

## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	February 9, 2016
<b>TO</b>	Psychology Board Members
<b>FROM</b>	<i>Jacquelin Everhart</i> Jacquelin Everhart CE/Renewals Coordinator
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item 20(g) (Licensing Committee):</b> <i>Licensing Committee Closed Session</i> - Request from S.M. for an Exception to the CE Requirements Pursuant to 16 C.C.R. Section 1391.62(b)

### [Request from S.M. for an Exception to the CE Requirements Pursuant to 16 C.C.R. Section 1391.62\(b\):](#)

History: The Board received S.M.'s written request for a CE exception on January 5, 2015. The request was brought to the full Board for a decision at its 2015 February Board meeting. After a discussion of the request, the Board members voted to contact the licensee to obtain the following information:

1. clarification regarding the nature of S.M.'s professional duties, and
2. clarification on the unavailability of CE courses in S.M.'s specific area of practice.

Staff sent a letter to S.M. on December 11, 2015 to request the additional information. A response was received from the licensee on January 4, 2016 and the Licensing Committee reviewed the additional documentation at its February Committee meeting.

§ 1397.62 Continuing Education Exemptions and Exceptions (relevant portions only)  
This section shall be applicable to a license that expires on or after, or is reinstated or issued on or after, January 1, 2013.

At the time of making application for renewal of a license, a psychologist may as provided in this section request an exemption or an exception from all or part of the continuing education requirements.

(b) An exception to the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 2915(d)<sup>1</sup> may be granted to licensed psychologists who are not engaged

in the direct delivery of mental health services for whom there is an absence of available continuing education courses relevant to their specific area of practice.

(1) An exception granted pursuant to this subsection means that the Board will accept continuing education courses that are not acceptable pursuant to section 1397.61(c)<sup>2</sup> provided that they are directly related to the licensee's specific area of practice and offered by recognized professional organizations. The Board will review the licensee's area of practice, the subject matter of the course, and the provider on a case-by-case basis. This exception does not mean the licensee is exempt from completing the continuing education required by Business and Professions Code section 2915 and this article.

(2) Licensees seeking this exception shall provide all necessary information to enable the Board to determine the lack of available approved continuing education and the relevance of each course to the continuing competence of the licensee. Such a request shall be submitted in writing and must include a clear statement as to the relevance of the course to the practice of psychology and the following information:

(A) Information describing, in detail, the depth and breadth of the content covered (e.g., a course syllabus and the goals and objectives of the course), particularly as it relates to the practice of psychology.

(B) Information that shows the course instructor's qualifications to teach the content being taught (e.g., his or her education, training, experience, scope of practice, licenses held and length of experience and expertise in the relevant subject matter), particularly as it relates to the practice of psychology.

(C) Information that shows the course provider's qualifications to offer the type of course being offered (e.g., the provider's background, history, experience and similar courses previously offered by the provider), particularly as it relates to the practice of psychology.

(3) This subsection does not apply to licensees engaged in the direct delivery of mental health services.

**Action Requested:**

<sup>1</sup> Review of Section 2915 is not necessary for purposes of this decision; however, it may be found on page 60 of the 2015 edition of the California Laws and Regulations related to the practice of psychology.

<sup>2</sup> Section 1397.61(c) outlines the acceptable approving entities of continuing education providers and may be found beginning on page 135 of the 2015 edition of the California Laws and Regulations related to the practice of psychology.

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The Board must decide to accept or reject the Licensing Committee's recommendation to either grant or deny S.M's request for a CE exception for her 2014 renewal pursuant to CCR § 1397.62(b).