THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Sheryll Casuga, PsyD, Chairperson, called the EPPP 2 Task Force meeting to order at 9:36am. A quorum was present and due notice had been sent to all interested parties.

Members Present:

Sheryl Casuga, PsyD, Chairperson
Seyron Foo, Board Member
Amy Welch-Gandy, Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES)
Crystal Faith Cajilog, Student Representative of California Psychological Association of Graduate Students
Anushree Belur, Student Representative of California Psychological Association of Graduate Students for The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
William Bloxham, Student Representative of JFK University 5th Year Student
Sherry Johnson, Director of Clinical Training, Representative of University of California
Rene Puliatti, Esq, Representative of California Psychology Internship Council (CAPIC)
Andrew Harlem, PhD, Representative of California Institute of Integral Studies
Gilbert Newman, PhD, Representative of The Wright Institute
Alejandra Ojeda-Beck, Student Representative of California Psychological Association of Graduate Students, UC Berkeley
Sherri Sedler, Student Representative of California Psychological Association of Graduate Students, California Southern University
Olga Belik, PhD, Representative of California Psychological Association (CPA), Division II

Others Present:

Antonette Sorrick, Executive Officer
Jeffrey Thomas, Assistant Executive Officer
Stephanie Cheung, Licensing Manager
Cherise Burns, Central Services Manager
Lavinia Snyder, Examination Coordinator
Jason Glasspiegel, Central Services Coordinator
Norine Marks, Legal Counsel, Department of Consumer Affairs

Agenda Item #2: Chairperson Welcome
Dr. Casuga welcomed the Task Force members and those in attendance. Ms. Snyder provided an overview of the contents of the packet provided to the attendees of the Task Force meeting.

Agenda Item #3: Public Comment(s) for Items not on the Agenda.

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #4: Review and Discussion of the Development and Implementation of ASPPB's Enhanced EPPP (Presented by Dr. Emil Rodolfa, Chair of the ASPPB EPPP2 Implementation Task Force and Dr. Matthew Turner, ASPPB Director of Examination Program)

Dr. Casuga introduced Dr. Rodolfa and Dr. Turner and advised of the presentation they will be providing for the Task Force.

Dr. Turner and Dr. Rodolfa began the presentation on behalf of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB).

Task Force members asked a variety of questions of the presenters during the presentation. Discussion ensued regarding the following topics: ASPPB’s perceived deficiency that the EPPP 2 is trying to correct, questions relating to the content validity of the new part of the examination, concerns related to the structure of the examination, increased cost of the examination, the additional time needed for students to pass the new part of the examination before licensure, and implementation timeline for the new part of the examination, and ASPPB’s lack of communication with member Board’s throughout the development process. Additional concerns were raised about when students would or should be able to take the two parts of the examination and if this would cause delays in licensure and the inequity of allowing students from graduate programs accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) to take the exam before degree completion versus students from regionally accredited programs.

Ms. Sorrick assured that the Task Force was aware of the importance of license portability and not creating additional barriers to licensure while discussing this question. Additionally, she provided the Task Force with a spectrum of options regarding answers to the question. She advised that should the Task Force recommend to the Board not to adopt the EPPP 2, which would encompass both the knowledge and competency based examinations, that the Board would need to create their own general knowledge exam. She indicated that doing so may reduce licensure portability, as states other than California will not administer the same examination, and therefore licensees within California would not be expected to meet the criteria for licensure set by other states, thus hindering licensees from California becoming licensed elsewhere.

Agenda Item #5: Task Force Discussion of the following issues:

a. Is Implementation of a New National Licensing Examination in the Best Interests of California Consumers of Psychological Services and Prospective Licensees?
Dr. Casuga introduced this question. After which she asked the Task Force members to provide their thoughts on the issue.

