

# Journal

\*\*\*\*\* The California Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Psychology Newsletter \*\*\*\*\*

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## President's Message



*Seyron Foo, Board of Psychology*

As we close out the second year of a world gripped by the pandemic, the Board has continued to persevere through the immense dedication of our staff under the leadership of Executive Officer Antonette Sorrick. Despite the ever-changing circumstances, the Board has stayed true to its mission to protect consumers

of psychological services by licensing psychologists, regulating the practice of psychology, and supporting the evolution of the profession.

While we had hoped the Board would meet in person in November, the resultant surge of the Delta variant of the coronavirus led to a pivot in the interest of public health (and evolving local rules). However, we were thrilled to see the continued interest and engagement of our stakeholders from across the state who have had the opportunity to participate because of the remote nature of the meetings. A core function of the Board includes the diligent stewardship of resources, including fees paid by licensees. For the last 30 years, the Board has dutifully maintained licensee fees at the same cap of \$500, including a reduction of the licensee fee to its current rate of \$400. To continue our long history of fiscal prudence, I am creating an ad hoc committee to discuss the Board's operations. The Board regularly hears a briefing on its budget at every Board meeting; the Committee will take this responsibility further, delving even more deeply into our budget. The Committee will be led by Dr. Shacunda Rodgers and Ms. Julie Nystrom.

I am delighted to share that Governor Gavin Newsom has signed Senate Bill 801 (Archuleta, Roth, Chapter 647, Statutes of 2021), which authorized the Board's continuance. As we shared last time, the Legislature conducts periodic reviews of the Board of Psychology's role of consumer protection, evaluating whether we are effectively executing our mission. SB 801 incorporates the Board's new changes. Notably, psychological assistants will be renamed registered psychological associates. This reflects consistent feedback from

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stakeholders who participated in our Pathways to Licensure conversations. Additionally, the Board incorporated the National Register of Health Services Psychologists as an additional foreign credential evaluation service, responding to input from the public. Finally, to protect sensitive information—including confidential medical records—related to applicants seeking to extend the time to gain supervised professional experience or to hold a psychological associate registration beyond 72

months, the Legislature makes a finding that such decisions can be made with delegated authority in closed session to the Board's Licensure Committee.

Finally, it has been an honor to serve as the Board president during a difficult time in our state. I am appreciative of my colleagues who entrusted me in this role over the last two years and I am eager to support our next Board president. I wish you a happy—and healthy—holidays!

## News You Can Use From ASPPB

*By Jacqueline Horn, Ph.D., Director of Educational Affairs, ASPPB*

This is the first in a series of columns for readers of the Board's quarterly newsletter from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). The intention is to provide readers with information that can be useful to them whether they're in training, becoming licensed, already licensed, or even a member of the interested public. For this initial column, let me explain a little bit about who ASPPB is and what the Association does to help further all psychology licensing boards' mandate of consumer protection.

ASPPB is the alliance of state, provincial, and territorial agencies responsible for the licensure and certification of psychologists throughout the United States and Canada. ASPPB was formed to serve psychology boards in the two countries. Currently, the psychology boards of all 50 of the United States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and all 10 provinces of Canada are members of ASPPB. By way of this partnership, ASPPB supports its member jurisdictions in fulfilling their responsibility of public protection and promotes consistent standards between and among jurisdictions that ensure the competent practice of psychology.

The ASPPB website ([www.asppb.net](http://www.asppb.net)) contains information about:

- The licensing regulations in each of its 65 jurisdictions.
- The educational requirements for licensure in each of its jurisdictions.
- The taking the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP).
- Services available to anyone in the pipeline toward licensure or who is already licensed, such as the Credentials Bank, telepsychological practice through PSYPACT and the E. Passport, and the Certificate of Professional Qualifications (CPQ), that helps ease the licensure process when psychologists are relocating from one jurisdiction to another.

The ASPPB website also contains guidelines that psychologists can use to help them close a practice or to help them use social media platforms professionally and ethically.

In subsequent newsletters, we will take more in-depth looks at each of the services indicated above, plus more. ASPPB would like to thank the Board of Psychology for their invitation to contribute to the newsletter in this way.



## Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Education Program (LMHSPEP) Recipient Profile



Greetings from the Central Valley! I am Dr. Lananh Nguyen, a clinical psychologist from the Bay Area who is currently practicing at Sequoia Family Medical Center, in Porterville. I was awarded the Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Education Program

(LMHSPEP) grant in 2020. A bit about myself: I am a first-generation immigrant from Vietnam. I grew up in the Bay Area and pursued a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. I later obtained a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Throughout my academic training, I had taken a serious interest in providing mental health services to the underserved. It was important to me that everyone—no matter what their background—should have equal access to quality health care. As such, I had always anticipated working with a diverse population, taken steps to learn more about diversity, and focused on cultural psychology. It was my goal to become more culturally sensitive to individuals from various backgrounds. I had accepted an internship in Porterville with this in mind, and since then, I have worked in a forensic setting as well as a medical clinic, where I have been serving mostly low-income and underserved clients who present with multiple health issues combined with complex psychological diagnoses. These clients' conditions are further confounded by cultural issues, such as disparity in socioeconomic status, educational level, degree of acculturation, and language barriers.

