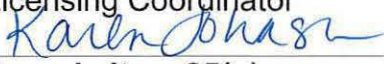


## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	August 3, 2016
<b>TO</b>	Board Members
<b>FROM</b>	Karen Johnson Licensing Coordinator 
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item 25(g)</b> Consider Committee's Recommendation Regarding Request for an Extension to the Limit of a Cumulative 72 Months to Renew a Psychological Assistant Registration Pursuant to Section 1391.1(b) of the California Code of Regulations

### Background:

Attached is #1's request for an extension to the limit of a cumulative 72 months to renew a Psychological Assistant registration.

Section 1391.1(b) of the CCR states the following:

*(a) Any person desiring to supervise a psychological assistant shall submit an application on a form provided by the Board.*

*(b) Registration as a psychological assistant shall be limited to a cumulative total of six years (72 months). Each registration shall be subject to annual renewal pursuant to section 1391.12. For any psychological assistant registered prior to the effective date of this subdivision, subsequent renewals or registrations shall be limited to a cumulative total of six years (72 months) from the date of the psychological assistant's next registration or renewal, whichever occurs first. Upon showing of good cause as determined by the Board, these specified time limitations may be reasonably modified.*

#1 was issued multiple psychological assistant registrations prior to 10/23/10. #1's current registration was issued on 10/25/1994 and has remained current and expires on 1/31/17. #1's six year (72 months) limitation began on 1/31/11 (the first renewal date after 10/23/10) and will end on 1/31/17. #1 is requesting an extension of three to four years to allow time to prepare for the licensing exams due to age, language barriers and time needed to study for the examination.

### Action:

The Board must decide to either approve or reject the Licensing Committee's recommendation to deny #1 a three to four year extension of the 72 month limitation to renew a psychological assistant registration to 1/31/2020 or 1/31/2021.

VIA EMAIL: Karen.Johnson@dca.ca.gov

Karen Johnson  
Board of Psychology  
1625 North Market Blvd., Suite N-215  
Sacramento, CA 95834

Re: Request to Extend the Limit on Psychological Assistant Registrations on  
Behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, Pursuant to 16 C.C.R. Section 1391.1(b).

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ I am an attorney in  
California, and am writing to you on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ I am not writing as Dr.  
\_\_\_\_\_, attorney, but instead, as a friend and consumer who believes that terminating her  
registration as a Psychological Assistant would cause a severe hardship for Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ and a  
disservice to her community. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Board extend Dr.  
Psychological Assistant registration to January 1, 2020.

By way of background, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ immigrated to the United States in 1990. For several months, a  
group of doctors in the \_\_\_\_\_ area had been in need of a bilingual and bicultural psychologist  
with experience in biofeedback treatment to work with patients in several area psychiatric hospitals.  
However, despite posting an ad for the position in the \_\_\_\_\_ for over six months, they  
received no applicants with the proper qualifications. When they found Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ a green card  
was sent to her in Mexico.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ served in that position from 1990 to 1994. Then, after the 1994 Northridge earthquake,  
the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") asked Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ to help treat  
Hispanic patients with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ agreed, and invited Dr.  
\_\_\_\_\_ to help her. In 1996, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ began working as a Psychological Assistant for Dr.  
\_\_\_\_\_ to help him expand his practice to the Hispanic community. Since then, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ has split her  
time between Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, working three days a week for each clinic. The enclosed  
letters from Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ employers reflect that she has been an impeccable Psychological Assistant,  
and an integral member of the team.

Unfortunately, one of the things that has made Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ so successful in her position is also the  
very same thing that has prevented her from presenting for the exam for licensure as a Psychologist.  
Specifically, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ is a native Spanish speaker. As noted in the enclosed correspondence from  
Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ this is an invaluable resource in Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ community. According to the 2010  
Census, people of Hispanic heritage comprise approximately half of the city's population. Moreover,  
the 2006-2008 American Community Survey showed that 43.6% of Los Angeles' population (≈1.5m  
people) spoke Spanish with roughly 50% indicating that they did not speak English well, if at all.

Jun. 22, 2016

In practice this has given Dr. [redacted] a unique ability to communicate, and perhaps more importantly, connect with patients who view her as someone they can trust who can truly empathize with their experiences. As I am sure you know, that is critical to developing the type of relationship that is necessary to successfully treat anyone suffering from mental illness. Because Dr. [redacted] is able to communicate with Hispanic patients in their native language, she has dealt with those patients almost exclusively throughout her 26-year employment. In addition, Dr. [redacted] is a certified biofeedback and neurofeedback therapist who has helped countless patients with chronic pain and stress-related illnesses, and she has been trained to lead domestic violence and anger management groups. Simply put, Dr. [redacted] is a dedicated, highly experienced, and invaluable asset for the community she serves.

