

Journal

*****The California Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Psychology Newsletter *****

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President's Welcome

By Lea Tate, Psy.D., President, Board of Psychology



Welcome to the Winter Journal!

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours are required every two years. All licensed psychologists may obtain CPD hours from four different categories: Professional Activities, Academic, Sponsored Continuing Education, and Board Certification. One of the easiest ways to obtain CPD hours is to attend a California Board of

Psychology board meeting or committee meeting! Attending a board or committee meeting qualifies for CPD credit in the Professional Activity category.

As a reminder, all board and committee meetings are updated on the Board of Psychology website: www.psychology.ca.gov. Please refer to the website to see the dates and locations of upcoming meetings.

Thank you to everyone who attended our meeting in San Diego, California, in August! We had a great turnout, and the Board appreciated the public comments made throughout the day. We hope to see **you** at our next board meeting, February 12-13, 2026, in Sacramento, California!

Lea Tate, Psy.D.

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Making Room for Mindfulness

By Shacunda Rodgers, Ph.D., Vice President, Board of Psychology

Lately, I've been thinking about the power of going on a mindfulness retreat and the ways in which it creates space for the mind, heart, and body to come

into alignment. With all that is happening in the world and our nation these days, combined with the normal everyday stressors we face in our individual lives, carving out time and space for stillness and silence can be just what we need to find a bit of ease and well-being. With ease, we are able to do the following, according to mindfulness teacher, Elana Rosenbaum:

“Return--To The Present

Recognize--What Is

Realize--Everything Changes

Release--What No Longer Serves You

Refocus--On The Here And Now

Recover--Your Balance

Regain--Perspective

Replenish--Your Spirit

Rest--Your Soul”

Who isn't in need of some or all of these things right now?

With regular practice, I find that ease and spaciousness can create access to a kind of deep rest that's needed to help reset an overworked and overloaded nervous system. When we're rested, we can return to our hearts, listening more deeply to what we need. When was the last time you were still enough and silent enough to listen? More importantly, when was the last time you gave yourself permission to slow down? It's not an easy thing to do with all of the demands placed on our time and energy. However, speeding up to keep up with these demands is unsustainable and a definite recipe for burnout. So, it is vital for our well-being to slow things down from time to time, in order for things to settle.

Imagine what could be possible if we were able to approach our lives from a state of being grounded, rested, and rooted in ease. What could be more accessible? What could we cultivate more of that is nourishing and replenishing? What could we relinquish that depletes us or diminishes our joy? How might we show up in the world, coming from this place? Most importantly, how might we show up for ourselves?

As appealing as a mindfulness retreat sounds, it may not always be easy to go away for long periods of time. That doesn't mean you can't create conditions for silence, stillness, and spaciousness in your life as it is right now. Perhaps you can choose an evening or weekend of silence—no TV, no phone or electronic device, no news, no social media—stepping away from those things that are a distraction. This practice of noble silence can be an opportunity for the heart to speak. Mark Nepo once wrote, “To listen is to lean in softly with the willingness to be changed by what we hear.” Can we truly hear what the heart has to say and be transformed by the wisdom it has to offer? All that we need to be well, healed, and whole are within, and sometimes we just need to slow down enough, get still enough, and get quiet enough to access it.

So, whether your mindfulness retreat is five days away or a quiet evening or weekend at home, give yourself the gift of returning to center and welcoming yourself back to the present moment. As you wait for the heart to speak, set the intention to hold whatever it reveals with compassion and care. May your practice, whatever form it takes, bring a sense of peace, well-being, and restoration your way. As you make space for stillness and silence, my hope is that you experience a settling of your spirit, a softening of your defenses, and a sense of sanctuary in your own heart.

Be well, colleagues, until we meet next time.



Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Information

CPD offers multiple categories for licensees to earn hours for renewal. The CPD requirements are structured into 15 activities grouped into four CPD Learning Categories, with specific hour requirements for Law and Ethics and Cultural Diversity/Social Justice.

Licensees must accrue hours in at least two of the four CPD Learning Categories to complete the required 36 CPD hours per renewal cycle. The 36 CPD hours include four required hours in the topic of Law and Ethics and four required hours in the topic of Cultural Diversity/Social Justice.