Since 2020, the pandemic has further magnified the health challenges faced by members of this agricultural community. The Central Valley has had one of the highest COVID-19 infection rates and the lowest vaccination rates in California. Suspicion and doubts toward COVID-19, COVID-19 testing, and the vaccines have plagued the process of getting help and have led to debilitating mental health for many. Depression and anxiety, which often stemmed from fear of the unknown and social isolation due to the pandemic, have been prevalent. To get to the root of the problem, I have employed telehealth sessions to educate my clients about self-care, stress management, and behaviors and attitudes that will safeguard them from COVID-19. I have provided information from reliable sources (e.g., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and California Governor's Office websites) to my clients, with the hope that I could dispel widespread myths regarding COVID-19 and the vaccines. Finally, my goal as a clinician has been to empower my clients and help them see themselves as part of the solution.

I have enjoyed working with the underserved population over the past decade and find it rewarding to be of help to those in need. I appreciate the state of California's various efforts to alleviate the outsized demand for health care services in the Central Valley. Specifically, the LMHSPEP award reaffirms the importance of my work as it recognizes the need for mental health services in this region. On a more personal note, the grant has allowed me the financial flexibility to purchase a home, which facilitates my daily commute and increases my commitment to continue working in this region.



## Rest, Comfort, Nourishment, and the Practice of Gratitude: Compassionate Offerings for the Soul

By Shacunda Rodgers, Ph.D., Board Member, Board of Psychology

As the pandemic wears on (and wears on our collective patience), I am increasingly looking for strategies to care for myself in ways that feel deeply restorative.

As we get closer to approaching the two-year mark of dealing with physical distancing, mask requirements, heightened anxiety, and greater divisions, the chronicity of this stress is, no doubt, taking its toll on us emotionally and physiologically.

So, how do we care for ourselves—especially in the role of psychologists, who are caring for so many people on our caseloads—in this ever-revolving door of stress and strain?

In my mindfulness practice, I often drop in the question, “What does my soul need in this moment?” In asking this question, the goal is to go beyond superficial fixes and temporary relief. Rather, I’m looking for solutions that will go right to my core, and will feel like a balm, an offering of deep, radical healing and care. If we are too dysregulated ourselves, we cannot hold space for—and be a compassionate container for—the people we serve. In caring for ourselves with loving intentionality and mindful awareness, this allows us to reconnect with our true nature, and refill our vessels so that we can pour into others more freely, without risking the very real possibilities of burnout and compassion fatigue.

Returning to the question of what my soul needs, what’s been emerging for me is providing myself with rest, comfort, nourishment, and gratitude. So, a few words on each of these:

**Rest:** We all hear about the importance of getting adequate sleep, but here, I’m more interested in allowing myself permission to get off the merry-go-round of productivity, efficiency, multitasking, and crossing off the next item on my to do list. Instead, I want to give my mind, body, and heart space and

time to settle and reset, centering my attention on just be-ing instead of do-ing. Creating those moments of sacred pause in order to return to my breath and re-center my body are simple acts but can yield profound results. It reminds me of the poem by Nayyirah Waheed that says:

*“and I said to my  
body. softly.  
‘i want to be your friend.  
it took long a long breath.  
and replied ‘i  
have been waiting  
my whole life for this.”*

Resting our bodies is an act of tenderness and loving kindness, something we all deserve.

**Comfort:** The definition of this word is “a state of physical ease and freedom from pain or constraint.” When was the last time you had the experience of feeling comfort, or even offered it to yourself? And, what are those things in your life that offer you a sense of ease or diminishment of pain? Perhaps it’s the sound of a loved one’s voice, a warm embrace, wrapping up in a blanket, listening to a song, or being in nature. Whatever it is for you, make sure you’re taking time to cultivate comfort as a regular practice to counterbalance the challenges that exist all around.

**Nourishment:** This one is pretty straightforward, and yet, I invite you to see this through the lens of mindfulness, and as an opportunity to nourish all the cells in your body. Taking the time to really savor the food you are eating is, yet again, another way of coming home to yourself, and utilizing all the senses in truly tasting and being fully present for every single bite. At least once a day, make sure to eat something you really enjoy that is also healthy for you, allowing the food to nourish your entire body, both physically and emotionally.

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**Gratitude:** Given how challenging our lives have been since the beginning of the pandemic, it is easy to lose sight of all the beauty that still surrounds us each day. Having a gratitude practice is also a loving reminder to notice and appreciate the aspects of our experience that we might otherwise overlook. Pause for a second and consider what you are grateful for in this very moment. It could be as simple as the breath in your body. It doesn't matter how big or small the object is; it only matters that you are taking time to notice and give thanks for its presence in your life.

As you move through the rest of this day, center your intention on learning what your soul needs, and giving it the compassionate offerings it requests.

If the ideas of rest, comfort, nourishment, and gratitude feel like a good place to start, begin there. And maybe—just maybe—your soul will give a heartfelt “thank you” in return.

## More Phone Scams Targeting California Psychologists Exposed

By Sheryll Casuga, Psy.D., Board Member

A September 27, 2021 *San Francisco Chronicle* article entitled “‘He Held Me Hostage With No Gun but His Words’: The Phone Scam Gaslighting Therapists” reported on cases of therapists in the Bay Area falling prey to phone scammers. These therapists, who included social workers, school counselors, and licensed psychologists, were selected from online listings and targeted because of their profession. Many people in these professions, including psychologists, are service-oriented and believe in the goodness in people: traits that these phone scammers have been exploiting. Threats about legal trouble and license revocation are a common tactic used by these phone scammers to instill fear in their targeted victims. These scammers appear to be getting more savvy with their schemes, gathering information from public databases about their targets to sound more convincing, and spoofing phone numbers to make the phone line they are calling from look legitimate. The best way for psychologists to protect themselves against these targeted scams is to become familiar with some of the modus operandi of these phone scammers.

