

# the Bulletin BOARD

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## NEW LPA SUPERVISION RULES NOW IN EFFECT

As of January 1, 2021, new supervision rules for Licensed Psychological Associates (LPAs) went into effect. The primary changes from the previous supervision rules are:

- (1) LPAs receiving Level 3 reduced supervision will now be required to receive a minimum of one hour of supervision per quarter, instead of per month, and
- (2) LPAs receiving Level 2 reduced supervision will now be required to only receive a minimum of one hour of supervision per month, regardless of the number of hours of practice.

As noted in emails sent out by the Board this month, LPAs currently receiving Level 3 reduced supervision and LPAs currently receiving Level 2 reduced supervision who plan to remain at Level 2 will not need to submit a new supervision contract to reflect the reduced amount of minimum supervision.

Under the new rules, LPAs receiving Level 2 reduced supervision who passed the EPPP exam at or above the doctorate-level passing score (a score of at least 500 since April 1, 2001), or who have received at least five years of supervised experience, automatically qualify for the new Level 3 reduced supervision. Also, as noted in emails sent out by the Board this month, these LPAs will not need to submit a new supervision contract to reflect the transfer to Level 3.



The new rules also changed the requirements for qualifying for Level 3 reduced supervision. LPAs who have received a minimum of three years, consisting of at least 4,500 hours of post-licensure supervised practice, and who passed the EPPP exam at or above the doctorate-level passing score can apply for Level 3 reduced supervision. LPAs who have not passed the EPPP at the doctorate level, who have received at least five years consisting of at least 4,500 hours of post-licensure supervised practice, can also apply for Level 3 reduced supervision. Applica-

tion information will be updated on the Board's website in February.

For further information about the changes in the LPA supervision rules, please review Board Rules 21 NCAC 54 .2001, .2005, .2006, and .2008, all effective January 1, 2021, which can be found on the Board's website. You can find them on the lefthand side of the home page in the gray box: "NC Rules - Title 21, Chapter 54." [Click here to go to the home page.](#)

– Daniel P. Collins, J.D.,  
Executive Director

## PSYPACT ALLOWS PSYCHOLOGISTS TO PRACTICE ACROSS STATE LINES

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) has come up with an innovative program with two options: the first allows psychologists to practice telepsychology across state lines, and the second allows psychologists to practice in person (face-to-face) on a temporary basis across state lines, for up to 30 days annually.

The program is called PSYPACT (Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact), and it is an interstate compact, which are known as durable and adaptive tools states use to create agreement and adopt standards on a particular policy issue. “Many professions are using interstate compacts,” said Janet Orwig, PSYPACT executive director. “They increase access to care and they make it easier for practitioners to expand their practices.”

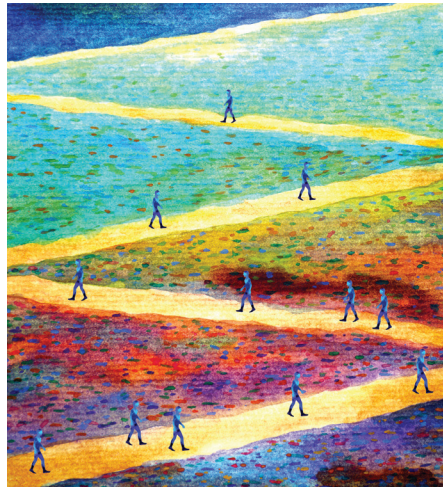
At the time of this writing, 14 states had enacted PSYPACT, while 15 others had introduced legislation toward that end. **It is set to become effective on March 1 in North Carolina.**

Thus far, more than 3,000 psychologists from the 14 participating states have applied, and over 900 have been authorized to practice telepsychology in the participating states.

To apply for either PSYPACT option, you will log into your PSY|PRO account ([www.psypro.org](http://www.psypro.org)), which is ASPPB’s credentials management system. If you don’t have an account, you can create one. (Please note that if you have ever requested an EPPP Score Transfer or applied for the CPQ or IPC in the past, you will already have an account in PSY|PRO.)

To practice telepsychology under the authority of PSYPACT, the first step is to apply for an E.Passport from ASPPB (\$400 application fee). Once that application has been reviewed, step 2 automatically begins, and that is the Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology (APIT), which is governed by the PSYPACT Commission. The system will then send an email that will prompt you to log in to declare your home state for the APIT. When the process is finalized, you can practice telepsychology in any PSYPACT participating state.

Please note that the APIT has a one-time fee of \$40, and there is an annual renewal fee of \$100 for the E.Passport. Additionally, 3 credit hours of telehealth CE are required each year at the time of the E.Passport renewal.



