



ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND PROVINCIAL PSYCHOLOGY BOARDS (ASPPB)

Report to CCTC

Submitted by Stephen T. DeMers, EdD

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ASPPB represents the psychology regulatory bodies throughout North America. Its primary objective is the promotion of excellence in the regulation of the profession of psychology, and the protection of the public. 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 or interested individuals from other psychology organizations. 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 advocacy regarding 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 2016 Board of Directors.

President: Don Crowder, PhD (WI); President-Elect: Don Meck, PhD, JD (GA); Past-President: Martha Storie, BS, (NC); Secretary-Treasurer: Karen Messer-Engel, MA, R. Psych (SK); Members-At-Large: Sharon Lightfoot, PhD (MO), C. Gerald O'Brien Jr., PhD (MS) and Sheila Young, PhD (NV).

Breaking News: At its recent Annual Meeting of Delegates, Sharon Lightfoot, PhD was selected by voting delegates as President –elect and Tomas Granados, PsyD, was elected to the Board of Directors as 1st year Member at Large. Consequently, the ASPPB BOD for 2017 will be as follows: President: Don Meck, PhD, JD (GA); Past-President: Don Crowder, PhD (WI); President-Elect: Sharon Lightfoot, PhD; Secretary-Treasurer: Karen Messer-Engel, MA, R. Psych (SK); Members-At-Large: C. Gerald O'Brien Jr., PhD (MS), Sheila Young, PhD (NV), and Tomas Granados, PsyD (NM).

Important News for Training Directors: The ASPPB Credentials Bank is now free for everyone. Previously, only students and interns could open a Credentials Bank record for free. However, the ASPPB Board of Directors voted last year to allow any graduate student, intern or licensed psychologist to open a Credentials Bank record without charge in order 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. Going forward, the only fees associated with the credentials bank will be a nominal service fee charged when one requests to have their 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 database 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. The expansion of the project 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. The first MDS survey was distributed and the data are being analyzed. Because of lower than desired response rates, ASPPB is working with its member jurisdictions to hopefully link the MDS survey with licensure renewal in the hopes of achieving a more complete database of licensed psychologists 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.

HRSA Grants to Support Universal Application and PSYPACT. Over the past 4 years, ASPPB has received almost \$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. The system allows individuals applying for licensure to make application online to a jurisdiction through the PLUS portal, and the information provided by the applicant is 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 has been 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 with another three to begin utilizing the system in the next few months. 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 may resolve many of the professional mobility difficulties experienced by licensed psychologists because of ability to verify and store critical licensure related information that licensed psychologists can access throughout their career.

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). A joint APA/ASPPB/APA/IT 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. You can also follow us on Twitter @PSYPACT. Last April, Arizona became the first state to pass the PSYPACT legislation. Several other state psychology boards and associations have endorsed PSYPACT and are looking to introduce the legislation during their next legislative session. Once seven states have adopted the legislation PSYPACT becomes operational and a commission will be established to manage operation of the compact.

Exam Program Initiatives.

Competency Assessment: After years of exploration and discussion with member boards and other psychology stakeholder groups, the ASPPB Board of Directors approved the development and implementation of a skills-based examination for use at entry-level licensure that will be designed to augment and complement the EPPP foundational knowledge exam. Together with the EPPP, the new exam will provide member boards with a comprehensive examination package by which to assess a licensure candidate's competency to practice independently. The current EPPP will be renamed the EPPP Step 1, and the new skills exam will be called the EPPP Step 2. This assessment package will assist member boards in meeting their mandate of public protection and in meeting the public's expectations regarding a board's assessment of competence of psychologists at the point of licensure. Our target date for implementation is January 2019. ASPPB will be communicating with its member jurisdictions, training directors, applicants for licensure and other relevant stakeholders as details about EPPP Step 2 content, registration process, cost and validation studies are available.

EPPP Scores for Doctoral Programs. ASPPB recently re-launched its report of EPPP scores for accredited and designated doctoral programs. Historically, ASPPB has made available rolling, aggregated EPPP pass rates of Doctoral programs to assist programs in preparing self-studies and annual reports for accreditation. The data allowed programs to track the pass rates for their graduates in the most recent five-year period. With ASPPB's recent transition to Pearson Vue as our test vendor, we have been unable to produce the same 5 year rolling aggregate because of difficulty migrating historical data from one vendor to another. Consequently, the currently available report has the EPPP data by doctoral program only for the first year we have been with Pearson Vue. This report will be expanded to include additional years of data by program as that data is accumulated. The data is provided to programs, potential students and the public free of charge at www.asppb.net. ASPPB is currently exploring with Pearson Vue 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.

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 are available on our website. Currently under development are Supervision Guidelines for regulatory bodies to use with disciplinary cases. After these are completed, we will be working on Supervision Guidelines for General Applied Psychologists and for licensed non doctoral level providers and for non licensed persons providing psychological services (e.g. psychology technicians).

Licensure of Consulting and Industrial /Organizational Psychologists (LCIOP) Task Force. The LCIOP Joint Task Force was established to examine the issue of licensure of Consulting Psychologists and Industrial / Organizational Psychologists, including examining the issues of definition of practice of psychology, mobility, accreditation of training programs, and barriers to licensure. Some jurisdictions license only health service providers. In addition there appears to be some belief among I/O psychologists that licensure is not necessary or possible for many practitioners in that specialty area. Established in 2014, the Task Force has worked with various groups to review current laws to determine if licensure was required and possible for non health service psychologists; to prepare feedback for the ASPPB Model Act and Regulations Committee regarding provisions for the licensure of I/O

and Consulting psychologists; to survey program directors about the content of doctoral training programs as it relates to licensure and accreditation standards, to review the ASPPB Supervision Guidelines for relevance for this area of practice, and to explore development of a competency model for I/O and Consulting psychology. ASPPB maintains the view that if a psychologist is engaged in activities that fall within the definition of the practice of psychology and there is potential for harm to the public, that psychologist should be licensed.

Mobility Program Initiatives. ASPP 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 and 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 relief work. CPQ holders automatically receive an IPC. There are currently 6 jurisdictions that accept the IPC credential.

Behavior Analysts (BA) Task Force. The charges for the Behavior Analysis Task Force were to develop educational documents on applied behavior analysis (ABA), including addressing ABA's place within the profession of psychology. A white paper on applied behavior analysis was developed for ASPPB member boards. The Behavior Analysis Task Force also prepared a similar paper for consumers that provides information regarding how to identify a qualified provider of ABA services. The consumer document is available on the ASPPB website and the White Paper is available upon request.

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.

Respectfully submitted by,

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