Sponsored Continuing Education vs. Self-Directed Learning

CPD Learning Category #3 - Sponsored Continuing Education (CE) is any approved structured sequenced learning activity that can be conducted either in person or online. The CE provider must be approved by at least one of the following approved entities:

- [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#)
- [California Psychological Association \(CPA\)](#)
- [Association of Black Psychologists \(ABPsi\)](#)
- [California Medical Association \(CMA\)](#)
- [Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education \(ACCME\)](#)

27 CPD hours is the maximum that can be credited for this activity toward the required 36 CPD hours. Licensees must maintain proof of attendance from the CE provider.

CPD Learning Category #2 - Academic is Self-Directed Learning. This category is meant for independent educational activities focused on maintaining, developing, or increasing conceptual and applied competencies that are relevant to psychological practice, education, or science, such as reading peer-reviewed journal articles or books (physical or e-books), watching videos or webcasts, or listening to podcasts. The activity must be an unstructured learning activity and must not include CE hours granted upon completion.

The maximum that can be credited for this activity is six CPD hours. The CPD hours are credited on an hour-for-hour basis. Licensees must maintain a record that includes the date(s), medium (e.g. podcast, book), topic or title, and the total number of CPD hours completed.

Board Meeting Attendance for CPD Credit

CPD hours can be earned by attending a Board or Committee meeting. For Board or Committee meetings that are three hours or less, CPD hours will be credited on an hour-for-hour basis. If the meeting lasts over three hours or lasts the full day, a total of six hours will be credited.

For licensees looking to earn CPD hours by attending a Board or Committee meeting, the Board Meeting/Event Calendar can be accessed on our [website](#). If a meeting is posted as in-person, physical attendance is required to receive credit. Hybrid meetings allow attendees to earn CPD credit by attending in person or remotely. No pre-registration is required to attend a meeting.

CPD Resources

A full list of the categories and approved activities can be found on our [website](#).

To view a full list of CPD FAQs, visit our [website](#).

A recording of the CPD webinar that offered a comprehensive breakdown of CPD with a real-time Q&A session can be accessed on our [website](#).

The Board offers a courtesy [CPD reporting form](#), however, licensees may use their own reporting form.

Board Meeting Attendance for CPD Credit

To learn more about these updates or to get in touch with the CPD coordinator for further information, email BOPCE@dca.ca.gov.



How to Become an Exam Expert

By Susan Hansen, Examinations Coordinator, Board of Psychology

The Board of Psychology actively recruits Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) every year for the development of the California Professional Laws and Ethics Examination (CPLEE). The work of our SMEs is important, as they are the selected representatives of the psychology profession, and their contributions determine the quality of the law and ethics exam that will be administered to individuals on the path of becoming licensed psychologists.

The Board, along with the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES), works with qualified SMEs through six different workshops annually, where our SMEs gather to write and review new items, construct four new forms of the CPLEE, and establish passing scores for each form of the exam. Specifically, the item writing and item review workshops are administered remotely, while the other four workshops are conducted in-person at the OPES office in Sacramento, CA.

SMEs receive honorarium compensation for their service. Lodging and travel costs are compensated at State rates. To qualify, SMEs must:

- Maintain a license in good standing.
- Maintain a current and active license.
- Be currently working in the field of psychology and have up-to-date skills.
- Not be involved in instructing or supervising graduate level psychology students.

- Have no conflict of interest with current or past employment with the State government.
- Not be a Board member or committee member.

Serving as an SME for exam development also allows a licensed psychologist to earn CPD hours, where one hour of service is equal to one hour of CPD credit. The regulations allow a maximum of 12 hours of CPD to be credited for activity relating to exam SMEs for each renewal period.

We encourage all interested psychologists to apply. To ensure a well-rounded perspective, the Board strongly encourages licensed psychologists who have been licensed five years or less to apply.

Recruitment of SMEs takes place each spring. Applications are sent to approximately 1500 randomly selected licensees, as well as to those who have expressed interest in participating. Applications are then reviewed, and qualified SMEs are scheduled for each workshop. The Board aims to staff workshops with participants that represent the profession in terms of geographic area, practice specialty, ethnicity, and gender. Selected participants are required to submit the necessary documents to be contracted to work as an SME. If you are interested in being placed on a list of interested parties to participate as an SME for the CPLEE development workshops, please email BOPEXam@dca.ca.gov.





Enforcement Unit - Expert Reviewer Program

The California Board of Psychology (Board) Enforcement Unit contracts with licensed psychologists to serve as experts in the Expert Reviewer Program. This program was established as an additional resource for investigating complaints. The Board relies on these experts to provide insight and guidance to Enforcement staff throughout the course of an investigation. Additional services are also provided to investigators and staff from the Office of the Attorney General during the disciplinary process.

