

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

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MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012–13:

Administrative Accomplishments:

The Board office moved to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) headquarters in September 2012. This provided easier access between board staff and the executive office, and streamlined units within the board to establish more efficient operations between consumers, licensees, and applicants.

The Board participated in the development, implementation, and testing for the Department of Consumer Affairs' new licensing and enforcement database system, BreEZe. The Board will be part of the first rollout of the BreEZe system, which is scheduled for fall 2013. This new system will revolutionize the way we do business, the way our licensees and license applicants do business with us, and the way consumers interact with us by providing improved access to our services, greater ease of use for our stakeholders and improve functionality that will greatly enhance our license and enforcement efficiency.

The Board completed a Sunset Review report and submitted it to the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. Legislation was passed to extend the Board and its executive officer for four more years, through January 1, 2017.

The Board utilized technology to increase efficiency and communication by webcasting all Board meetings and posting all meeting materials on the Board's Web site prior to each Board meeting to provide greater transparency for licensees, applicants, stakeholders, and consumers.

Licensing Accomplishments:

The Board began implementation of the new Continuing Education Regulations, which became effective January 1, 2013, to redefine the Board's continuing education provider approval system and transfer the auditing system for continuing education hours from the Mandatory Continuing Education for Psychologists Accrediting Agency (MCEPAA) to the Board.

The Board implemented new legislation (AB 1904), to expedite the licensure of a spouse or domestic partner, or person in other legal union with an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces serving in California.

Enforcement Accomplishments:

The Board completed a comprehensive training program for all enforcement staff, including two newly hired special investigators. Staff completed the Basic and Advanced Investigative Training by the Council for Licensing, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) and the Department of Consumer Affairs' Enforcement Academy.

The Board increased consumer protection by increasing the frequency of biological fluid testing for licensees who are on probation due to a substance abuse issue, consistent with the requirements for Senate Bill 1441, Ridley-Thomas, Chapter 548, Statutes of 2008.

The Board served three search warrants resulting in the arrest of suspects for unlicensed practices and the filing of criminal charges in four cases.

MAJOR LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012–13:

Legislation:

Senate Bill 1172, Lieu, Chapter 657, Statutes 2012 prohibits a mental health provider from engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with a minor under 18 years of age, and shall subject the provider to discipline.

Assembly Bill 1588, Atkins, Chapter 742, Statutes 2012, requires Boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to waive professional license renewal fees, continuing education (CE) requirements, and other renewal requirements as determined by the licensing Board, for any licensee or registrant called to active duty.

Assembly Bill 1904, Block, Chapter 399, Statutes of 2012, requires a Board under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to expedite the licensure process for military spouses, domestic partners, or persons in other legal unions with an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces serving in California.

Senate Bill 1236, Price, Chapter 332, Statutes of 2012, extends the Boards sunset date and the term of the executive officer until January 1, 2017.

Regulations:

Continuing Education Requirements – Effective March 17, 2012, operative January 1, 2013. This regulatory package updated Title 16, Division 13.1, California Code of Regulations, Article 10, Sections 1397.60 – 1397.71 to redefine the Board's continuing education provider approval system and transfer the auditing system for continuing education hours from the Mandatory Continuing Education for Psychologists Accrediting Agency (MCEPAA) to the Board.

Delegation of Functions and Unprofessional Conduct – Effective August 22, 2012. This regulatory package updated Title 16, Division 13.1, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Sections 1380.4 and 1397.2 to delegate authority to the Executive Officer to order an applicant for licensure to submit to a physical or mental examination or to approve a settlement agreement for the revocation, surrender, or interim suspension of a license or registration, and authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against a licensee who includes a provision in a civil settlement that prohibits the other party from filing a complaint or cooperating with the Board.