### Threats of Legal Trouble

There are several different phone scams out there that target psychologists, but most have similar themes regarding a legal threat. The scammer may claim to be a federal agent working on a case involving the psychologist, or pretend to be some other law enforcement figure with an authoritative title designed to elicit fear from their intended victims. The scammer oftentimes uses legal jargon to explain a fake legal crisis that can only be averted with the targeted psychologist's help. For instance, the scammer may inform the psychologist about a “subpoena” and that there is a “warrant for their arrest” but that there is a “gag order” on the case so no further information can be disclosed, and that the psychologist cannot share this information with others so as not to risk further “incrimination.” The combination of the scammer's claims of authority and the use of legal terms may catch the psychologist off-guard, possibly causing panic.

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The scammer’s claims may sound plausible to the psychologist at the outset because maybe the psychologist is not that familiar with how the legal system works, or maybe the psychologist takes on a few court cases now and then and may start to think that what is happening makes sense. Based on the targeted psychologist’s response, the scammer will probably proceed with more threats of legal peril, such as warning the psychologist about being taken into custody or being subjected to unfavorable outcomes if the psychologist hesitates to act or refuses to take the threats seriously. The scammer will then propose a monetary solution, such as posting bail using an untraceable wire transfer or in the form of gift cards. If the psychologist were to be skeptical or if the scammer is met with further resistance, the scammer is usually prepared to provide a convincing proof, whether in the form of a falsified online presence or a spoofed caller.

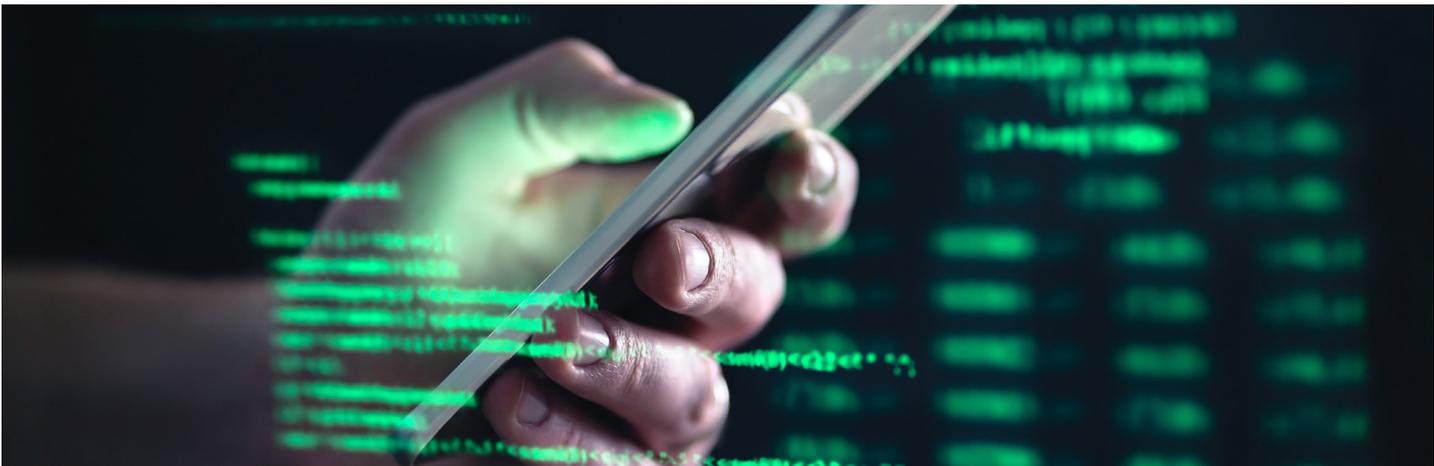
#### Threat Against the Psychologist’s License

Some phone scammers might threaten the psychologist with a Board complaint as part of their fear tactics. Even if the scammer does not directly threaten the psychologist with a Board complaint, it is possible that the targeted psychologist would be concerned about how the claims that they violated the law could potentially affect their license. Threats against the psychologist’s license could make a psychologist succumb to the scammer’s demands, probably even against their better judgment, out

of fear of losing their license and jeopardizing their livelihood.

#### What to Do

- **Legal consultation**—Phone scammers tend to keep their intended victims isolated by persuading them against contacting others. The best course of action for psychologists who are faced with threats of legal trouble or an impending Board complaint is to seek legal consultation, whether they are dealing with a phone scam or not. While the Board does not provide legal advice or guidance, free legal consultations for psychologists are usually provided by their professional liability insurance providers or through hotlines for members of a professional association such as the California Psychological Association. It may also be helpful for psychologists to speak to a lawyer if they have one.
- **Reporting a scam**—Psychologists who receive a call from a scammer or who know someone who has been a victim of a phone scam can file a report to the Federal Trade Commission at [www.usa.gov/stop-scams-frauds](http://www.usa.gov/stop-scams-frauds). Additionally, phone scams can be reported to the local police. Filing a report can prompt or aid an investigation and obtain data that could help apprehend perpetrators or prevent others from becoming victims.





## 988 Hotline for Mental Health Crisis Calls to Launch in 2022

By Tara Gamboa-Eastman, Legislative Advocate, Steinberg Institute

On February 16, 1968, the first 911 call was made in Haleyville, Alabama. In the more than five decades since, 911 has become the primary number dialed for emergencies. But in many communities, calling 911 to report a mental health crisis is met with a response from law enforcement not fully trained in dealing with these situations.