Expert services include case reviews, consultations with investigators, and occasional testimony at administrative hearings. Compensation ranges from \$150 to \$200 per hour, depending on the services provided.

Case reviews are assigned to experts based on their areas of expertise. A maximum of one case review may be assigned to an expert per month, with a 30-day deadline for completion. Testimony at hearings is occasionally required to support previously completed case reviews and occurs approximately once or twice a year.

Applications are accepted year round, and qualified psychologists are added to the program after completing training. Participation in the program is re-evaluated and approved every three years.

If you are interested in participating in the program and being considered by the Board as an expert reviewer, you must meet the following requirements:

- Possess a current California psychology license in good standing.
- Have forensic experience and be willing to testify if a case proceeds to a hearing.
- Have an active practice, defined as at least 80 hours per month in direct patient care, clinical activity, psychometric testing, and/or teaching.
- Have three or more years of expertise in specific areas of practice.
- Have no prior or current charges or formal disciplinary actions related to any healing arts license, registration, certificate, or credential to

practice psychology or any other profession or occupation in any state in the United States or foreign country.

- Have no criminal convictions, including any that were expunged or dismissed.

If you meet the requirements listed above, please complete and submit the application packet, which must include the following:

1. **Expert Reviewer Application form**
2. A cover letter describing your current practice/employment, forensic experience, work setting, and why you are interested in serving as an expert reviewer.
3. A current, dated CV.
4. Copies of certificates for the continuing education courses you have attended in the last two years (please do not send original certificates).
5. A relevant writing sample or recent publication (or excerpt).
6. A sample redacted evaluation.

Please note that only complete applications will be considered.

The application packet can be submitted by mail to:

**Board of Psychology
Enforcement Unit
1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite N-215
Sacramento, CA 95834**

Or via email to:

BOPEnforcement@dca.ca.gov
Attn: Expert Reviewer Program

The Expert Reviewer Application form can be found on our website at:

www.psychology.ca.gov/forms_pubs/expertrev_app.pdf.

If you have any questions, please email **BOPEnforcement@dca.ca.gov**.



Explanation of Disciplinary Language and Actions

Gross negligence: An extreme departure from the standard of care.

Incompetence: Lack of knowledge or skills in discharging professional obligations.

Public letter of reproof: Formal discipline that consists of a reprimand of a licensee that is a matter of public record for conduct in violation of the law.

Accusation: A formal, written statement of charges.

Stipulated settlement of decision: The case is formally negotiated and settled prior to hearing.

Surrender: To resolve a disciplinary action, the licensee has given up his or her license, subject to acceptance by the Board of Psychology.

Suspension from practice: The licensee is prohibited from practicing or offering to provide psychological services during the term of suspension.

Revoked: The right to practice has ended due to disciplinary action.

Revocation stayed, probation with terms and conditions: “Stayed” means the revocation is postponed. Professional practice may continue so long as the licensee complies with specific probationary terms and conditions. Violation of any term of probation may result in the revocation that was postponed.





Disciplinary Actions

The following disciplinary actions for the period of January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, were intended to be published in our summer edition/journal. Since they were not included at that time, we are publishing them now.

Administrative Citations

January 1 - March 31, 2025

Angie Branham, PhD

PSY 28850, Los Angeles

On March 7, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$2,500 for allegedly engaging in falsification of supervised professional experience (SPE) documentation. She allegedly provided inconsistent and inaccurate logs for her supervisee, initially categorizing work as “individual therapy, intakes, and couples/family psychotherapy,” then altering the same records to reflect “rehabilitation and collateral work” only after Board intervention. The Order of Abatement required her to read and familiarize herself with Business and Professions Code sections 2915, 2960(i), 2960(l), and 2960(n); complete nine (9) CEUs related to APA Ethics Principles 2.03 and 6.01; and submit both certificates of completion and a signed statement under penalty of perjury to the Board.

James G. Friesen, PhD

PSY 7108 (Revoked), Los Angeles

On March 7, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$2,500 for allegedly engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology after his license was revoked in May 2020. He allegedly continued to provide psychological services under the guise of pastoral counseling and misrepresented his professional status. The Order of Abatement required him to cease all activity constituting psychological practice, review Business and Professions Code sections 2902 and 2903, and submit a signed statement under penalty of perjury confirming compliance.

