

MINUTES OF LICENSURE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2026

Primary Location (Members/Staff):

Department of Consumer Affairs
1625 N. Market Blvd., El Dorado Room
Sacramento, CA 95834

**Teleconference Locations / Additional Locations at Which the Public Could
Observe or Address the Committee and Where Members Were Present:**

12803 Pimperl Way
San Diego, CA 92129

2888 Eureka Way, Ste. 200
Redding, CA 96001

Committee Members

Mary Harb Sheets, PhD, Chairperson
Julie Nystrom
Lea Tate, PsyD

Committee Members Absent

None

Board Staff

Jonathan Burke, Executive Officer
Sandra Monterrubio, Assistant Executive Officer
Stephanie Cheung, Licensing Manager
Cynthia Whitney, Central Services Manager
Daniel Phillips, Enforcement Manager
Mai Xiong, Licensing/BreEZe Coordinator
Troy Polk, CPD/Renewals Coordinator
Susan Hansen, Examination Coordinator
Shelley Ganaway, Board Counsel

Friday, January 30, 2026

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

Dr. Harb Sheets called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A quorum was present and due notice had been sent to all interested parties.

Agenda Item #2: Chairperson's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Harb Sheets offered opening remarks and welcomed all participants.

45
46 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

47
48 No public comment was offered.

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50 **Agenda Item #3: Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

51
52 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

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54 Dr. Harb Sheets stated that written public comments received have been included in the
55 meeting materials.

56
57 Dr. Amy Morris commented that the Board should develop alternate methods beyond
58 using only supervisor signatures to verify accrued Supervised Professional Experience
59 (SPE) hours, as well as to create an appeals process for disputed hours.

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61 No further public comment was offered.

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63 **Agenda Item #4: Review and Possible Approval of Licensure Committee Meeting**
64 **Minutes: August 8, 2025**

65
66 It was (M)Tate(S)Harb Sheets(C) to adopt the August 8, 2025, Licensure Committee
67 meeting minutes.

68
69 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

70
71 No public comment was offered.

72
73 Votes

74 3 ayes (Harb Sheets, Nystrom, Tate), 0 noes

75
76 **Agenda Item #5: Staff Reports**

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78 **a. Licensing Report**

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80 Dr. Harb Sheets introduced Ms. Xiong to provide the Licensing Unit report, starting on
81 page 23 of the meeting materials.

82
83 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

84
85 **b. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Renewals Report**

86
87 Dr. Harb Sheets introduced Mr. Polk to provide an update on this item, starting on page
88 35 of the meeting materials.

89
90 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment on items 5a and 5b.

91

92 No Committee comment was offered.

94 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

96 No public comment was offered.

98 c. Examinations Report

100 Dr. Harb Sheets introduced Ms. Hansen to provide an update on this item, starting on
101 page 41 of the meeting materials.

103 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

105 No Committee comment was offered.

107 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

109 Dr. Parisa Leviadin Davoodpour questioned the percentage of testers that pass the
110 exam and what the reasons are for not passing. It seems some testers are giving up
111 and becoming life coaches instead of licensees. Ms. Cheung directed Dr. Leviadin
112 Davoodpour to the previous presentation from the Office of Professional Examination
113 Services that is available on the board website.

115 Dr. Janet Farrell expressed concern regarding pass rates and lack of urgency from the
116 Board and would like an update on Board discussions with the Texas Board of
117 Psychology. Dr. Harb Sheets shared that Mr. Burke will provide updates during Item 6.

119 Dr. Trayvonne McVay expressed concern regarding the layout of the exam. Dr. McVay
120 would like to propose a domain layout as an alternative method.

122 Dr. William D. Parham expressed concerns regarding the low pass rate and whether a
123 study has been done on gender, race, years out of school, etc. and what is the board
124 doing to address these issues in a timely way? Dr. Harb Sheets noted we do not have
125 access to race or ethnicity but do have access to school information. The Board does
126 try to stay in touch with ASPPB. Dr. Harb Sheets encouraged attendance at the
127 February Board Meeting, where a representative from ASPPB will be in attendance and
128 making a presentation. Dr. Harb Sheets reiterated that Mr. Burke will provide more
129 information on item 6.

131 Florence expressed concern that the exam tends to favor native speakers through
132 cultural and linguistic phrasing.

134 Janelle expressed concern that the exam has nothing to do with what you do in
135 practice. She urges California to change legislation that does not require this national
136 exam for California licensure.

138 No further public comment was offered.

Dr. Harb Sheets call for further Committee comment.