Task Force members provided input on the question and expressed concerns over the following issues: ensuring that the portability of California psychologist license is not diminished, disbelief that the value added of the new part of the examination will outweigh the additional costs and burdens it places on students and that the examination would actually assess skills, the new part of the examination creating additional barriers to entering the professional for socio-economically disadvantaged students, and uncertainty that the new part of the exam will actually ensure competency and enhance public protection.

Given the aforementioned comments by the Task Force members and Ms. Sorrick, Mr. Foo stated that the new part of the examination will need to be implemented, but that there were significant concerns regarding ASPPB’s anticipated 2020 start date as well as other items.

Discussion ensued and a sentiment was reached that introducing a secondary portion to the examination was not in the best interest of California consumers of psychological services and prospective licensees, but that the alternative of the Board abandoning the EPPP and creating its own general knowledge exam was not feasible or desirable due to potential issues with license portability.

It was M(Harlem)/S (Newman)/C to move to agenda item 5(b)

Vote: 17 Aye, No-0

b. Should the Board Allow ASPPB to Determine Eligibility for Taking the National Examination for California Applicants? Should There Be Different Eligibility Criteria?

Dr Casuga introduced this agenda item. She advised that based on the information provided by ASPPB, ASPPB plans to approve candidates to take the first part of the EPPP prior to the conferring of their degree, as long as they have completed their course requirements, and are attending an APA approved graduate program. Dr. Casuga asked Ms. Snyder to provide the Board’s current process regarding providing ASPPB with the list of eligible applicants.

Ms. Snyder provided the Task Force with the Board’s current process of review and approval for eligibility to take the EPPP, including the requirements that the applicant be awarded their degree and have accrued 1500 hours of supervised professional experience.

After this overview, discussion ensued regarding whether or not the Task Force should recommend the Board accept EPPP scores if Part 1 is taken prior to the confirmation of the degree and accrual of 1500 hours of supervised professional experience, or whether the Board would make the applicant take Part 1 of the EPPP again after approval by the Board.
After a discussion, the Task Force concluded that it did not approve of ASPPB approving applicants to take Part 1 of the EPPP prior to candidates meeting the Board's specified approval requirements. They also concluded that if ASPPB was going to provide early approvals for students of APA accredited programs, that they believed it would be necessary that the Board approve all applicants for licensure to take part 1 of the exam after completing their coursework but prior to degree conferment and accrual of all 1500 hours.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the Task Force's role and its ability to make an effective decision regarding the EPPP Part 2 with the information provided. The sentiment of the Task Force was that more information was needed to make an informed decision.

Dr. Casuga recommended to the Task Force that they ask staff to draft a letter of concern to ASPPB.

The Task Force agreed with Dr. Casuga and discussed what questions should be asked and agreed on the following questions to be sent to ASPPB:

- What were the factors that led to the decision to create two separate examinations instead of one combined examination that assesses both knowledge and skills?

- Would ASPPB consider a mechanism to make the cost of the examination more affordable for low-income applicants or for those serving impoverished communities, underserved populations, or performing services in public agencies? For instance, would there be consideration to lower the cost of the EPPP Part 1 to off-set the cost of the whole examination?

- Would ASPPB reconsider its requirement of American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accreditation for eligibility to take the EPPP Part 1 for pre-degree graduate students?

- Would ASPPB consider delaying the implementation of the EPPP2 to allow jurisdictions more time to develop processes, procedures, legislation and/or regulations for implementation?

- What was the formal process ASPPB used to solicit feedback from member boards and would the Task Force be able to review the feedback received?

The Task Force advised they wanted a response by their next meeting which will allow the responses to be included for discussion.

Dr. Casuga advised due to time constraints the Task Force will need to table the remaining agenda items for a future meeting.

**Agenda Item #7:** Recommendations for Agenda Items for Future Task Force Meetings.
Task Force members requested to see a flow chart to help visualize all of the possible ways that this new examination can be implemented. Additionally, they wanted to see how the Board's regulations might need to be updated.

The Task Force adjourned at 5:10pm