Lou Ellen Sherrill, PhD

PSY 13045, Los Angeles

On March 7, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$1,500 for allegedly engaging in multiple ethical violations during a psychological evaluation. She allegedly included another client’s name in a report for a different patient, violating confidentiality under APA Ethical Standard 4.01, and exhibited discriminatory bias in her report and deposition in violation of Ethical Standard 3.01. The Order of Abatement required her to read Business and Professions Code section 2960(k) and APA Ethical Standards 3.01, 3.03, and 4.01, as well as Principles D and E of the Code of Conduct. She was also required to submit a signed declaration under penalty of perjury confirming completion.

Claudia Alvarado

Unlicensed, Los Angeles

On March 7, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$2,500 for allegedly engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology and misrepresenting herself as a licensed psychologist. She allegedly advertised psychological services under false pretenses, used license numbers belonging to other providers, and directly presented herself as a psychologist during an undercover operation. The Order of Abatement required her to cease all such misrepresentations, read Business and Professions Code sections 2902, 2903, 17500, and 2960(n), and submit a signed statement under penalty of perjury affirming compliance.

SURRENDER

Donald M. Goodman, PhD

PSY 22613, Los Angeles

On February 1, 2025, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of Donald M. Goodman, PhD’s psychologist license (PSY 22613), following formal accusations of unprofessional conduct, including repeated negligent acts, gross negligence, and sexual misconduct. The Board found that Dr. Goodman’s conduct breached established ethical standards and posed a risk to the public. He stipulated to the surrender of his license in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings.

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Lynne A. Becker, PhD
PSY 19075, Los Angeles

On February 21, 2025, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of Lynne A. Becker, PhD's psychologist license (PSY 19075), following formal accusations of repeated negligent acts, violation of rules of professional conduct, and inadequate and inaccurate recordkeeping. The Board found that Dr. Becker failed to complete required clinical documentation for eight patient cases during February 2021 while contracted with Amwell Medical Group. Despite multiple reminders, the records remained incomplete at the time of her termination. Dr. Becker stipulated to the surrender to avoid further proceedings.

Eric L. Kung, PhD
PSY 26241, Los Angeles

On March 5, 2025, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of Eric L. Kung, PhD's psychologist license (PSY 26241), following formal accusations of criminal sexual misconduct involving minors, including attempted enticement and exploitation under federal law. The Board found that Dr. Kung's actions constituted acts of unprofessional conduct under state law and the APA Code of Ethics. He did not contest the charges and stipulated to the surrender of his license, acknowledging that the allegations would be deemed true in any future application or reinstatement proceeding.

Susan F. Streeter, PhD
PSY 10213, Fresno

On March 13, 2025, the Board issued a default decision to revoke the psychologist license (PSY 10213) of Susan F. Streeter, PhD, after she failed to comply with an order to undergo a mental and physical examination. Dr. Streeter did not respond to the formal accusation, nor did she submit a notice of defense. The Board proceeded with disciplinary action under Government Code §11520 and determined that cause existed to revoke her license.

Jason B. Miller, PhD
PSY 17558, Los Angeles

On March 20, 2025, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of Jason B. Miller, PhD's psychologist license (PSY 17558), following formal accusations of unprofessional conduct. The Board found that Dr. Miller violated professional and regulatory standards and agreed to accept his surrender to resolve the matter without further hearing. He waived all rights to contest the accusations and acknowledged that the charges would be deemed true in any future reinstatement petition.

Charles W. Scott, PhD
PSY 8686, Los Angeles

On March 26, 2025, the Board issued a default decision to revoke the psychologist license (PSY 8686) of Charles W. Scott, PhD, following his failure to comply with a Board-ordered mental examination. Dr. Scott did not respond to the Board's order or the formal accusation served at his address of record in Fountain Valley, CA. As a result, the Board found the allegations substantiated and revoked his license by default under Government Code §11520.

James C. Husen, PsyD
PSY 30102, Los Angeles

On March 28, 2025, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of James C. Husen, PsyD's psychologist license (PSY 30102), following formal accusations of unprofessional conduct. Dr. Husen admitted that sufficient cause existed for discipline under the California Business and Professions Code and agreed to surrender his license to avoid further legal proceedings. He acknowledged that the Board may deem the charges true and correct in any future licensing request.

VACATED DECISION

Robert Geffner, PhD
PSY 16109, San Diego

On December 24, 2021, the Board adopted a decision placing Robert A. Geffner, PhD's psychologist license PSY 1609, on five years of probation. Pursuant to

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a court order, on November 25, 2024, the Board vacated the 2021 decision and dismissed the underlying accusation, rescinding the probationary terms and conditions previously imposed.