However, despite many costly and time-consuming efforts, Dr. [redacted] has not been able to present for the exam to become a licensed Psychologist. It is not for a lack of trying. In addition to completing substantial continuing education coursework over the years, Dr. [redacted] has taken prep courses, and purchased study materials worth well over \$2,000. In addition, she recently retained a private tutor at an exorbitant rate of \$300/hr. to continue preparing for the exam. Yet, due to her age, the language barrier, and the time constraints and social pressures one experiences in an examination setting, Dr. [redacted] has been unable to fully answer the questions. Thus, her greatest strength as a dedicated Psychological Assistant is also the one thing that is threatening her ability to make a living.

If you review the enclosed correspondence, or speak with anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Dr. [redacted] you will immediately see that she is a hard-working, meticulous, and passionate Psychological Assistant. Candidly, Dr. [redacted] works ten-hour days six days a week, and is just hoping to work for an additional few years before she retires. Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request that the Board extend the expiration of Dr. [redacted] registration to January 2020. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Attorney

Ms. Karen Johnson

Ca. Board of Psychology

1625 N. Market Blvd N-215

Sacramento, Ca. 95834

6/22/2016

Dear Ms. Johnson :

I am writing you this letter to respectfully request a 3 to 5 year extension of my Psychological Assistantship per CCR Section 1391.1 (b) .

During the 22 years that I have been a Registered Psychological Assistant, I have worked at two clinics 6 days a week for 10-12 hours per day under the supervision of Dr

Since obtaining my Ph.D., I have taken exam preparation classes, bought home study courses , taken CE courses, and I even recently hired a private tutor at a rate of \$300/hour to help me prepare for the exam. In addition, I have become a Certified Biofeedback and Neurofeedback therapist, and have been trained as an Anger Management therapist and Domestic Violence therapist. I am also a member of the California Psychological Association. However, due to my language barrier, age, and lack of time , It has been very difficult for me to prepare for the exam .

After reviewing the requirements for the exam, I realized I will need more time to study, send my hours , and prepare all the required documents for the Board to review. therefore, I respectfully ask the California Board of Psychology to grant me a 3 to 5 year extension of my Psychological Assistantship.

Thank you .

Sincerely,

June 15, 2016

Board of Psychology  
1625 North Market Blvd, Suite N-215  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
**Attn.:Ms. Karen Johnson**

Re:

Dear Ms. Johnson,

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ has been an exceptional professional during her entire employment with \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ has been under my supervision for the past 22 years and has never had any disciplinary actions against her. Her quality of work has classified her as an exceptional and caring professional whose patients have benefited tremendously. The knowledge that she has on theoretical approaches such as cognitive behavioral therapy and biofeedback techniques have been instrumental in the treatment of

\_\_\_\_\_ patients who often suffer from an array of mental health issues related to trauma. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ experience in the field of treatment for trauma have contributed to the treatment of mental health issues and treatment of stress management, anger management, grief and loss, insomnia, chronic panic, depression, high levels of anxiety, panic attacks, and PTSD symptoms.

Based on her Hispanic heritage, she is able to connect with the Hispanic population of two of the largest counties in California, providing bilingual and multicultural services. As it has been well documented by the California Board of Psychology and the American Psychological Association, bilingual and multicultural therapist are in high demand due to the gap of mental health services between the Hispanic communities. Recent research estimates that 50 percent of

hispanics who seek psychotherapy will not return after their first session because of the lack of multicultural diversity in the field of psychotherapy. Furthermore, it was estimated that by the year 2010, one in five Americans will identify as Hispanic with cultural ties to Spanish-speaking countries making it the largest and fastest growing minority group in the United States (APA, 2005). Thus, [redacted] is fortunate to have Dr. [redacted] being part of our team professionals due to her ability to retain and connect with this community. Due to her ability to empathize and communicate with the Hispanic clientele population, Dr. [redacted] rate of patient attendance and returning clients is significantly high with also a high percentage of her patient successfully completing treatment.

It is with great satisfaction that I write this letter for a clinician who has made an impact in the treatment of many patients through her 22 years of commitment to the Hispanic community through [redacted]. I ask that you please consider Dr. [redacted] for an extension of her psychological assistant registration for another 3 years as she is an invaluable asset to the Hispanic patients that come through our agency. She has made great efforts to prepare for the new requirements that will allow her to renew her registration; however, she has encountered some difficulties with language barriers. Dr. [redacted] efforts include attending pre-courses by [redacted], purchasing materials such as CDs and study books, and has now also seek individual tutorial services in an effort to comply with examination. I am confident that if given an extension to continue to learn, she will become proficient and will pass the examination required by the Board of Psychology. Therefore, I ask that the Board of Psychology considers Dr. [redacted] for an extension of her registration as her expertise in the field of psychology is instrumental to the Hispanic community.

Sincerely,

Clinical Director