To practice temporary, in-person face to face psychology under the authority of PSYPACT, the first step is to apply for an Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) from ASPPB (\$200 application fee). Once that application has been reviewed, step 2 automatically begins, and that is a Temporary Authorization to Practice (TAP) from the PSYPACT Commission. The system will then send an email that will prompt you to log in to declare your home state for the TAP. When the process is finalized, you can practice temporarily for up to 30 days per calendar year in any PSYPACT

participating state. You will be responsible for tracking the number of days you work in a participating state.

Please note that the TAP has a one-time fee of \$40, and there is an annual renewal fee of \$50 for the IPC. In order to maintain the IPC, you will have to complete the annual renewal process (you will receive reminder emails).

Orwig notes that the PSYPACT Commission is made up of one representative of each of the participating states. “They all sit at the table and have a voice in the day-to-day governing,” she said.

One of the best benefits of the program is that it increases psychologists’ ability to help people. “Research shows telepsychological services can be just as effective as face-to-face services,” she said. “And because people are able to receive treatment from the privacy of their homes without the stigma that is often associated with seeing a therapist, many people are receiving help who may not have gotten it otherwise.”

To read more about PSYPACT, visit [www.psypact.org](http://www.psypact.org). If you have any questions about PSYPACT, please contact Janet Orwig at [jorwig@asppb.org](mailto:jorwig@asppb.org).

### PSYPACT participating states

|          |               |              |
|----------|---------------|--------------|
| Arizona  | Missouri      | Pennsylvania |
| Colorado | Nebraska      | Texas        |
| Delaware | Nevada        | Utah         |
| Georgia  | New Hampshire | Virginia     |
| Illinois | Oklahoma      |              |



## CE critically important for telepsychological services

Telepsychology and technology-enhanced psychology practice have greatly increased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and will likely continue to be utilized in future psychological practice.

In response to the increased need for telepsychological services, the Board is strongly advising licensees to obtain at least three hours of continuing education in the provision of telepsychology services. The Board is recommending that these hours be completed as soon as possible. Further, because of the rapid rate at which technology changes, the Board is recommending that psychologists continue to regularly complete continuing education in this area, rather than on a one-time basis.

Prior to COVID-19, many psychologists had not previously engaged in telepsychology with their clients or patients. Then with the onset of the pandemic, many psychologists were thrown into this medium with little guidance or training. For this reason, the Board is advising that psychologists complete continuing education in this area on an ongoing basis.

There are legal and ethical considerations that are specific to online sessions, which include:

- A psychologist needs to ensure a confidential setting, data security and the avoidance of unsecure platforms.
- A psychologist needs to ensure that there is informed consent addressing the specific concerns related to telepsychology.
- A psychologist needs the ability to ensure safety over the electronic platform.
- A psychologist needs to meet licensure requirements of different jurisdictions, if practicing across state lines.

- There may be some situations where it is not appropriate for psychological services to be held in a virtual setting — i.e., for some individuals, some diagnoses, or some age groups.
- It is incumbent upon the psychologist to ensure that the client or patient understands how to use the technology and any potential risks associated with its use.

In addition, telepsychology does not just mean videoconferencing, but also includes telephone communications, online chats, texts and emails, among other electronic mediums.

Other issues for psychologists to consider are whether telepsychological services can be used for psychological testing and assessment and, if so, how to ensure the integrity of the testing. Another consideration is whether telepsychology can be utilized for group therapy and whether all members of the group are comfortable with this medium. In addition, the confidentiality of these sessions must be ensured.

Therefore, because of the serious implications of the use of telepsychology, some of which have been set forth above, the Board is recommending continuing education in this area. Please review the Board's advisory statement on the provision of electronic services, for licensure issues regarding the delivery of telepsychology:

[www.ncpsychologyboard.org/office/ElectronicServices.htm](http://www.ncpsychologyboard.org/office/ElectronicServices.htm).

For additional information, review the American Psychological Association's Guidelines for the Practice of Telepsychology: [www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/telepsychology](http://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/telepsychology).

# BOARD *Member* SPOTLIGHT

## HURT HAPPY TO COMBINE LAW AND PSYCHOLOGY



Susan Hurt, J.D., PhD., said her career has been a long and winding road, and that suits her just fine.

Hurt started her law career as a civil litigator

in 1986, and is now a senior psychologist in the Forensics Services Unit at Central Regional Hospital in Butner, N.C. “People who have changed careers joke about being a recovering attorney, but I’m happy practicing either law or psychology,” she says.