CORRECTION

*Below is a correction from the previous journal.

Robert L. Howard, PhD

PSY 11758, Los Angeles

Dr. Howard stipulated to the surrender of Psychologist License No. PSY 11758 after the Board filed an Accusation which alleged that Dr. Howard engaged in sexual misconduct, gross negligence, and unprofessional conduct. The Accusation detailed that Dr. Howard engaged in sexual contact with a patient during the course of treatment and failed to maintain appropriate professional boundaries. The Decision and Order took effect on September 12, 2024.

Administrative Citations

April 1-July 31, 2025

Kim Brown Barrus, PhD

PSY 6155, Los Angeles

On April 15, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$2,500 for professional misconduct. She was cited for violating rules of professional conduct, functioning outside her field of competence, and violating provisions of the Psychology Licensing Law. The case included practicing outside her area of education, training, and experience, and failure to adhere to standards adopted by the Board. The Order of Abatement required her to correct the identified practices, comply with applicable sections of the Business and Professions Code, and submit a signed statement under penalty of perjury confirming compliance.

Gregory T. Bohall, PsyD

PSY 35655, Los Angeles

On June 2, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$500 for failing to comply with the conditions of probation. He did not check in with Vault Health for drug and alcohol testing on March 23, 2025, which violated probationary requirements for abstinence and testing. The Order of Abatement required him to resume compliance with all drug and alcohol monitoring conditions, submit to future testing as directed, and provide confirmation of adherence to probationary terms.

Arial Carr-Boothe

PSB 94028856, Los Angeles

On June 2, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$750 for allegedly engaging in unlicensed practice. She allegedly practiced psychology without a valid license, in violation of Business and Professions Code section 2903, which prohibits the practice of psychology and psychotherapy without licensure. The Order of Abatement required her to cease all activities requiring a license, discontinue any misrepresentation as a psychologist, review section 2903, and submit a signed compliance statement confirming she understood and would comply.

Craig A. Childress, PsyD

PSY 18857, Los Angeles

On April 15, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$5,000 for professional misconduct. He was cited for violating rules of professional conduct and for functioning outside his area of competence, in violation of Business and Professions Code sections 2960(i) and 2960(p). The cause included allegations that he practiced beyond the scope of his education and training. The Order of Abatement required him to correct these violations and provide a declaration confirming compliance with Board regulations.

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Aron M. Deutinger, PsyD

PSY 23164, San Jose

On April 23, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$1,000 for failure to cooperate with the Board. He did not respond to two Board inquiries regarding Case No. 6002024001253, despite multiple attempts at contact. He was cited under Business and Professions Code section 2960(k). The Order of Abatement required him to provide a full written response to the inquiries and submit a signed statement under penalty of perjury confirming future compliance with Board requests.

Janice Domaschenz

PSB 94027625, San Diego

On November 18, 2024, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$2,000 for allegedly engaging in unlicensed practice. She was cited under Business and Professions Code section 2903 for providing psychological services without a valid license. The Order of Abatement required her to cease all unlicensed practice, discontinue any misrepresentation as a psychologist, review section 2903, and submit a signed compliance statement confirming she understood and would comply.

Megan A. Phillips, PsyD

PSY 28184, Los Angeles

On April 23, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$1,000 for failure to respond to the Board. She did not provide a reply to allegations in Case No. 6002024000901, despite repeated Board requests. She was cited under Business and Professions Code section 2960(k). The Order of Abatement required her to provide the requested response and submit a signed declaration confirming she would comply with all future Board inquiries.

Marta Schmidt-Mendez

Unlicensed

On June 2, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$2,500 for allegedly engaging in unlicensed psychological practice. She allegedly provided psychological services by administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological tests without holding a license. While she did not represent herself as a psychologist, her activities were consistent with the practice of psychology under Business and Professions Code section 2903. The Order of Abatement required her to cease all activities requiring a license, review sections 2902 and 2903 of the Business and Professions Code, and submit a signed statement under penalty of perjury confirming compliance.

Benjamin A. Stepanoff, PsyD

PSY 22896, Los Angeles

On April 15, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$1,500 for professional misconduct. He was cited under Business and Professions Code sections 2960(i) and 2960(k) for violating rules of professional conduct and for violating provisions of the Psychology Licensing Law. The Order of Abatement required him to correct the identified practices, comply with Board regulations, and submit a signed compliance statement confirming adherence.