Federal legislation passed and signed in 2020 establishes a new national three-digit hotline—988—for suicide prevention and mental health crisis, as an alternative to 911. 988 will connect callers to counselors through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (currently accessible through the 10-digit number [800] 273-TALK). Phone companies are required to implement 988 in their networks by July 16, 2022. The legislation left it to individual states to integrate the new hotline into current emergency response systems.

On September 4, 2021, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) announced it will invest \$20 million in California's network of emergency call centers to support the launch of 988. This initial investment will be dedicated to critical investments in workforce expansion, training, capacity development, and coordination of county-run mobile crisis services. California's 13 call centers anticipate a three-fold increase in call volume in just the first year of implementation.

This year the Steinberg Institute, along with The Kennedy Forum, Los Angeles County, NAMI California, MHA of California, Contra Costa County, the Miles Hall Foundation and NAMI Contra Costa, sponsored California Assembly Bill 988, which was authored by Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda). The bill would establish ongoing funding for 988 implementations through the assessment of a user fee on access lines including telephone, cellphone, and VOIP lines. As authorized by Congress, the user fee would cover the cost of operating the 988 crisis line, mobile crisis teams, and crisis stabilization services. In addition to the user fee, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 includes significant investments in crisis services, including an 85% federal match for mobile crisis teams.

A critical aspect to improving response and saving lives is understanding the interaction between law enforcement and people with mental illness. Simply showing up in a police vehicle with lights flashing and siren blaring can immediately impact the situation. The relationship can be especially strained for people of color, people in the LGBTQ+ community, and those experiencing chronic homelessness. The model for rethinking mental health crisis response can be found in innovative approaches already happening in California communities.

In Los Angeles County, the Department of Mental Health has been working with law enforcement agencies, developing special units to handle mental health calls, with positive results. The L.A. County Mental Evaluation Team (MET) pairs deputies with clinical social workers. The deputies wear plain clothes and ride in unmarked vehicles, with a goal of reducing the tension in already tense situations. According to the sheriff's department, in 2020, as many as 34 lives were spared during potential deadly force encounters thanks to this program\*.

Our bill, AB 988, outlines similar response protocols, with the goal of having trained counselors respond over the phone or in-person when warranted. AB 988 became a two-year bill and will be eligible to move forward this January.

Reducing the role of law enforcement in crisis response is critical to meeting the goal of decriminalizing mental illness. 988 has the potential to be the key to a transformative shift in California's approach to mental health crisis response. The Steinberg Institute is committed to working with Governor Gavin Newsom, the Legislature, and our partners to ensure that 988 is properly implemented with ongoing and sustainable funding.

\*Citation: **LA County MET 2020 Annual Report**

[https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Transparency\\_MET\\_Annual\\_Recap\\_2020\\_012521.pdf](https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Transparency_MET_Annual_Recap_2020_012521.pdf)



## LEGISLATIVE PROFILE: Sen. Richard D. Roth



Sen. Richard Roth was first elected to represent California Senate District 31 on November 6, 2012, and was sworn in a month later. District 31 includes portions of Riverside County including the cities of Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Moreno Valley, Norco, Perris, and Riverside.

Roth attended Miami University (Ohio), where he majored in political science, minored in chemistry, and enlisted in the ROTC program. Roth applied and was accepted to the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) and earned his law degree from Emory University in 1974.

Upon admission into the JAG Corps, Roth entered active duty in the U.S. Air Force in 1975. He served various postings with the Strategic Air Command and Pacific Air Forces units in Arizona; Okinawa, Japan; and California. Roth became a lifelong resident of Riverside in 1978, when he was assigned to Riverside's 22nd Bomb Wing at March Air Force Base (AFB).

Roth transferred from active duty to the Air Force Reserves in 1979. He served at March AFB over the next 13 years with Strategic Air Command and Military Airlift Command units. During this period, he was named Air Force Judge Advocate of the Year (1986) and California Air Force Reserve Officer of the Year (1992).

Through the 1990s and early 2000s, Roth worked as a reserve judge advocate at Air Force bases in Georgia, California, and Illinois. He also served at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command and in the Pentagon. By 2004, he had risen to the rank of major general and served in the Pentagon as mobilization assistant to the judge advocate general of the U.S. Air Force where he oversaw more than 900 Reserve judge advocates and paralegals assigned to more than 200 offices at every level of

command and helped to manage the recruitment, training, utilization, and deployment of Reserve legal forces worldwide.

Roth retired from the Air Force in 2007 after 32 years of service in the grade of major general. He received numerous awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Roth engaged in the practice of labor and employment law with Riverside-based firms for over 30 years and is a member of the state bars of California and Georgia. Prior to establishing his law practice, Roth worked as an attorney with the National Labor Relations Board. He has served as a part-time adjunct instructor in labor and employment law at the University of California, Riverside, Anderson School of Management and in the University's extension division. Roth and his wife Cindy live in Riverside.

This year Roth co-authored the Board of Psychology's sunset extension bill, Senate Bill 801 (SB 801), with Sen. Bob Archuleta. This bill will allow the Board of Psychology to continue its mission of advancing quality psychological services for Californians by ensuring ethical and legal practice and supporting the evolution of the profession. For more information on SB 801, go to the legislative and regulatory update on page 14 of this newsletter.

In the Senate, the senator chairs the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. He also serves on the Joint Legislative Committee on Rules as well as Senate policy committees on health, insurance, and military and veterans affairs. Roth also serves on the Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response.



## Telehealth Regulations FAQ

- **What is changed by the new regulations? Are they more expansive or more restrictive than previous rules about interjurisdictional practice?**

The regulations are not intended to be more expansive or restrictive. The purpose of these regulations is to outline the steps a California licensee should take before entering into psychological services via telehealth with a client. The scenarios listed in 16 CCR 1396.8(a)(1-3) do not restrict or expand the existing laws governing interjurisdictional practice but serve as examples of steps that should be followed by licensees when providing telehealth.

