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A Word from the Executive Director

Greetings and well wishes to all of you. So much has changed since our last newsletter. Most of us would never have expected the havoc that the COVID-19 virus has brought to the world in the matter of just a few short weeks. However, when we look at the history of world pandemics, why should we be surprised? I am attaching a link to an article that I found online that shows an excellent visual of past pandemics that puts the current COVID-19 pandemic into perspective. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ericmack/2020/03/16/see-how-coronavirus-compares-to-other-pandemics-through-history/>. We do not yet know the total destruction that the COVID-19 virus will cause on the world population. But, I believe we can all agree that advances in the medical field along with advances in technology and communications, improvements in sanitation and pro-active actions by world leaders and local, state and our federal government has had a tremendous impact on slowing the growth of the COVID-19 virus. If it were not for the advances in modern medicine and technology, we would be facing a much different situation, perhaps worse than the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-1919.

Here at the MHRA, like all other State and Federal agencies, we have been in reactionary mode since late March. Certainly, we were caught off guard and were not prepared for this pandemic. Who was? Once the reality sunk in and the State emergency was declared by Governor Brown, we began taking action as quickly as possible to protect our workforce and the public. Closing down State government is not an option, so we had to figure out ways to continue to serve our licensees and applicants. We closed our office to the public, but we didn't close business. We began the planning process for telework. State government was never intended to work from home, and all of a sudden, 20,000-30,000 state employees were all trying to telework. The state IT folks were overwhelmed with trying to provide state-issued laptops and cell phones to the state workforce, while maintaining cyber security.

Teleworking for our staff is not efficient, in fact, it's only about 50% efficient with staff facing computer crashes and long wait times to log into our databases from home, while often having to re-boot. We were also faced with a significant increase in phone calls and emails from licensees. In order to try to deal with the sudden increase in volume, we quickly assembled a [COVID-19 webpage](#) while updating it daily as changes were occurring so that licensees could get their questions answered.

From the time the Governor declared a state emergency until now, the BLPCT and the BOP has had a series of three special board meetings to adopt temporary rules. Both boards adopted temporary licensure/permit rules to allow for out-of-state licensees to provide continuity of care for displaced Oregon clients. I am proud that our staff was able to scramble and put together a streamlined online registry within a 24 hour period. I am tremendously proud of all of our MHRA staff for going above and beyond the call of duty during this time. Since March 26, 2020 our office has issued 355 BLPCT temporary re-

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reciprocal licenses and 120 BOP emergency visitor's permits. This all comes at the busy time of the year while we are issuing new licenses, approving residency contracts, and registering interns, while also issuing renewal licenses. We realize that some of you have been waiting 2-4 weeks, and I want to assure you that staff are working hard (including Saturdays and Sundays) to process licenses. We appreciate your patience during this period of crisis.

During this time of social distancing I am happy to say that our staff and Board members have remained healthy, and that to me is most important. I want to commend our volunteer Board members who have adapted and who have put in many hours of service to ensure that the work of the MHRA goes on while considering temporary rules in order for Oregonians to get the best service possible. May you all remain healthy during this period of COVID-19 crisis.

- Charles Hill, Executive Director, Mental Health Regulatory Agency
"Plans are nothing, but planning is everything" – Dwight D. Eisenhower Ψ

ASPPB's Guidelines for Closing a Psychology Practice

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) has released a new publication- [Guidelines for Closing a Psychology Practice](#), which were developed with an eye to assisting both regulators and practitioners alike. These guidelines address the steps necessary to ethically prepare for and close a psychology practice whether by choice, disciplinary action, or incapacitation. In addition to providing guidance, this document also offers samples of professional wills, notices to clients, and a checklist to prepare for the eventual closing of one's practice. Ψ

OHA Releases New Health Care Workforce Data

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has released a 2020 dataset as well as [an interactive data visualization of Oregon's licensed health care workforce](#), which includes supply, demographic, and practice estimates over time. Our goal was to reproduce our occupational profiles (see [past reports](#)) in an effort to make this information more readily available to the licensing boards, health professionals, policy experts, and the public. You can explore the data by selecting different measures, occupations, counties and years depending on the view. If you find a view you like, you can print to PDF as a single page or report. You can also check out [the summarized, underlying data in an Excel file](#).