Jeanette Watson

PSB 94027693, San Jose

On April 30, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$500 for conduct substantially related to the qualifications and duties of a registrant. On August 29, 2021, she was detained by CHP and later convicted by the San Mateo County Superior Court for driving under the influence in violation of Vehicle Code section 23152(b). She was cited under Business and Professions Code section 490. The Order of Abatement required her to comply with all terms of her criminal probation and to submit proof of compliance to the Board.

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Cassandra Regina Wells, PsyD

PSB 94028149, San Jose

On May 12, 2025, the Board issued a citation containing an Order of Abatement and a fine in the amount of \$500 for conduct substantially related to the duties of a registrant. She was convicted by the San Mateo County Superior Court, Docket No. 21SM011204-A, for driving under the influence under Vehicle Code section 23152(b), which included causing a minor accident. She was cited under Business and Professions Code section 490. The Order of Abatement required her to comply with all terms of her criminal probation and submit proof of compliance to the Board.

SURRENDER

Michele R. DeAntoni, PhD

PSY 20103, Santa Cruz

On April 15, 2025, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of Michele R. DeAntoni, Ph.D.'s psychologist license (PSY 20103), following an accusation alleging multiple violations of the Psychology Licensing Law. The allegations included unprofessional conduct and negligence in practice.

Robert L. Howard, PhD

PSY 11758, Lancaster

On September 12, 2024, the Board accepted the surrender of Robert L. Howard, Ph.D.'s psychologist license (PSY 11758), following an accusation alleging unprofessional conduct in forensic evaluations. The Board determined that Dr. Howard departed from the standard of care by improperly administering and interpreting psychological tests, failing to maintain impartiality, and mishandling sensitive evaluation materials.

Scott Devere Wylie, PsyD

PSY 18408, Fort Collins, Colorado

On April 24, 2025, the Board accepted the surrender of Scott Devere Wylie, Psy.D.'s psychologist license (PSY 18408), following an accusation alleging unprofessional conduct and negligence in practice. The Board determined that Dr. Wylie's conduct constituted cause for discipline and was substantially

related to the duties of a psychologist. He agreed to surrender his license, permanently relinquishing his rights to practice in California. He may not petition for reinstatement for three years and, if reinstated, must reimburse the Board \$18,572.50 in investigative and enforcement costs.

PUBLIC LETTER OF REPROVAL

Laurel Gray Coman, PhD

PSY 14722, Riverside

On June 5, 2025, the Board issued a public reproof to Laurel Gray Coman, Ph.D., for negligence and unprofessional conduct in her supervision of a psychological assistant. The case arose when Dr. Coman agreed to supervise a psychological assistant who was married to the owner of City of the Heart Psychological Services, where Dr. Coman worked as an independent contractor. The Board determined that Dr. Coman failed to recognize the inherent conflict of interest created by the familial and financial ties between the assistant and the clinic's owner, thereby violating ethical standards requiring honesty and accuracy. She was ordered to complete coursework in supervision and ethics and to reimburse the Board \$5,000 for investigative costs.

PROBATION

Lynda Rae Ariella, PhD

PSY 19450, San Marcos

On May 7, 2025, the Board revoked the license of Lynda Rae Ariella, Ph.D., but stayed the revocation and placed her on five years of probation. The case arose from an accusation alleging unprofessional conduct and violations of professional standards. The Board determined that Dr. Ariella engaged in conduct inconsistent with the ethical principles of psychology, including breaches of patient trust and deficiencies in practice. As conditions of probation, she was ordered to take and pass the California Psychology Law and Ethics Examination (CPLEE), undergo practice monitoring by a Board-approved psychologist, notify patients of probationary restrictions, and comply with reporting, evaluation, and monitoring requirements.

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Miriam Rebecca Fagan, PsyD
PSY 31718, Mill Valley

On April 11, 2025, the Board revoked the license of Miriam Rebecca Fagan, Psy.D., but stayed the revocation and placed her on four years of probation following an accusation alleging unprofessional conduct and negligence in the provision of psychological services. The Board determined that Dr. Fagan's practices raised concerns regarding competence and patient safety. As terms of probation, she is required to undergo a psychological evaluation, participate in continuing education, comply with practice monitoring, and pay \$19,619.30 in investigative costs within the first year.

