



Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards

January 2022 Report

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) represents the psychology regulatory bodies throughout Canada and the United States. ASPPB's mission is: Serving member jurisdictions by promoting excellence in regulation and advancing public protection in psychology. Association membership is comprised of state, provincial, and territorial jurisdiction member boards as well as individual members who are former board members or staff of psychology regulatory bodies. Any organization involved in the regulation of the practice of psychology outside the United States and Canada shall be entitled to apply for affiliate membership in the Association.

ASPPB works to meet the needs of its members through the provision of services such as the EPPP, model legislation, mobility programs, consultation, and topics related to psychology regulation such as graduate training, supervised experience, telepsychology and continuing professional development. Further, ASPPB serves its member jurisdictions through collaboration with the education and training communities, professional psychology organizations, in efforts to demystify the licensure process for applicants, promotion of common standards and processes for licensure, and development of model programs that promote public protection. For 61 years ASPPB has been providing these essential services to licensing boards throughout the United States and Canada in 2020.

ASPPB 2022 Board of Directors: President: Alan B. Slusky, PhD, CPsych (MB); President-Elect: Herbert L. Stewart, PhD (VA); Past-President: Tomas R. Granados, PsyD (NM); Secretary-Treasurer: Cindy Olvey, PsyD (AZ); Members-At-Large; Michelle G. Paul, PhD (NV), Hugh D. Moore, PhD, MBA (TN) and Jennifer C. Laforce, PhD, CPsych (MB).

Chief Executive Officer: Mariann Burnetti-Atwell, PsyD

Advocacy for Best Practices in Psychology Regulation: Member boards, with increasing frequency, have faced board consolidation, Sunset Review, and new legislative initiatives that present challenges to best practices in psychology regulation. ASPPB offers advocacy services to assist member boards as they respond to regulatory challenges. ASPPB is committed to increasing the regulatory literacy of key constituents as they make impactful decisions regarding the licensing of psychologists and investing in initiatives that advance best practices.

HRSA Grants Support ASPPB Programs and Services: Since 2012, ASPPB has received 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 as well as the development and implementation of the telepsychology compact called PSYPACT. In May 2019, ASPPB was notified that it had been awarded a new HRSA federal grant to address the regulatory research needs of the profession of psychology. This grant provides assistance over the next five years with federal funding for the establishment of a psychology licensure focused research center, The Centre for Data and Analysis on Psychology Licensure (www.asppbcentre.org). The primary purpose of the Centre is to support psychology licensing boards in making informed licensure decisions through consistent data gathering, analysis and reporting. ASPPB was notified in early May 2020 that it had received an additional one-year HRSA grant for \$2.5 million. The focus of this grant is to address COVID-19 as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act.

Activities tied to this funding must work to prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19. To prevent COVID-19, activities should promote the use of telehealth technologies. To prepare, activities should support initiatives to support licensure portability and assist with successful implementation to maximize their impact. To respond, activities must help to provide access to technologies to limit the spread of COVID-19. Our activities have focused on prevention and preparation components of the grant requirements by creating a central hub (Multi-Discipline Licensure Resource Project, MDLR) regarding the licensure application process. The hub, <https://licensureproject.org/>, provides licensure information for several professions: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychology and Social Work. In addition, as part of the 2020 funding, and in hopes of increasing access to mental health care services via telepsychology, ASPPB was able to waive the E. Passport application fee (\$400) through January 31, 2021. Please contact info@psypact.org with any questions you have. Additional information about the application process and how to start an application can be found on the PSYPACT website at www.psypact.org.

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.

EXAMINATION PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Examination for the Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP): After years of exploration and discussion with ASPPB member boards and other psychology stakeholder groups, the ASPPB Board of Directors approved the development and implementation of new content and question types designed to assess foundational professional skills at entry-level licensure along with the foundational knowledge currently assessed by the EPPP. Adding the assessment of professional skills (Part 2-Skills) to the assessment of professional knowledge (Part 1-Knowledge), the EPPP provides member boards a comprehensive examination package by which to assess a licensure candidate's competence to practice

independently.

In November 2020, ASPPB began offering a “rolling adoption” for the two-part EPPP. Member boards currently have two options for licensure examination. One option is the continued use of the standardized assessment of knowledge, the EPPP (Part 1-Knowledge). A second option is the use of both the EPPP (Part 1-Knowledge) and the EPPP (Part 2-Skills). The Skills portion of the exam cannot be taken without passing the Knowledge portion of the exam and is not offered as a stand-alone exam. To date, six jurisdictions have opted to include the skills-based portion of the Examination for their licensure process.

The jurisdictions that have adopted the EPPP (Part 2- Skills) participated in the beta testing phase of the exam. A Standard Setting meeting was conducted in May of 2021 involving participation from licensed psychologists throughout the United States and Canada who evaluated the Exam. Data from their input helped derive an empirically based pass point. Moving forward, the EPPP (Part 2-Skills) is available for continuous testing, and candidates will receive their scores at the test centers as they do with the EPPP (Part1-Knowledge).

EPPP Scores for Doctoral Programs: The ASPPB report of EPPP scores for accredited and designated doctoral programs is available on the ASPPB website (www.asppb.net). This report contains rolling, aggregated EPPP pass rates of Doctoral programs to assist them in preparing self-studies and annual reports for accreditation. The data also allow programs to track the pass rates for their graduates in the most recent five-year period. These data are provided to programs, potential students, and the public free of charge. ASPPB is currently working with a new vendor to create 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.