No further Committee comment was offered.

Agenda Item #6: EPPP Update

Ms. Ganaway stated that the Texas Examination is not on this agenda. This could be recommended as a future agenda item.

Dr. Harb Sheets introduced Executive Officer Jonathan Burke to provide an update on this item.

Mr. Burke advised that the Job Task Analysis (JTA) of the Practice of Psychology was completed by ASPPB in September 2025, and reports that 25% of responses received were from California licensees. The purpose of JTA was to hear from licenses on what entry level practice should look like.

Mr. Burke spoke with ASPPB's Executive Director Dr. Marrian Burnetti-Atwell on January 23, 2026. Dr. Burnetti-Atwell shared a blueprint based on the JTA will be made public February 1, 2026. This will be shared once it is received by the Board. There is no update on cost at this time, but ASPPB is hopeful to disclose toward the end of the first half of 2026. Item writing should be conducted in 2026, and beta testing of sample exam should begin in the first quarter of 2027, with the IEPPP launching in the fourth quarter of 2027.

No word on eligibility at this time, however, the Board is working on implementation of AB 282 on examination timelines.

There will be more updates at the February 13, 2026, Board Meeting and Dr. Hao Song, of ASPPB, will be presenting on the new exam development.

The February agenda does include discussions with other jurisdictions so Mr. Burke will provide an update on his discussion with Texas at that time.

Dr. Harb Sheets asked Mr. Burke to share what ability the state has to make an impact on the exam. Mr. Burke shared that licensees participating in the JTA was impactful with a quarter of the responses coming from California licensees.

Licensees will be able to comment on the blueprint once it is public. The validity of the exam falls under the DCA Office of Professional Examinations (OPES). The Board will share the blueprint with OPES so they can review to see if it conforms to BPC 139. The current exam is in compliance with BPC 139.

A preliminary implementation matrix is available on the hand carry materials beginning on page 10. There are factors that can change the timelines, such as a new contract with ASPPB, BreEZe system updates, OPES review, potential statutory changes, outreach, etc. There are still a lot of unknowns.

Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

Dr. Tate thanked Mr. Burke for providing clarification and is looking forward to hearing more at the February Meeting.

Dr. Harb Sheets asked Ms. Whitney to clarify if the meeting in February was in-person only or if there would be web interaction.

Ms. Whitney confirmed the meeting is an in-person meeting. It will be available for viewing only on the webcast, however there is no virtual interaction. Public comment can be made in-person at the meeting, or it can be submitted in advance to bopmail@dca.ca.gov.

Ms. Nystrom would like Dr. Song to speak to potential alternative ways of taking the examination and whether ASPPB is going to address previous issues in their testing cohorts.

No further Committee comment was received.

Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

Dr. Parham commented this was very fascinating to him, and would like a review of the history of this exam to make sure it is keeping true with the declarations and findings of the Vail Conferences and subsequent actions that are related. Dr. Parham would also request revisiting the oral examination component.

Janelle commented on the Board's contract with ASPPB. This is an opportunity to not renew with an organization that is impacting the mental health treatment of patients throughout California. This exam has nothing to do with being a practitioner and requests the EPPP be repealed in California.

Dr. Nashin Joseph echoed what fellow psychologists have shared with impacts of testing failures. The cost of repeating exams is a hardship. Dr. Joseph is wondering if there is a way to extend the Psychological Associate timeframe beyond the 72-month limit.

Dr. Heidi Rotheim thanked staff and committee members for their work at this meeting. Dr. Rotheim asked a question about medical accommodation on renewals. Ms. Whitney will reach out to Dr. Rotheim offline.

Dr. Trayvonne McVay stressed the importance that many people are giving up on licensure due to the exam and would like to see the Board make a shift quickly.

Dr. Joseph Simms commented he has been a member of the item review committee and participated in exam development for California Psychology Law and Ethics Exam (CPLPEE), and the intent is to focus more on critical thinking instead of memorization.

Dr. Janet Farrell is following up on a previous comment regarding historical models of training models for psychologists and stated the current test is outdated in measuring the quality of psychologists in practice.

Dr. Augusta Bolwell appreciates this valuable discussion and is disappointed the February meeting will not have online participation available.

Janelle stated she made a formal request for legislation to provide more time for psychologists that are working full-time. She is looking for a way to facilitate this movement.

Ms. Ganaway instructed this could be provided as a written comment for future meetings and it will be sent out publicly in the meeting materials.

Ms. Ganaway also provided a reminder that public comments is limited to one public comment per item.