Avegil Portia Solomon-Klebel
PSB 94025997, San Bernardino

On April 15, 2025, the Board accepted a three-year probation of Avegil Portia Solomon-Klebel, a psychological associate, following an administrative hearing. The case arose from her 2020 application for registration, where she denied having any familial or proprietary relationship with her proposed supervisor. She was married to the owner of City of the Heart Psychological Services, where the supervisor was contracted. The Board determined that Solomon-Klebel engaged in fraud or deception in her application, committed dishonest conduct, and failed to disclose conflicts of interest.



Active Board Positions

AB-82 (Ward) Health care: legally protected health care activity.

This bill expands California's address confidentiality program—which already protects reproductive health care providers, employees, volunteers, patients, and others facing threats—to also cover gender-affirming health care providers, employees, and volunteers who face violence or harassment due to their affiliation with such facilities, while making related conforming changes.

Board Position: Support

AB 489 (Bonta) Health care professions: deceptive terms or letters: artificial intelligence.

This bill extends existing prohibitions against falsely implying possession of a health care license to entities that develop or deploy AI or generative AI, banning the use of terms or phrases that suggest licensed professional status in their advertising or functionality. It also prohibits AI or GenAI systems from presenting advice, care, reports, or assessments in a way that implies they are provided by a licensed natural person.

Board Position: Support

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SB 402 (Valladares) Health care coverage: autism.

This bill relocates the definitions of “qualified autism service provider,” “qualified autism service professional,” and “qualified autism service paraprofessional” from the Health and Safety Code and Insurance Code to the Business and Professions Code, while making related technical and conforming changes.

Board Position: Support

SB 470 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.

This bill extends the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act’s teleconference provisions, which require public access and participation at all teleconference locations, until their repeal on January 1, 2030.

Board Position: Support

SB 579 (Padilla) Mental health and artificial intelligence working group.

This bill requires the Secretary of Government Operations, by July 1, 2026, to appoint a mental health and artificial intelligence working group to evaluate the role of AI in mental health settings.

Board Position: Support if Amended

SB 641 (Ashby) Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Real Estate: states of emergency: waivers and exemptions.

This bill allows the Department of Real Estate and boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs to waive certain licensure requirements for applicants and licensees affected by declared emergencies or disasters, requires licensees to provide an email address, restricts debris removal to qualified or specially authorized contractors with hazardous substance certification, and directs the Real Estate Commissioner to address fraudulent practices during states of emergency.

Board Position: Support

SB 775 (Ashby) Board of Psychology and Board of Behavioral Sciences.

The Psychology Licensing Law establishes the Board of Psychology to license and regulate psychologists and the practice of psychology. Current law repeals the provision establishing the Board on January 1, 2026. This bill would extend operation of the Board to January 1, 2030.

Board Position: Support if Amended





Regulatory Updates

Below are the Board's pending regulatory changes and their status in the formal rulemaking process.

Title 16 CCR sections 1395.2 - Disciplinary Guidelines and Uniform Standards Related to Substance Abusing Licensees

Status: This regulatory package is in the Production Stage. This phase includes Board-approved text, and collaborative reviews by Board staff, Regulatory Counsel, and Budget staff to prepare the initial documents for submission to the Director and Agency. Regulatory Counsel and Budgets have completed their review of production documents. At the August 2025 meeting the Board reviewed the proposed changes and voted to have the Enforcement Committee review the guidelines and make additional revisions. The package was presented to the Board at the November 2025 Board Meeting for review of proposed changes. The Board voted to adopt the changes and proposed additional revisions. Board staff is finalizing the production documents for Director and Agency review.

This regulatory package does the following: This regulatory package updates the Board's disciplinary guidelines including conforming changes required by the passage of AB 2138, the Board's new regulations regarding criminal convictions and substantial relationship criteria, and the Department's Uniform Standards for Substance Abusing Licensees.

Title 16 CCR sections 1380.6, 1393, 1396, 1396.1, 1396.2, 1396.4, 1396.5, 1397, 1397.1, 1397.2, 1397.35, 1397.37, 1397.39, 1397.50, 1397.51, 1397.52, 1397.53, 1397.54, 1397.55 - Enforcement Provisions

Status: This regulatory package is in the Production Phase. This phase includes Board-approved text, and collaborative reviews by Board staff, Regulatory Counsel, and Budget staff to prepare the initial documents for submission to the Director and Agency. In November 2025, Board staff, Regulatory Counsel, and Budget staff reconvened for a kick-off meeting to establish next steps. At that meeting, it was determined that the Enforcement Unit would review the previously Board-approved proposed text to assess whether updates are necessary. If revisions are warranted, Board staff will amend the proposed text and present to the Board for review.