- **Can a California licensee provide long-term telehealth services to a client located in California?**

Yes. It is not the Board's intention to limit a California licensee's ability to provide services to a client in California (16 CCR 1396.8(a)(1)). Assuming the case is appropriate for telehealth, the licensee is permitted to provide such services to any client located in California.

- **Can a California licensee provide telehealth services to a client while either or both the client and psychologist are outside of the state?**

It depends. The Board regulates practice by its licensees in California when the client seeking services is in California or initiates services within California. But the answer to this question will likely be dependent on whether it is permitted under the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction(s) other than California where the client or psychologist is located (16 CCR 1396.8(a)(2)).

- **How should the psychologist proceed in an emergency if interjurisdictional practice is not allowed according to the rules of California or the other jurisdiction?**

It is not the Board's intention to limit a California licensee's ability to provide telehealth services to a client in another jurisdiction. The regulations allow for temporary telehealth practice to clients outside of California, however the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction where the client is located may determine whether it is permissible (16 CCR 1396.8(a)(2)).

The Board cannot dictate rules for another jurisdiction and providing services via telehealth does not release a licensee from any legal or ethical responsibilities for practicing in or treating someone in that jurisdiction.

(See also Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (2010), American Psychological Association, standard 2.02).

- **Does PSYPACT allow me to engage in interstate practice?**

California is not a part of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Board's Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT), so PSYPACT has no impact on a California licensee's ability to provide telehealth services.

- **Do the regulations allow telehealth services when the psychologist and/or the client has moved permanently out of state?**

It depends. Consideration should be given to the licensing laws and regulations of the jurisdictions in which the psychologist and client are located as the licensee may be considered to be practicing in the jurisdiction in which they

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are located and/or the jurisdiction in which the client is located. A California license does not counter the obligation to practice in accordance with the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction to which the psychologist and/or the client has permanently relocated.

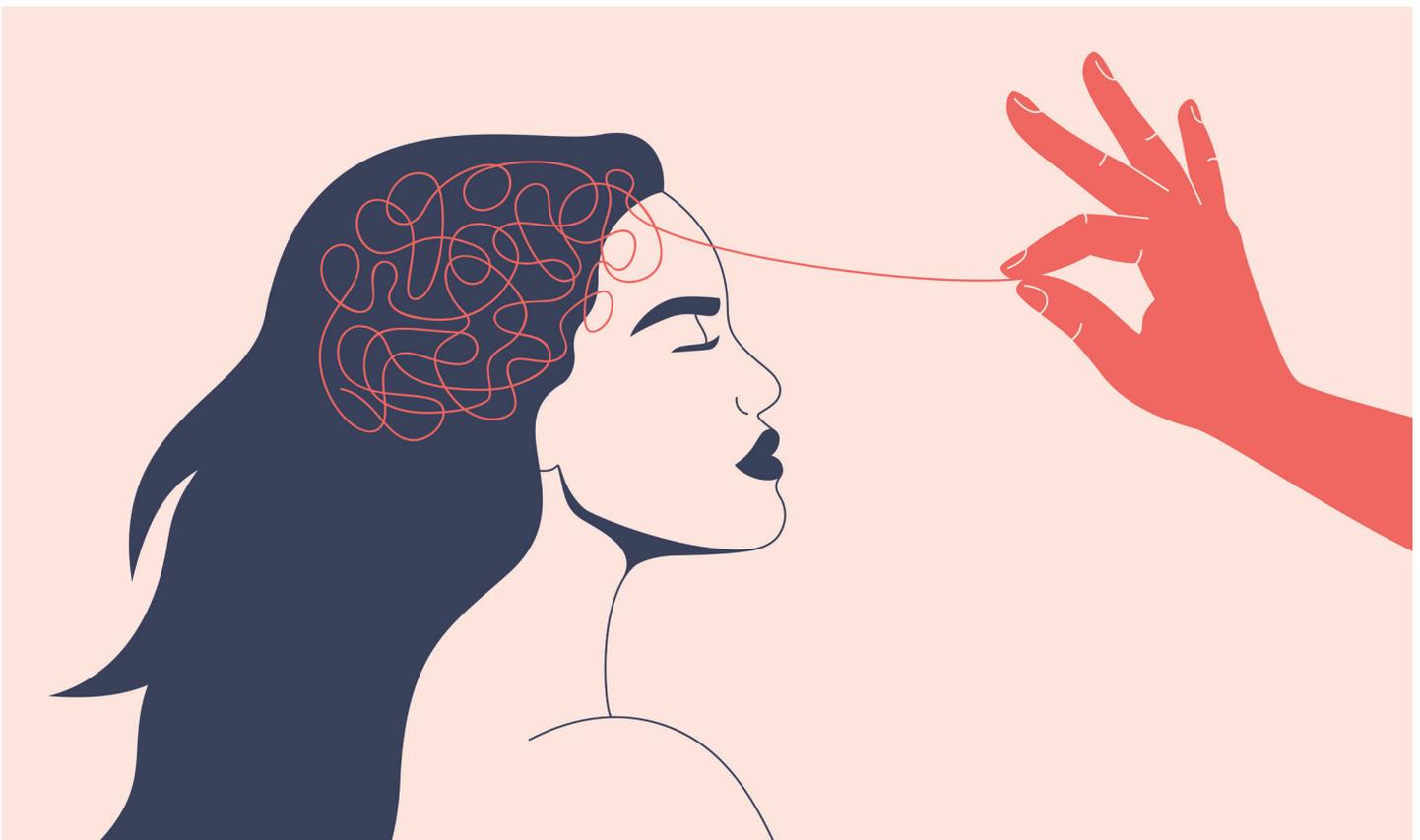
The Board will investigate any complaint made against a California licensee regardless of where the services were delivered or received (16 CCR 1397.2(b-c)).

