

# **Enforcement Overview and Presentation**

May 2016

#### **Enforcement Overview**

- Complaint process
- Expert reviews
- Investigation process
- Citation and Fines
- Disciplinary process
- Roles and responsibilities of HQE and DCA

- Who does the Board license/register?
  - Psychologists
  - Registered psychologists
  - Psychological Assistants

- Who may file a complaint?
  - ✓ Anyone

- What are the most common types of complaints the Board receives?
  - Sexual misconduct with a patient
  - Violating the patient's confidentiality
  - Providing services for which the individual has not been trained or licensed
  - ✓ Drug abuse
  - Unprofessional, unethical or negligent acts

- What types of complaints are outside the Board's jurisdiction?
  - ✓ Fee or billing disputes
  - Personality conflicts
  - Persons who are licensed by other Boards

- How are complaints filed?
  - ✓ On-line
  - ✓ By mail

- What happens when a complaint is filed?
  - Complainant is notified with 10 days
  - Enforcement analyst assigned
  - Desk investigation initiated
- Complaint Outcomes
  - ✓ Refer to expert
  - ✓ Closed

### **Expert Review**

- If a case is referred to an expert, what next?
  - Expert opines on case within 30 days
  - Board staff reviews Expert's findings
  - ✓ Possible Outcomes
    - Outcome A-Closed
    - Outcome B-Educational letter
    - Outcome C-citation issued
    - Outcome D-Refer to HQIU for formal investigation

#### **Outcome A-Closed**

- Why is a case closed with no action?
  - ✓ No violation found

#### **Outcome B-Educational Letter**

- Why is an educational letter issued?
  - Minor violations alleged
  - ✓ No patient harm

#### **Outcome C-Citation and Fine**

- Why is a citation issued?
  - Minor violations are found
  - An Educational Letter has already been issued
  - Unlicensed practice is discovered

# Outcome D-Refer case to Health Quality Investigation Unit (HQIU)

- Why would a case be referred to HQIU?
  - ✓ If a serious violation is found by expert

## **Investigation Process**

- > Two types of investigations
  - ✓ Desk and Formal

#### **Investigation Process**

#### Desk Investigations

- ✓ Performed by an Enforcement Analyst (EA) or Special Investigator (SI)
- ✓ EA or SI determines if:
  - Complaint falls within Board's jurisdiction
  - Complaint involves care provided by licensee
  - A minor violation occurred
  - A serious violation occurred

#### **Investigation Process**

#### Formal Investigations

- Performed by peace officers
- Upon completion of the investigation the case may be:
  - Closed
  - Referred to the Attorney General's Office
  - Referred to the local District Attorney's Office

#### **Citation and Fines**

Issued for minor violations that do not warrant formal disciplinary actions

### **Disciplinary Process**

- What happens during the Discipline Process
  - Attorney General determines if action should be initiated by filing an:
    - Accusation
    - Statement of Issues

## **Disciplinary Process**

- Administrative Hearing / Stipulated Settlement
- Board Vote

## Role of HQE in the Disciplinary Process

> HQE's role and responsibilities

## Role of DCA in the Disciplinary Process

> DCA's role and responsibilities

## **Any Questions?**