Psychopharmacology Examination for Psychologists (PEP): In 2015, ASPPB agreed to take over responsibility for the development and maintenance of the PEP from the American Psychological Association. This exam is used in those jurisdictions that have enacted prescription privileges for psychologists and serves as the exam required for that credential. The PEP launched in January 2018. Since that time, 96 candidates have taken the exam.

COVID-19 Update and Testing Implications: Due to the concerns regarding the spread of the COVID-19, accessibility to testing at Person Centers was greatly reduced in March of 2020. ASPPB worked with Pearson centers to establish increased operating hours to alleviate the backlog of available time slots in most locations. We continue to monitor the availability of testing times as some areas limit access during periods of increased COVID infections. At the current time, most centers are operating at full capacity, and availability is now similar to pre-pandemic levels.

Item Review Panel (IRP): In an effort to further evaluate potential bias on examination questions, ASPPB has created a nine-person panel of psychologists with expertise in cultural competence and experience working with populations that have historically been underserved and marginalized. The IRP is tasked with evaluating items that have been flagged by a Differential Item Functioning Analysis (DIF) as performing differently across racial/ethnic groups. The IRP reviews such flagged items for wording that might potentially disadvantage culturally or linguistically diverse test takers.

Examination Stakeholder Advisory Group (ESTAG): ASPPB has formed a partnership with the training

community to help identify common concerns regarding examination-related matters, to communicate updates, and to serve as a “think tank” for potential research on the EPPP. The ESTAG’s 12 members include representatives from major training communities in the United States and Canada, regulatory members, and experts in measurement and licensure assessment.

MEMBER SERVICES INITIATIVES

Mobility Program Initiatives: ASPPB offers several programs designed to facilitate professional mobility. The Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) attests that the individual holding the certificate meets specific requirements for licensure including acceptable graduate education, examination performance, supervised experience, and has never had disciplinary action taken against his or her license. The CPQ facilitates obtaining a license to practice psychology in another jurisdiction for those licensed psychologists meeting the requirements for the CPQ. There are 43 jurisdictions in Canada and the U.S. that accept the CPQ; 11 other jurisdictions recognize the CPQ, but may have additional requirements, such as a transcript or oral exam; and an additional two jurisdictions are in the process of accepting the CPQ. The benefits of the CPQ include expedited licensure application process, establishment of an account with the ASPPB Credentials Bank to store professional records, free EPPP Score Transfer service, and promotion of greater uniformity in licensure standards.

The Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) facilitates temporary practice for psychologists involved in short-term practice (maximum 30 days per year), such as I/O and consulting work, forensic evaluations, or helping with disaster relief. As of July 1, 2020, psychologists can apply for an IPC and practice temporarily under the authority of PSYPACT. The E. Passport is a certificate issued by ASPPB that promotes the standardization of criteria for interjurisdictional telepsychology practice and facilitates the process for licensed psychologists to provide telepsychological services across state lines

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT): PSYPACT is an interstate compact that facilitates the practice of psychology using telecommunications (telepsychology) and/or temporary in-person, face-to-face psychological practice. What is a compact? Simply stated, a compact is an agreement between two or more states for cooperative effort, mutual assistance, management, or regulation of public policy matters by the states, which transcends the boundaries of one state.

PSYPACT has been enacted in 27 states with all 27 of those being effective. On July 1, 2020, ASPPB began to accept applications from psychologists interested to practice under the authority of PSYPACT. Please check out the PSYPACT website at www.psypact.org for the most up-to-date list of PSYPACT jurisdictions.

ASPPB Credentials Bank: The ASPPB Credentials Bank serves as a valuable service to the profession by securely storing valuable licensure-related information for psychologists pertinent to their background and professional careers and serves as an aid to our member jurisdictions should a psychologist seek licensure in another jurisdiction. The Credentials Bank is complementary for students, trainees, and licensed psychologists. Any graduate student, intern, post-doc, or licensed psychologist can open a Credentials Bank record without charge. With this option for individuals, ASPPB hopes 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. The only fee associated with the Credentials Bank will be a nominal service fee charged to release or transmit information to another agency or organization.

Disciplinary Data System (DDS): The DDS is a databank developed and maintained by ASPPB to help member boards in their mission to protect the public. It serves as a vital resource to our member jurisdictions and many other credentialing organizations in psychology. Disciplinary actions taken by jurisdictions are reported directly to the DDS and have been since 1985 when the system was created. DDS serves as a resource to all member boards when reviewing applications for licensure and current licensees at renewal. In 2009, ASPPB established the Committee on Disciplinary Issues (CODI) to guide the development and usefulness of this valuable service. ASPPB has agreed to become the reporting agent for several U.S. jurisdictions to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

ASPPB Resources: Please introduce yourself to the ASPPB webpage at <https://www.asppb.net/>. The webpage covers a broad range of information for students, exam applicants, early career psychologists, psychologists, training directors, regulatory boards, and the public. Several areas worth spotlighting are Licensure Related Matters and COVID-19; Guidelines for the Practice of Telepsychology; Guidelines for Closing a Psychology Practice; ASPPB Supervision Guidelines; and the Guidelines for the Use of Social Media by Psychologists in Practice and by Psychology Regulatory Bodies.