As 2020 continues, OHA will be updating their supply and diversity reports and hopes to release more data visualizations regarding Oregon's licensed health care workforce. Ψ

Administrative Rulemaking

On November 19, 2019, the Board filed a Permanent Administrative Order for the following rule adoption and amendments, effective January 1, 2020:

Establishes military spouse temporary practice authorization and fee; modifies contested case hearing procedure; contact information.

OAR 858-010-0056: This new rule implements House Bill 3030 (2019) and Senate Bill 688 (2019) by establishing the application procedures and requirements for the Board of Psychology to grant temporary practice authorizations to spouses of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are stationed in Oregon.

OAR 858-010-0060: This amendment adds limited permits and temporary practice authorizations as subject to the rules regarding the maintenance and retention of psychological records.

OAR 858-010-0061: This amendment adds limited permits and temporary practice authorizations as subject to the Board's notification requirements, and adds a requirement to provide the Board with a current email address.

OAR 858-010-0075: This amendment adds limited permits and temporary practice authorizations as subject to the Code of Professional Conduct.

OAR 858-020-0025: This amendment adds limited permits and temporary practice authorizations to the Board's complaint procedures.

OAR 858-020-0045: This amendment adds limited permits and temporary practice authorizations to the Board's notice and investigation procedures.

OAR 858-020-0075: This amendment modifies the contested case hearing procedures by adding an exemption to requirements of OAR 137-003-0655(7), which require an agency to give written notice to the administrative law judge and all parties of the date by which the agency expects to issue an amended proposed order or a final order if the agency will not issue an amended proposed order or final order within 90 days of the proposed order.

OAR 858-030-0005: This amendment establishes a new fee for temporary practice authorizations and updates some references.

On March 18, 2020, the Board filed a Temporary Administrative Order for the following rule amendment, effective through September 13, 2020:

Temporary suspension of in-person continuing education requirement for March through August renewals.

OAR 858-040-0055: This amendment temporarily suspends the limitation of 20 hours of continuing education credit awarded for home study and study group during a reporting period. It applies only to renewals that are due between March 31, 2020 and August 31, 2020. In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, and resulting social distancing initiatives, the Board determined that there is an immediate need to temporarily allow licensees who are due to renew their licenses in the upcoming months to complete all of their continuing education via home study (online programs).

On March 19, 2020, the Board filed a Permanent Administrative Order for the following rule amendment:

Failure to comply with a Board order or agreement; non-qualifying continuing education.

OAR 858-020-0045: This amendment adds a provision that the Board will not approve any license renewal or request to reactivate a license from inactive status to active or semi-active status if the licensee

Administrative Rulemaking, Cont.

is not in compliance with one or more terms of any Board order or agreement.

OAR 858-040-0036: This amendment specifies that programs completed to fulfil the terms of a Board order or agreement do NOT qualify towards the continuing education requirements for licensure renewal or reinstatement.

On March 31, 2020, the Board filed a Temporary Administrative Order for the following rule amendment, effective through September 26, 2020:

Establishes temporary emergency visitor's permit for psychologists licensed in other states for coronavirus emergency.

OAR 858-010-0055: This amendment temporarily establishes an Emergency Visitor's Permit that allows psychologists licensed in other states to provide mental health care services through confidential electronic communications to persons located in Oregon in response to the novel coronavirus emergency.

Important Reminder...

Effective April 1, 2020, licensees may no longer claim supervision or consultation received for a fee from an Oregon licensed psychologist towards the continuing education requirements.

Please visit our [Administrative Rulemaking Webpage](#) for more information.