Seven years into her career as an attorney, psychology beckoned, and

Hurt planned to go into academia. “However, a leopard doesn’t change its spots,” Hurt said, “and somewhere along the way I knew I would build a psychology practice.”

Hurt had a successful solo practice for a number of years, but decided she would prefer to have more interaction within her profession, so she joined the hospital in 2014. “Our unit of nine psychologists serves all 100 counties in North Carolina,” she said. “It’s fast paced, and there is a high demand for our services. It’s intellectually challenging, and I believe it’s a valuable service because people’s constitutional rights are at stake.”

Ethics has always been a keen interest

of Hurt’s, and she prefers a multidisciplinary approach to the subject. “It’s not just about data and rules,” she says. “It’s about exploring one’s identity and values in a particular situation.”

Hurt’s legal experience will serve the Board well. For example, she will serve as the North Carolina representative on ASPPB’s PSYPACT Commission, where she will review various rules and statutes. She joined the Board in 2018.

“Psychology has been very good to me,” Hurt says. “It’s interesting, and I work with a great team of people. I feel like we are contributing to other people’s well being whether we are undertaking therapy or assessment.”

## DUCK IS HAPPIEST HELPING OTHERS



While the rest of us were reading about the devastating effects of the pandemic on our nation’s poor, Lisa Duck was seeing those effects firsthand.

Duck, MPH, MCHES, is executive director for the Guilford Community Care Network in Greensboro, N.C. GCCN represents a partnership of safety net providers who facilitate access to medical and other care for those who are between 0-200% of the federal poverty level.

The nonprofit served 3,017 clients in

its last fiscal year, and during March through September of 2020, care management needs increased by 61 percent. “During the pandemic, we were definitely looking for more ways to help people,” Duck said.

Finding a medical “home” for its clients is of paramount importance, but GCCN doesn’t stop there. “We try to create a really robust safety net,” Duck says. “We also assist with and work to address food insecurities, housing and unemployment issues, behavioral health, and substance abuse. We want to get them to the doctor, but we also want to be a safe place for them to land for all of their needs.”

Duck absolutely loves what she does. “It’s not easy, the work that we do, but it’s the mission of my heart,” she says.

“We really have to meet people where they are, and listen to them and build trust so we can provide the care and services they need.”

In 2018, Duck joined the Board, and is thrilled to serve there as well. “I’m so thankful the Board addresses needs in our community and throughout the state,” she said.

When Duck was very young, her parents instilled in her the importance of volunteering. “I remember stuffing envelopes for United Way, being in Girl Scouts, serving as a candy striper,” she says. “I believe in doing my best to help others, and in a sense you could say those efforts helped me discover what I was supposed to be doing in terms of a career.”



## THE BOARD RESPONDS TO COVID-19

- With the onset of COVID-19, there has been a rapid expansion in the provision of psychological services via telehealth due to the closure of many psychological practices. Therefore, the Board waived the notification and approval requirement for temporary practice site changes so that there would be no delay in licensees continuing to provide psychology services to patients.
- The Board extended application completion deadlines and waived certain document submission requirements so the approval of new licensees entering the North Carolina workforce would not be significantly delayed.
- As licensing exam testing centers across North Carolina and the rest of the country closed or limited their seating capacity, the Board granted extensions for licensure testing deadlines. This way, applicants can continue to provide needed psychological services without incurring the expense of restarting the entire application process.
- To assist licensees who may be having financial difficulties in renewing their licenses, the Board waived the late license renewal fee and also delayed the date for automatic license suspensions due to nonrenewal.
- With the need for practicing social distancing, the Board expanded the types of documents that can be electronically submitted to the Board. In addition, the Board waived the requirement of notarized signatures, so licensees and applicants do not need to leave their homes to complete and/or physically mail documents to the Board.
- In order to reduce the need for licensees to leave their homes to submit paper renewal forms, the Board waived the credit card convenience fee for an extended period of time in order to encourage licensees to use the Board's online license renewal system.
- Similarly, the Board has also waived the convenience fee for licensees to renew their professional corporations and professional limited liability companies online.
- The Board will continue to monitor the impact of the ongoing emergency and will take additional steps as necessary to assist licensees and applicants while continuing to fulfill its mission to protect the citizens of North Carolina from the practice of psychology by unqualified or unethical persons.

– Daniel P. Collins, J.D., Executive Director

## BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

*During the 2019–2020 fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020, the Board:*

- reviewed applications and licensed qualified individuals;
- reviewed and resolved complaints regarding ethical and legal issues;
- amended, repealed and readopted the Board's rules;
- implemented responses to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- increased Board transparency by posting additional information to our website;
- continued development of an online state exam;
- continued development of an online license application system;
- initiated development of a discipline monitoring system; and
- continued our upgrade of IT systems and equipment.

