: Board Meeting
9/21: Education Committee Meeting

October

10/1: Social Media Committee Meeting
10/12: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
10/18: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
10/19: Education Committee Meeting

November

11/2: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
11/5: Social Media Committee Meeting
11/9: Board Meeting
11/10: Board's Strategic Planning Session
11/12: Office Closed for Veterans Day
11/16: Education Committee Meeting
11/22-11/23: Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December

12/3: Social Media Committee Meeting
12/14: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
12/20: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
12/21: Education Committee Meeting
12/25: Office Closed for Christmas Day Ψ

Reminder! Please make sure to update your email address if it changes so that you continue to receive correspondence. Notify us right away- but not more than 30 days- of any change in your contact information.

Please use our [Contact Information Change Form](#) Ψ

OBOP News is the official newsletter of the Oregon Board of Psychology and is edited by board staff. Please visit our website at www.Oregon.gov/obpe, email, or contact us with any comments or suggestions.

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