- **What if both patient and psychologist are located out of state but there is still a connection to California? For example, is practice permitted if a California licensee is temporarily visiting the East Coast and wants to provide services to a client who also lives in California and is temporarily on a trip to Arizona?**

The regulations allow for temporary telehealth practice to clients outside of California, so in this scenario the provision of services is permitted.

Consideration still should be given to the licensing laws and regulations of the jurisdictions in which the psychologist and client are located as the licensee may be considered to be practicing in the jurisdiction in which they are temporarily located and/or the jurisdiction in which the client is located.

The Board will investigate any complaint made against a California licensee regardless of where the services were delivered or received (16 CCR 1397.2(b-c)).





## Explanation of Disciplinary Language and Actions

**Gross negligence:** An extreme departure from the standard of care.

**Incompetence:** Lack of knowledge or skills in discharging professional obligations.

**Public letter of reproof:** Formal discipline that consists of a reprimand of a licensee that is a matter of public record for conduct in violation of the law.

**Accusation:** A formal, written statement of charges.

**Stipulated settlement of decision:** The case is formally negotiated and settled prior to hearing.

**Surrender:** To resolve a disciplinary action, the licensee has given up his or her license, subject to acceptance by the Board of Psychology.

**Suspension from practice:** The licensee is prohibited from practicing or offering to provide psychological services during the term of suspension.

**Revoked:** The right to practice has ended due to disciplinary action.

**Revocation stayed, probation with terms and conditions:** “Stayed” means the revocation is postponed. Professional practice may continue so long as the licensee complies with specific probationary terms and conditions. Violation of any term of probation may result in the revocation that was postponed.

## Administrative Citations:

July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021

### Renee McKenna

Unlicensed, San Francisco

On August 16, 2021, the Board issued a citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$2,500 to Renee McKenna for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology by conducting “spiritual psychology,” advertising work on “PTSD Trauma Recovery and Power Retrieval” and “Spiritual Psi-Kology,” and providing “depth psychology, PTSD and trauma recovery, addiction counseling, depression, and anxiety.”

### Hazel Williams-Carter

Unlicensed, Los Angeles

On September 17, 2021, the Board issued a modified citation containing an order of abatement and fine in the amount of \$2,000 to Hazel Williams-Carter for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology by holding herself out as being trained and an expert in psychological techniques and methods, offering services and treatments for multiple psychological problems, which apply psychological principles, methods, and procedures, and for promising to heal a multitude of psychological problems.

## Disciplinary Actions:

July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021

### REVOCAATION

#### Roland Y. Kim, Ph.D.

Psychologist License No. PSY 17823, Los Angeles

The Board revoked Dr. Kim’s license after finding he engaged in unprofessional conduct and gross negligence when he failed to transmit patient records upon written request in a timely manner, responded to a patient’s online reviews, and improperly communicated confidential patient information. The Decision and Order took effect September 23, 2021.

### SURRENDER

#### Stephen G. Newton, Ph.D.

Psychologist License No. PSY 13259, Los Altos

Dr. Newton stipulated to the surrender of his license after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged he engaged in unprofessional conduct and gross negligence when he failed to file a mandatory report of suspected abuse with the appropriate agency, made a child custody recommendation based on an incomplete child custody evaluation, and failed to report to the Court all of the data he received, including information about possible physical neglect or abuse of a minor child. The Decision and Order took effect July 16, 2021.

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**Chloe A. Nicksic Sigmon, Ph.D.**

Psychologist License No. PSY 25958, Denver, CO

Dr. Nicksic Sigmon stipulated to the surrender of her license after the Board filed a First Amended Accusation, which alleged she engaged in sexual misconduct that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a psychologist, when she engaged in sexual relations with a former patient within two years following termination of therapy, violated the ethical standards relating to the practice of psychology, engaged in unprofessional conduct that is unbecoming of a member in good standing of the psychologist profession, and violated one or more of the provisions of the Psychology Licensing Act or regulations duly adopted thereunder. The Decision and Order took effect July 18, 2021.

**Scott Taubold, Ph.D.**

Psychologist License No. PSY 20805, Fort Bragg

Dr. Taubold stipulated to the surrender of his license after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged he engaged in gross negligence when he entered into a multiple and/or exploitative relationship with a patient, engaged in sexual misconduct and/or sexual harassment with a patient, engaged in a conflict of interest that resulted in the exploitation of and/or harm to a patient, created fraudulent, inaccurate documents to defend himself from allegations of wrongdoing, and failed to document professional and scientific work. The Decision and Order took effect September 10, 2021.

**Cynthia Gomes, Ph.D.**

Psychologist License No. PSY 19030, San Diego

Dr. Gomes stipulated to the surrender of her license after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged she engaged in gross negligence and sexual misconduct when she took part in multiple role/boundary violations, entered into a sexual relationship with a patient and/or former patient within two years after cessation of therapy, failed to take reasonable steps to avoid patient harm and engaged in drug use with a patient, encouraged a patient to stop taking prescribed medications, accessed a patient's medical chart after therapy ceased and without authorization, violated the ethical standards relating to the practice of psychology,

and engaged in unprofessional conduct that is unbecoming of a member in good standing of the psychologist profession. The Decision and Order took effect September 19, 2021.

