



## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	February 9, 2015
<b>TO</b>	Psychology Board Members
<b>FROM</b>	Jonathan Burke Administrative Services Coordinator
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>AB 2198 (Levine) – Suicide Prevention – Update</b>

### **Background:**

AB 2198 (Levine, 2014) would have mandated a six hour one time continuing education requirement on the subject of suicide prevention, assessment, and training for licensees of the Board. The Board took an oppose position at its August, 2014 Meeting and staff provided committee testimony to the Legislature and wrote opposition letters to the author, committee members, and a veto request Governor Brown. The bill was vetoed, however in his veto message the Governor asked, "...licensing Boards to the issues which this bill raises and take whatever actions are needed".

The Governor's Office, the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Medical Board, and the Board of Psychology have been working on addressing the request in the veto message. Attached is the survey that the Board sent to graduate, internship, and clinical programs to determine what training our licensees receive in the areas of suicide prevention, assessment, and training.

### **Action Requested:**

This item is informational and no action is requested.

**Attachment A** is Governor Brown's Veto Message.

**Attachment B** is a copy of the email sent to graduate, internship, and clinical programs.

**Attachment C** is the Survey attached to the email.

**Attachment D** is the compilation of all the responses received.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2014

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2198 without my signature.

This bill would require certain mental health professionals to complete a training program in "suicide assessment, treatment, and management."

California has an extensive regulatory scheme that aims to ensure that California physicians, psychologists and counselors are skilled in the healing arts to which they have committed their lives. Rather than further legislating in this field, I would ask our licensing boards to evaluate the issues which this bill raises and take whatever actions are needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

To Whom It May Concern,

The Board of Psychology (Board) is seeking your assistance in gathering information about the course content, training, supervision, practicum experience, and applied clinical training of its licensees' graduate and internship programs.

Specifically, we are gathering information regarding the coverage of suicide assessment, treatment, and management in the various graduate and internship programs designed to lead to licensure by the Board.

This request is in response to questions raised by AB 2198 (Levine, 2014) regarding whether licensed mental health professionals receive sufficient training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. This bill proposed requiring licensees of this Board and the Board of Behavioral Sciences, to take a six-hour continuing education course covering these topics.

Although AB 2198 was vetoed by the Governor, this bill prompted discussion about the amount of instruction students are receiving on this topic, as well as the specific content areas of the instruction, at both the Board level and in the Legislature.

The attached survey focuses on graduate class programs, but any information regarding crisis intervention and suicide prevention will be beneficial.

So that we may answer these questions, we ask that you please complete the brief questionnaire attached to this letter by **Wednesday January 28, 2015**, and send it back to the Board to my attention. Please feel free to include any additional information that you have available.

Sincerely,  
Jon Burke

Jonathan Burke  
Administrative Services Coordinator  
Board of Psychology  
1625 N. Market Blvd., N-215  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 574-7137 direct  
(916) 574-8672 fax  
[Jonathan.Burke@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Burke@dca.ca.gov)  
[www.psychology.ca.gov](http://www.psychology.ca.gov)



# Board of Psychology Survey Coursework in Suicide Assessment, Treatment, and Management

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*Instructions: Please complete the following questions and email back to the Board at the following address by Wednesday, January 28:*

*Please feel free to attach additional information, such as syllabi or course descriptions that you feel may be helpful. Thank you very much for your time!*

1. **School/ Clinic Name:**
2. **Degree/ Internship Program Name:**
3. **Course(s) Required by this Degree/ Internship Program Which Cover the Topics of Suicide Assessment, Treatment, and Management:**
4. **Number of Units/Hours Each Required Course Spends on These Topics:**
5. **A Description of the Topics/Methods Covered by Each Required Course:**
6. **Additional Relevant Courses Offered but not Required in the Degree/ Internship Program (Please include number of units/hours and a brief description):**

**Table 1**  
**Board of Psychology Graduate Programs Survey Results**  
**Coverage of Suicide Assessment, Treatment, and Management**

Required Courses in Degree Covering Topic	Units or Hours Courses Spend on Topic	Topic Areas Covered
<b>University of California, Berkeley Ph.D. in Clinical Science, Department of Psychology</b>		
Introduction to Clinical Methods	4 hours (One semester)	Readings, role plays, and speakers of risk assessment, clinical interviewing, the epidemiology of suicide, involuntary hospitalization, contact with social support and other professionals, the debate about suicide contracts, management of suicidal clients, panel with advanced students sharing experienced of working with clients who have suicidal ideation, thoughts, and feelings.
Seminar in Professional Development	16 hours (Four semesters)	
Speciality Clinic	16 hours (Four semesters)	
<b>The Wright Institute, Doctor of Psychology Program</b>		
Psychopathology I	N/A	Suicide, depression, anxiety, trauma, and many other conditions are discussed in a wide variety of courses and the material addressing these areas of concern are introduced repeatedly through courses, practica, and internship. Students are also taught about suicide assessment and intervention in orientation and throughout their training during supevsion.
Psychopathology II		
Assessment I, II and III		
Case Conference (2 year sequence)		
Ethics		

Intervention Courses (Brief, CBT, Psychodynamic, etc.)		
Biological Bases of Behavior		
Supervision and Consultation		
Several of the Elective Courses		