*In addition to continuing to perform its routine tasks in connection with protecting the public, major objectives for the 2020–2021 fiscal year are as follows:*

- continue to respond to COVID-19 pandemic issues;
- conduct a biennial license renewal process, including enhanced online renewal options;
- 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 the online state exam;
- continue development of the online license application system;
- continue development of the discipline monitoring system;
- implement the PSYPACT interstate license compact;
- continue digitizing licensure files; and
- continue IT systems and equipment upgrade.

*For the 2019–2020 fiscal year:*

- Number of psychologists licensed in North Carolina as of 6/30/2020: **4,387**
  - Licensed Psychologist: **3,142**
  - Licensed Psychologist (provisional): **51**
  - Psychological Associate: **1,194**
- Number of persons who applied to the Board for examination: **210**
- Number of persons who were refused examination: **4**
- Number who took the examination:
  - State exam: **196 (22 failed)**
  - National exam: **123 (49 failed)**
- Number of licenses issued: **213**
  - Licensed Psychologist: **140**
  - Psychological Associate: **37**
- Licensed Psychologist (provisional): **36**
- Number of complaints received involving licensed and unlicensed activities: **63**

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## BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

*To date, during the current fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, the following action has been taken or by the North Carolina Psychology Board pursuant to G.S. § 90-270.15 and G.S. § 90-270.16:*

### **ALLOWAY, BRENDA, Ph.D.**

CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on July 31, 2020. The Board's evidence would show that the described conduct constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 90-270.15(a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(15) and (a)(17) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and constitutes violations of Standards 3.04, 3.05, 10.02 and 10.10 of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. Respondent admits that her conduct violated N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 90-270(a)(17) regarding documentation in the case record. The Board's evidence would also show that the described conduct constitutes a violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 90-270.15(a)(4) and (a)(10) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and Standards 6.04 and 6.06 of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. Respondent's license is reprimanded and she shall complete a minimum of six to eight hours of tutorials. For a period of one year consisting of at least 1500 hours of practice by Respondent in psychology, whichever takes longer to occur, Respondent shall receive supervision. Respondent shall cease billing under her name or NPI number for psychological services performed

by other individuals to any insurance company and is assessed \$300.00.

### **HOOKE, EMILY, M.A.**

CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on November 13, 2020. Respondent admits that the described conduct violates N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.15 (a)(10), (a)(14), (a)(15), and (a)(16) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act and Standards 2.01, 9.01(a), 9.02(a), 9.06 and 9.08 of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. Respondent's license is reprimanded and she shall complete a minimum of two to four hours of tutorials. Respondent shall not conduct any psychological testing until she successfully completes a six-month independent study. For a two-year period, Respondent shall be supervised by a Board-approved supervisor who has expertise in psychological testing and she agrees to only use up-to-date psychological testing instruments. Respondent is assessed \$300.00.

### **LOPEZ, ALEXANDER, M.S.**

CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on November 13, 2020. The described conduct constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.15(a)(4),

(a)(10), (a)(11) & (a)(19) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and constitutes violations of Standards 3.04, 3.09 & 5.01(b) of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. Respondent's license is reprimanded. Respondent's license shall be under PROBATION for a six-month period during which Respondent shall complete a minimum of six to eight hours of tutorials. Respondent is assessed \$300.00.

### **TYLER, DEBORAH, Ph.D.**

CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on November 13, 2020. This action taken by the Board constitutes remedial action. Respondent admits that the described conduct constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.15(a)(7) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and 21 NCAC 54 .2104 (d), (e), (f), (g), (i), (k), (l) and (m), of the North Carolina Psychology Board rules. Respondent shall complete a minimum of two to four hours of tutorials. For the next two renewal cycles, Respondent shall submit proper documentation establishing that she has completed all of the required continuing education hours. Respondent is assessed \$300.00 in costs.

*continued from page 5*

### **BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

- Number of complaints resolved: **66**
- Number of complaints pending as of 6/30/2020: **40**
- Number of disciplinary/remedial actions taken against licensees, or other actions taken against nonlicensees, including injunctive relief: **11**
- Number of licenses suspended or revoked: **3**
- Number of licenses terminated for any reason other than failure to pay the renewal fee: **8**
- Percentage of closed investigation cases which resulted in Board action: **13.6%**
- Percentage of audited licensees not meeting continuing education requirements: **8.7%**
- Number of corporations and PLLCs registered: **73**
- Number of unique visits to Board's website: **37,027**