**PROBATION**

**Bradley J. Manning, Ph.D.**

Psychologist License No. PSY 20180, Los Altos

Dr. Manning stipulated to placing his license on probation for five (5) years, subject to its revocation if he fails to comply with the terms and conditions of probation, after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged he engaged in unprofessional conduct and the dangerous use of alcohol when he was convicted for the second time of driving while under the influence of alcohol. The Decision and Order took effect August 7, 2021.

**David Frederick Dahl, Ph.D.**

Psychologist License No. PSY 19014, Campbell

Dr. Dahl stipulated to placing his license on probation for three (3) years, subject to its revocation if he fails to comply with the terms and conditions of probation, after the Board filed a First Amended Accusation, which alleged he engaged in unprofessional conduct, gross negligence, and violated the rules of professional conduct when he failed to timely provide evaluation reports, failed to provide timely and appropriate responses to inquiries about test results and evaluation reports, demonstrated a lack of knowledge on the components required to perform a capacity evaluation, failed to document in a patient's records the communications between him and the patient, made false statements in medical records regarding the purpose of an evaluation, failed to make reasonable efforts to obtain missing records he felt were necessary to complete his written reports and findings, and demonstrated a lack of knowledge and competence in forensic psychology. The Decision and Order took effect August 11, 2021.

**Anthony Brailow**

Psychologist License No. PSY 12521, Oceanside

Dr. Brailow stipulated to placing his license on probation for three (3) years, subject to its revocation if he fails to comply with the terms and conditions

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of probation, after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged he violated the regulations when he failed to provide proof of completion of continuing professional development hours to the Board upon request for an audit. The Decision and Order took effect August 14, 2021.

**Shirin B Ansari, Ph.D.**

Psychologist License No. PSY 16441, Irvine

Dr. Ansari stipulated to placing her license on probation for three (3) years, subject to its revocation if she fails to comply with the terms and conditions of probation, after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged she engaged in gross negligence when she entered into a multiple relationship with a patient's parent, failed to provide information regarding her role to a patient's other parent, failed to obtain informed consent, engaged in a dishonest, corrupt or fraudulent act by deliberately misleading, or attempting to mislead, a finder of fact by withholding information regarding a minor's inappropriate sexual behavior in a letter for use in civil litigation, and violated the rules of professional conduct. The Decision and Order took effect September 23, 2021.

**PUBLIC REPROVAL**

**Russell Stuart Gold, Ph.D.**

Psychologist License No. PSY 6175, San Diego

Dr. Gold stipulated to the issuance of a public letter of reproof against his license, with terms, after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged he failed to include in his written child custody evaluation a disclaimer regarding the limitations on the use of psychological testing. The Decision and Order took effect July 30, 2021.

**Richard M. Scott, Ph.D.**

Psychologist License No. PSY 19143, San Diego

Dr. Scott stipulated to the issuance of a public letter of reproof against his license, with terms, after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged he issued an emotional support animal certificate to an undercover investigator in a negligent manner. The Decision and Order took effect July 30, 2021.

**Patricia Golden Martin, Psy.D.**

Psychologist License No. PSY 16482, Los Angeles

Dr. Martin stipulated to the issuance of a public letter of reproof against her license, with terms, after the Board filed an Accusation, which alleged she failed to timely submit documentation in support of her continuing education requirements upon request by the Board. The Decision and Order took effect September 23, 2021.

**Regulatory Update**

Below are the Board's pending regulatory changes, and their status in the formal rulemaking process.

**Title 16, CCR Section 1391.1, 1391.2, 1391.5, 1391.6, 1391.8, 1391.10, 1391.11, 1391.12, 1392.1—Psychological Assistants**

**Status:** Initial Departmental Review.

This phase includes reviews by the Department of Consumer Affairs, and Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency before formal Notice of Public Hearing with the Office of Administrative Law.

This regulatory package does the following:

Conforms the California Code of Regulations to statutory changes made in SB 1193 (Hill) (Chapter 484, Statutes of 2016) which requires psychological assistants to obtain a single registration with the Board of Psychology, to be renewed annually. This registration will be independent from their supervisor(s) or employer(s) but does not remove the requirement that psychological assistants practice only under supervision. Additionally, the proposed regulatory language is to avoid duplication as to who pays the psychological assistant registration fee, as this is already specified in statute.

**Title 16 CCR Sections 1381.9, 1397.60, 1397.61, 1397.62, 1397.67—Continuing Professional Development**

**Status:** Submission to OAL for Review.

This package was approved by the Department of Consumer Affairs and Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency and delivered to OAL on October 1, 2021.

This regulatory package does the following:

Changes the continuing education guidelines and requirements that must be completed by licensed

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psychologists from the Continuing Education (CE) model to the broader Continuing Professional Development (CPD) model.

**Title 16 CCR Sections 1381.9, 1381.10, 1392—Retired License, Renewal of Expired License, Psychologist Fees**

**Status:** Noticed with OAL and Hearing.

This package was delivered to the Office of Administrative Law on October 5, 2021. This package will be included in OAL's Notice Register published on October 15, 2021. The public comment period will begin on October 15, 2021, and end November 31, 2021. The Board will hold the regulatory hearing on December 1, 2021.

This regulatory package does the following:

Adopts Section 1381.10 in Division 13.1 in the California Board of Psychology's regulations and be titled "Retired Status." This proposal would allow a licensee to apply to have their license placed in a retired status.

