

North Carolina Psychology Board



Robert W. Hill, Ph.D., ABPP
ABPP
Chairperson

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Daniel P. Collins
Executive Director

Kimberly E. Carter, M.A.
Staff Psychologist

August 18, 2016

Governor Pat McCrory
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

Dear Governor McCrory:

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.10, the North Carolina Psychology Board submits the enclosed annual report covering the activities of the Board during the period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. If you have questions regarding any part of the report, or if you wish further elaboration on the Board's activities, please do not hesitate to contact the Board office.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Hill, Ph.D., ABPP
Chairperson

Joseph G. Pasquarell

Kristine M. Herfkens, Ph.D., ABPP
Vice-Chairperson

J. Anthony Powell, M.A.

Helen T. Brantley, Ph.D.

Matthew I. Van Horn, J.D.

Stacie L. MacDonald, M.A.

Enclosure

NORTH CAROLINA PSYCHOLOGY BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

June 30, 2016

This report is submitted in accordance with G.S. § 90-270.10. The report covers the activities of the North Carolina Psychology Board for the period of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

Kristine M. Herfkens, Ph.D., was appointed to serve an additional term until June 30, 2018. Helen T. Brantley, Ph.D., was appointed to serve until June 30, 2018, replacing Jane Perrin, Ph.D. Joseph Pasquarell was appointed to serve until June 30, 2018, replacing Sarah Lynn-Sells Lambert, RN, BSN, M.Ed. Officers for the fiscal year were Robert W. Hill, Ph.D., ABPP, Chairperson and, Kristine M. Herfkens, Ph.D., ABPP, Vice-Chairperson.

The Board held four regularly scheduled face-to-face meetings and three teleconference, as follows:

July 13, 2015	Teleconference
August 13-14, 2015	Raleigh, NC
November 5, 2015	Greensboro, NC
February 4-5, 2016	Raleigh, NC
March 7, 2016	Teleconference
March 28, 2016	Teleconference
May 19-20, 2016	Greensboro, NC

Five administrative hearings were held during the fiscal year in the following matters: John C. Poag, Ph.D., August 13, 2015; Johnny D. Leonard, M.A., August 14, 2015; Caroline M. Clements, Ph.D., August 14, 2015; Annette C. Baker, Ph.D., February 4, 2016; Donald Aytch, Ph.D., May 19, 2016.

The following action was taken or confirmed pursuant to G.S. § 90-270.15 and G.S. § 90-270.16:

Butler, Christine M., Ph.D. - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on may 19, 2016. Respondent admits that the described conduct constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.15(a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(12), (a)(15) & (a)(17) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and Standards 2.06(b), 3.04, & 6.01 *the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*. Respondent's license is hereby SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY effective June 1, 2016. Following six months of suspension, Respondent may receive a fitness for practice evaluation by a Board designated evaluator. Following completion of the evaluation, if the Board determines that Respondent is fit to practice, she may resume practice under PROBATION. Should the Board determine that Respondent is not fit to practice based upon the fitness for practice evaluation, then Respondent's license will be revoked. If Respondent resumes practice, she shall receive individual face to face supervision which shall take place at a minimum of one hour per week during any week in which Respondent practices psychology. Respondent must submit \$300.00 in costs.

Clements, Caroline M., Ph.D., Respondent – FINAL DECISION was approved and signed on November 5, 2015. Respondent's conduct constitutes a violation of N.C. GEN. STAT. § 90-270.15(a)(10) and (14) and Standards 3.05(a), 9.01(a) and 9.01(b) of the *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*. Respondent's license is REPRIMANDED. Respondent shall successfully complete a minimum of ten hours of tutorials and any required readings assigned by the tutor. Respondent also must remit \$900 in costs.

Covington, James Ph.D., Respondent – CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on November 5, 2015. Respondent admits that the conduct described constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.15(a)(7) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and 21 N.C.A.C. 54 .2104 (d), (e), (f), (g), (i), (k) and (m), of the North Carolina Psychology Board rules. No later than January 15, 2016, Respondent shall complete required continuing education hours and submit proper documentation. Once Respondent has completed the continuing education hours and submitted the proper documentation, he may request and, so long as no additional issues related to Respondent's license have come to the Board's attention, the Board will accept the relinquishment of his license. Respondent also must remit \$300 in costs. The action taken by the Board in this Consent Order shall constitute remedial action.

Leonard, Johnny D., M.A., Petitioner – FINAL DECISION to DENY Petitioner's application for licensure at the Licensed Psychological Associate level was approved on November 5, 2015.

Poag, John C., Ph.D., Respondent – FINAL DECISION was approved and signed on November 5, 2015. Respondent's conduct constitutes violations of N.C. GEN. STAT. § 90-270.15(a)(10) and Standard 10.08(b) of the *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*. Respondent's license is SUSPENDED for a period of six (6) months beginning on December 15, 2015. Respondent must complete twenty hours of tutorials and any required readings assigned by the tutor during the suspension. Respondent also must remit \$1,950 in costs.