Dr. Giovanda Norman shared it is important to maintain the integrity of the profession and expressed the exam requirement satisfies this.

No further public comment was offered.

Agenda Item #7: Stakeholder Meeting Preparation: Update

Dr. Harb Sheets introduced Ms. Cheung to provide an update on this item, starting on page 44 of the meeting materials.

Ms. Cheung stated this in an update from the directive from 2019 where the board voted to cohost a stakeholder meeting with Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and other partners. This meeting will take place in July 2026.

Board staff is asking for direction on where to focus our stakeholder engagements and recommends centering the focus of stakeholder engagement efforts on how to best inform consumers regarding the roles of licensed psychologists, LEP's, and PPS credential holders, review and provide input on the draft stakeholder survey, and recommend the full Board adopt the Committee's direction and approve the use of the survey as an initial information-gathering tool to support planning for the stakeholder meeting.

Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

Dr. Tate would like to see a shorter survey, possibly reduced to eight questions.

Dr. Harb Sheets commented it may be clearer to have a separate survey for consumers versus professionals.

Dr. Tate mentioned we did that before on the Telehealth Survey.

283
284 Dr. Harb Sheets commented it may be difficult to get this survey out to consumers
285 based on ethical guidelines.
286

287 Dr. Tate commented this focuses more on the different roles of professionals.
288

289 Dr. Harb Sheets asked if the other stakeholders would be sending out the survey to
290 their members.
291

292 Ms. Nystrom identified social media as a potential resource to reach consumers.
293

294 Ms. Nystrom also commented that question 2 was confusing on services versus setting
295 and there were a few typos and administrative changes needed.
296

297 Dr. Harb Sheets commented that questions 5 and 11 were redundant and perhaps Ms.
298 Cheung could rewrite question 5 and remove question 11.
299

300 Discussion ensued regarding another presentation from each of the stakeholders at the
301 July meeting and postponing the survey until after that discussion. Ms. Cheung clarified
302 since this was previously done, it would be more efficient to provide previous slides as
303 information to the Committee. The goal of the survey is information gathering and staff
304 recommends the Committee bringing a revised shorter survey to the Board for approval.
305

306 Dr. Harb Sheets requests the introductory paragraph in the survey to be more direct and
307 the questions be reduced to eight questions.
308

309 No further Committee comment was offered.
310

311 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.
312

313 Dr. Elizabeth Winkleman, California Psychological Association (CPA), stated CPA
314 would like to be included in any meetings. Dr. Winkleman does not think the survey
315 would be useful and thinks a review of prior meeting notes be reviewed as the other
316 stakeholder groups did not see any problems. There are valuable resources online
317 regarding these different classifications and Dr. Winkleman feels a FAQ may be more
318 beneficial.
319

320 Dr. Joseph Jones volunteered to help in this endeavor.
321

322 Dr. Pamela Dompe expressed the concern that the differences between the various
323 degrees held by therapists can be confusing to understand.
324

325 Dr. Parisa Leviadin Davoodpour would like to agree with the previous speaker to
326 provide clarification about therapy roles.
327

328 Dr. Rhonda Cowan commented that the term “psychotherapist” seems to be misused in
329 the profession.
330

331 No further public comment was offered.

332
333 **Agenda Item #8: Recommendations for Future Agenda Items**

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335 Dr. Harb Sheets called for Committee comment.

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337 No Committee comment was offered.

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339 Dr. Harb Sheets called for public comment.

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341 Dr. Morse recommended that a discussion of alternative verification of SPE and an
342 appeals process for the SPE be added to a future agenda.

343
344 Dr. Becker stated he previously served as an examination expert in the CPLEE review.
345 This is a good way to get actual practitioners involved.

346
347 Dr. Linda Nelson stated California has the lowest examination passing rate in the
348 nation. We need to look at why California candidates have issues that other states do
349 not.

350
351 Dr. Harb Sheets referred Dr. Nelson to the OPES study of the examination data.

352
353 No further public comment was offered.

354
355 **CPD Credit for Meeting Attendance**

356
357 Mr. Polk commented that attendance at the meeting provided 2.5 hours of CPD credit
358 under Category 1.

359
360 **Agenda Item #9: Closed Session – The Licensure Committee Met in Closed**
361 **Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(2) and Business and**
362 **Professions Code Section 2949 to Discuss and Consider Qualifications for**
363 **Licensure.**

364
365 **CLOSED SESSION**

366
367 Closed session commenced at 11:11 a.m.

368
369 **ADJOURNMENT**

370
371 The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m. without reconvening open session.