**Addition to 16 CCR section 1392—Psychologist Fees—California Psychology Law and Ethics Exam (CPLÉE) and Initial License and Biennial Renewal Fee for Psychologist**

**Status:** Initial Departmental Review.

This phase includes reviews by the Department of Consumer Affairs, and Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency before formal Notice of Public Hearing with the Office of Administrative Law.

This regulatory package does the following:

Raises the fees for the California Psychology Law and Ethics Examination to cover the Board's costs to create and administer the exam.

**Title 16 CCR Section 1395.2 Disciplinary Guidelines and Uniform Standards Related to Substance-Abusing Licensees**

**Status:** Preparing Regulatory Package.

This phase includes preparation of the regulatory package and collaborative reviews by Board staff and legal counsel.

This regulatory package does the following:

It makes substantive changes to the Board's disciplinary guidelines including conforming changes pursuant to AB 2138, conviction and substantial relationship criteria and uniform standards for substance abusing licensees.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

For up-to-date bill status information, visit our website at [www.psychology.ca.gov/laws\\_regs/legislation.shtml](http://www.psychology.ca.gov/laws_regs/legislation.shtml).

## SPONSORED LEGISLATION

**SB 401 (Pan)—Psychology: Unprofessional Conduct: Disciplinary Action: Sexual Acts**

This bill would add sexual behavior (inappropriate actions and communications of a sexual nature for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, exploitation, or abuse) with a client or former client to the list of what is considered unprofessional conduct that would give the ALJ the statutory authority in a proposed decision, to include an order of revocation.

The bill would also add clear definitions to the following sexual acts: sexual abuse, sexual behavior, sexual contact, and sexual misconduct. Note: this would not change or diminish the Board's adjudicatory discretion as to the final discipline.

This bill is a two-year bill and will resume the legislative process in 2022.

## ACTIVE BOARD POSITION

**AB 32 (Aquiar-Curry)—Telehealth**

This bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services to indefinitely continue the telehealth flexibilities in place during the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency. The telehealth flexibilities implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic have increased access to care and we applaud these efforts.

**Board Position:** Support

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[Bill Text - AB-32 Telehealth](#). (ca.gov)

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**AB 107 (Salas)—Licensure: Veterans and Military Spouses**

This bill would expand the requirement in Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 115.6, relating to the issuance of temporary licenses for individuals married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders, to include among others, the Board of Psychology.

The bill would exempt from these provisions a board that has a process in place by which an out-of-state licensed applicant in good standing who is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States is able to receive expedited, temporary authorization to practice while meeting state-specific requirements for a period of at least one year.

Requested amendments were made to this bill and thus the Board has taken a support position on this bill.

**Board Position:** Support

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[Bill Text - AB-107 Licensure: veterans and military spouses.](#) (ca.gov)

**AB 221 (Weiner)—Health Care Coverage: Timely Access to Care**

This bill would codify the regulations adopted by the Department of Managed Health Care and the Department of Insurance to provide timely access standards for health care service plans and insurers for nonemergency health care services. The bill would require both a health care service plan and a health insurer, including a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan, to ensure that appointments with nonphysician mental health and substance use disorder providers are subject to the timely access requirements, as specified.

**Board Position:** Support

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[Bill Text - AB 221 Health care coverage: timely access to care](#) (ca.gov)

**SB 731 (Durazo)—Criminal records: Relief**

This bill would, among other things, this bill amends section 11105 of the Penal Code which would prohibit the Board from receiving conviction information for applicants to the Board if their conviction was granted relief pursuant to sections 1203.4, 1203.4(a), 1203.41, 1203.42, or 1203.49 of the Penal Code, so long as a period of two years has elapsed since the date the relief was granted and the applicant was not convicted of a new criminal offense.

**Board Position:** Oppose

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[Bill Text - SB-731 Criminal records: relief.](#) (ca.gov)

**SB 772 (Ochoa Bogh)—Professions and Vocations: Citations: Minor Violations**

This bill would prohibit the assessment of an administrative fine for a minor violation and would specify that a violation shall be considered minor if it meets specified conditions, including that the violation did not pose a serious health or safety threat and there is no evidence that the violation was willful.

**Board Position:** Oppose unless amended

This bill is a two-year bill.

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[Bill Text - SB-772 Professions and vocations: citations: minor violations.](#)

**SB 801 (Archuleta)—Healing Arts: Board of Behavioral Sciences: Board of Psychology: Licensees.**

**Board Position:** Support

This bill incorporates requested amendments made by our Board and extends the sunset date for the Board of Psychology to January 1, 2026.

To view the text of the bill, click here:

[Bill Text - SB-801 Healing arts: Board of Behavioral Sciences: Board of Psychology: licensees.](#) (ca.gov)

## Board Members

Seyron Foo (President)  
 Lea Tate, Psy.D. (Vice President)  
 Sheryll Casuga, Psy.D.  
 Marisela Cervantes, Ed.D.  
 Julie Nystrom  
 Stephen Phillips, J.D., Psy.D.  
 Ana Rescate  
 Shacunda Rodgers, Ph.D.  
 Mary Harb Sheets, Ph.D.

## 2022 Meeting Calendar

### BOARD MEETINGS

February 17-18, 2022  
 April 29, 2022  
 August 19, 2022  
 November 17-18, 2022

### COMMITTEES

#### Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee

March 25, 2022  
 June 10, 2022

#### Licensure Committee

January 7, 2022  
 July 22, 2022

#### Outreach and Communications Committee

September 23, 2022

#### EPPP2 Skills Ad hoc Committee

TBD (April 7 or 8)

#### Budget Committee

TBD