- LaRee Felton, Policy Advisor to the Board, Mental Health Regulatory Agency Ψ

Enforcement Actions

During the period of time from January 13, 2020, to May 18, 2020, the Board took the following actions:

Juliette L. Cutts, Psy.D. (Licensee), **STIPULATED ORDER**, effective March 13, 2020. Licensee provided supervision to Resident A and allowed her to work as a psychologist resident providing services to patients from early September 2018 until February 8, 2019 without a Board approved resident supervision contract. As a result, Licensee allowed Resident A to engage in the unlicensed practice of psychology. Licensee violated ORS 675.070(2)(h), ES 3.04 Avoiding Harm, and OAR 858-010-0036(3)(a) and was reprimanded and ordered to pay a \$500 civil penalty.

Hamid Michael Hejazi (Respondent), **FINAL ORDER**, effective March 13, 2020. Respondent is not licensed by the Board to practice psychology in the State of Oregon, and does not hold a license in any health care profession in the State of Oregon. The Board found that Respondent represented himself to be a psychologist and that he practiced psychology in the State of Oregon without a license. Respondent violated ORS 675.020(1)(a) and (b), and was ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$5,000.

Brian E. Sandoval, Psy.D. (Licensee), **STIPULATED ORDER**, effective March 13, 2020. Licensee provided supervision to Resident A and allowed her to work as a psychologist resident providing services to patients from early September 2018 until February 8, 2019 without a Board approved resident supervision contract. As a result, Licensee allowed Resident A to engage in the unlicensed practice of psychology. Licensee violated ORS 675.070(2)(h), ES 3.04 Avoiding Harm, and OAR 858-010-0036(3)(a) and was reprimanded and ordered to pay a \$500 civil penalty.

Karin Thompson (Respondent), **STIPULATED ORDER**, effective March 13, 2020. Respondent is not licensed by the Board to practice psychology in the State of Oregon, and does not hold a license in any health care profession in the State of Oregon. The Board found that Respondent engaged in the unlicensed practice of psychology in Oregon by advertising that she offered evaluation or therapy services to individuals for the

Enforcement Actions, Cont.

purpose of diagnosing or treating behavioral, emotional or mental disorders. Respondent violated ORS 675.020(1)(a) and (b), and was ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$1,000.

Craig Steinberg, Ph.D. (Licensee), **INTERIM STIPULATED ORDER**, effective April 20, 2020. The Board opened an investigation after receiving reports that raised serious concerns that Licensee engaged in conduct that casts serious doubts about his judgment and commitment to respect the rights of others, to respect the laws of this state and the nation, and to practice psychology safely and competently. Pending completion of the investigation, Licensee agreed to immediately restrict his practice to exclude the provision of mental health services to any person under the age 18. Licensee must not provide any form of mental health services to any person under the age of 18 years, nor allow any person under the age of 18 that is not an immediate relative to enter his clinic or to communicate with him via electronic media. Licensee must not supervise or employ any mental health care provider that provides treatment to any of Licensee's clientele under the age of 18. Ψ

Obituaries

Dr. Nicholas R. Dietlein, 1966 – 2020

Dr. Dietlein earned his Psy.D. from George Fox University in 2001, and was licensed in Oregon in 2002. He worked for many years at Mid-Valley Counseling Center in Salem. Ψ

Upcoming Events 2020

June

6/5: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
6/18: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
6/19: Education Committee Meeting

July

7/2: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
7/3: Office Closed for Independence Day
7/10: **Board Meeting**
7/17: Education Committee Meeting

August

8/7: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
8/20: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
8/21: Education Committee Meeting

September

9/4: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*

9/7: Office Closed for Labor Day

9/11: **Board Meeting**

9/18: Education Committee Meeting

October

10/2: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
10/15: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
10/16: Education Committee Meeting

November

11/6: Oregon Jurisprudence Examination*
11/11: Office Closed for Veterans Day
11/13: **Board Meeting**
11/14: **Board's Strategic Planning Session**
11/20: Education Committee Meeting
11/26-11/27: Office Closed for Thanksgiving

**Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled each month.*

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](#)

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

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