

NORTH CAROLINA PSYCHOLOGY BOARD
Open Session Minutes
February 19, 2013
Teleconference

The North Carolina Psychology Board met in a called meeting via teleconference on February 19, 2013, at 7:30 PM.

Members present: Kristine Herfkens, Ph.D., ABPP; Chair; Robert Hill, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Lynn Lambert, RN, BSN, M.Ed.; Jeffrey Lorence, M.A.; Jane Perrin, Ph.D.; Anthony Powell, M.A.

Member absent: Maria Velazquez-Constas, M.Ed.

Others present: Martha Storie, Executive Director (retiring effective May 1st); Susan Batts, M.A., Staff Psychologist; Sondra Panico, Assistant Attorney General; Daniel Collins, Executive Director (effective March 1st).

Dr. Herfkens reminded Board members that, in accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Board members were directed to identify any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board at the meeting and to refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved. Board members were asked to identify any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board at the meeting, and instructed that, if one arose during the course of this meeting, to articulate it to the Board.

The Board convened a meeting via conference call to review data presented by the NCPA/NCAPP workgroup in response to the Board's stated position on the proposed changes to the NC Psychology Practice Act being considered by the workgroup. Prior to discussing the specifics of the workgroup's proposal, Dr. Herfkens reported that Ms. Sally Cameron, Executive Director of NCPA, shared with her that a fee increase bill has a chance of passing only if it is incorporated into the workgroup's proposed legislation.

The Board revisited all of the issues previously discussed at its April 18-19, 2013 meeting, as detailed below.

- First, whether LPA's may practice independently after three years of supervision of all practice. The Workgroup provided the Board with data which indicated that there is no increased risk of harm to the public when independent practice is obtained by master's level practitioners after three years of supervised practice. As a result, the Board supports this proposal.
- Second, whether the licensure of LPAs should cease after September 20, 2018. The Board appreciates the data that the Workgroup provided; however, the Board's position about this issue remains unchanged. It is the Board's view that this proposal would not

serve to protect the public of North Carolina. If there are no longer LPAs, then the public need for services by master's level psychologists would be unmet. The Board does not find that other mental health professionals, specifically, LPCs or LCSWs, who are not trained as psychologists are trained, would be able to provide these necessary services. Without this level of licensure, this need would either be unmet or an exemption may be created in some agencies to allow these individuals to practice unlicensed, and, therefore, unregulated. None of these options would protect the public of North Carolina. As a result, the Board does not support this change.

- Third, whether LPAs should no longer be permitted to use the title psychologist. The Board's position about this proposal remains unchanged. The data presented by the Workgroup did not provide sufficient reason for the Board to change its position about this proposal. LPAs practice psychology under the same Psychology Practice Act as LPs, and as a result, it may lead to public confusion if they could not also call themselves psychologists. Therefore, the Board does not support this change.
- Fourth, whether there should be a new category of licensure labeled "licensed school psychological associate." The Board's position about this proposal remains unchanged. It is the Board's position that this change would also serve to confuse the public and is unnecessary. School psychologists practice psychology under the same Psychology Practice Act as all other psychologists and such a change may lead to public confusion and would not protect the public of North Carolina. Therefore, the Board does not support this change.

Ms. Panico will draft the Board's response to the workgroup. Ms. Powell will request feedback about the proposed changes from others in the NC Department of Corrections.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



Martha N. Storie
Executive Director