Robson, C. Edward, Ph.D., Respondent – CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on November 5, 2015. Respondent acknowledges that the conduct described in Paragraphs 2a through 2d above constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.15(a)(10) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and Standards 3.05(a) & 10.08(a) of the *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*. Respondent's license is REVOKED. He must cease to practice psychology by no later November 20, 2015 and remit \$300 in costs.

Webb, Wanda Ph.D., Respondent – CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on February 5, 2016. Respondent admits that in a June 1, 2015 plea agreement in *United States of America v. Wanda Marie Webb; No. 3:15-cr-00137-FDW*, she pled guilty to 18 U.S.C. § 1349, Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud, which is a felony, under which she may receive a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and no more than three years supervised release. Respondent admits that the described conduct violates N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.15(a)(1) & (a)(4) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and that such conduct is grounds for revocation of her license to practice psychology in North Carolina. The license of the undersigned Respondent is hereby REVOKED. Respondent must terminate services to all of her patients/clients by no later than February 26, 2016 and remit \$300 in costs.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Board:

- reviewed applications and licensed qualified individuals
- reviewed and resolved complaints regarding ethical and legal issues
- provided formal training for a new member
- sought fee increases to enable the Board to fulfill its statutory mandate to protect the public from incompetent, unethical, and unprofessional practice
- developed system to submit complaints online through the Board's website
- continued development of an online state exam
- continued development of an online license renewal system
- continued development of online license application system
- launched a new Board website
- continued to upgrade IT systems and equipment

In addition to continuing to perform its routine tasks in connection with protecting the public, major objectives for the 2016-2017 fiscal year are as follows:

- address budgetary and long-range planning issues
- continue to seek fee increases to enable the Board to fulfill its statutory mandate to protect the public from incompetent, unethical, and unprofessional practice
- adopt, amend, and repeal the Board's rules as necessary
- implement criminal history record check
- continue IT systems and equipment upgrade
- implement online license renewal system
- implement online license application system
- Implement online state exam

Supplemental information, a financial report, the names of all licensed psychologists and licensed psychological associates to whom licenses have been granted during the fiscal year, and a listing of all corporations and professional limited liability companies that have been registered during the fiscal year are attached.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR 2015-2016

The address of the Board, and the names of its members and officers:

North Carolina Psychology Board
895 State Farm Road, Suite 101
Boone, North Carolina 28607
Telephone: (828) 262-2258
Fax: (828) 265-8611
Email: info@ncpsychologyboard.org

Robert W. Hill, Ph.D., Chairperson
Kristine M. Herfkens, Ph.D., ABPP Licensed Psychologist, Vice-Chairperson
Helen T. Brantley, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist
Stacie L. MacDonald, M.A., Licensed Psychological Associate
Joseph G. Pasquarell, Public Member
J. Anthony Powell, M.A., Licensed Psychological Associate
Matthew I. Van Horn, J.D., Public Member

Number of persons who applied to the Board for examination: 236
(includes applications for reinstatements)

Number of persons who were refused examination: 11

Number who took the examination: State Exam – 229 National Exam – 145

Number to whom initial licenses were issued: 234
Psychological Associate – 46
Licensed Psychologist – 151
Licensed Psychologist (provisional) – 37
(see attached lists; individuals upgrading licensure status within the fiscal year are listed and counted only once)

Number who applied for license by reciprocity or comity: 0

Number who were granted license by reciprocity or comity: 0

Number of official complaints received involving licensed and unlicensed activities: 51

Number of disciplinary/remedial actions taken against licensees, or other actions taken against nonlicensees, including injunctive relief: 6
(5 disciplinary; 1 remedial; 0 injunction)

Number of licenses suspended or revoked: 4

Number of licenses terminated for any reason other than failure to pay the renewal fee: 3
(2 revoked; 0 voluntarily relinquished with Board's consent; 0 voluntarily relinquished
under a Consent Order; 1 deceased)

Number of licenses terminated for failure to pay the renewal fee: N/A
(licenses renewed in October of only even-numbered years)

Number of application forms and state law mailed: 0 (since standard forms have been made
available on the Board's website)

Number of visits to Board's website: 24,222 (first time = 17,381; returning = 6,841)

Number of corporations and PLLCs registered: 60
(see attached list)

Number of complaints resolved: 51

Number of complaints pending as of 6/30/2016: 36

Number of investigations, including complaints, pending as of 6/30/2016: 38

Percentage of closed investigation cases which resulted in Board action: 10%
(includes disciplinary and remedial actions, and injunctive relief)

Percentage of audited licensees not meeting continuing education requirements: N/A
(licensees audited only in even-numbered years when licenses renewed)

Number of psychologists licensed in North Carolina as of 6/30/2016: 4233
Licensed Psychologist – 2926
Licensed Psychologist (provisional) – 63
Psychological Associate – 1261