This regulatory package does the following: This regulatory package would clarify that the term "licensee" applies to both licensed psychologists and registered psychological associates, ensuring consistency across the Board's enforcement provisions. It would also update the regulations by removing gender-specific terminology and replacing it with gender-neutral language. In addition, the package would modernize procedures related to petitions, modifications, and termination of probation to better reflect current Board practices.

Title 16 CCR sections 1381, 1387, 1387.10, 1388, 1388.6, 1389, and 1389.1 -Applications - Implementing AB 282

Status: This regulatory package is in the Drafting Phase. This phase includes drafting proposed regulatory text and collaborative reviews by Board staff, Budget staff, and Regulatory Counsel. Board staff is drafting the proposed text to present to the Board at the May 2026 meeting.

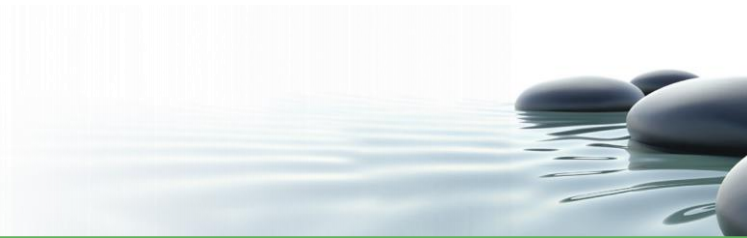
This regulatory package does the following: This regulatory package was originally designed to accomplish two changes: updates the statutory and regulatory sections needed to implement the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) part 2 (EPPP-2) and implement the mandates of AB 282.

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) paused the decision to make EPPP a two-part exam effective on January 1, 2026. Board staff paused the regulatory work related to implementing EPPP Part 2 based on this new development.

Board staff is currently working on making changes to regulations to implement the mandates of AB 282 and bring it to the Board for review and discussion in future Board meetings. With this change, the anticipated implementation date would be tentatively postponed to 2027.

Title 16 CCR sections 1382, 1382.3-1382.5, and 1397.60.1-1397.70 - Research Psychoanalyst

Status: This regulatory package is in the Drafting Phase. This phase includes drafting proposed regulatory text and collaborative reviews by Board staff, Budget staff, and Regulatory Counsel. Board staff is drafting proposed regulatory text to present to the Board at the May 2026 meeting.



(continued from page 14)

This regulatory package does the following: On July 2, 2025, Senate Bill 775 (SB 775)—the Board’s Sunset Bill—incorporated the Board-approved regulations, expanding the Board’s authority over Research Psychoanalysts (RPAs) and Student Research Psychoanalysts. SB 775 established new one-time coursework requirements—such as child abuse assessment and reporting, suicide risk assessment and intervention, and any additional coursework adopted by the Board (e.g., alcohol and chemical dependency)—as well as a CPD requirement of 36 hours every two years for renewing RPAs.

After the Governor approved SB 775, Board staff, Regulatory Counsel, and Budget staff met on November 24, 2025, to determine whether additional regulatory amendments were needed to implement these new requirements. It was determined that further changes were necessary to clarify the Board’s authority and to put the new training standards into effect.

Title 16 CCR 1396.8 - Standards of Practice for Telehealth Services

Status: This regulatory package is in the Final Stage. This phase includes submission of a final regulation package to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The 45-day comment period concluded, and no adverse comments were received. Board staff has completed final filling phase documents and submitted them to Director and Agency for final review.

This regulatory package does the following: This regulatory package updates and clarifies the Board’s regulation of psychological services via telehealth. The amendments seek to remove outdated language, align the regulation with current laws and technology, and provide clearer guidance for licensees, registrants, psychology trainees, and supervised individuals on legal compliance, clinical appropriateness, supervision, and data security.

Title 16 CCR 1388 - Examinations

Status: This regulatory package is a Section 100. A “Section 100” rulemaking is a simple procedure for changes without regulatory effect. This section permits the updating of existing regulations without complying with the regular rulemaking procedure

specified in the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). A Section 100 is appropriate only if the change does not materially alter any requirement, right, responsibility, condition, prescription, or other regulatory element of any California Code of Regulations (CCR) provision.

This regulatory package does the following: This package updates examination regulations to reflect recent changes by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT). Effective January 21, 2026, ETS is implementing a revised version of the TOEFL iBT and transitioning from the longstanding 0-120 scoring scale to a new banded scale ranging from 1.0 to 6.0 in 0.5 increments. The regulatory changes replace references to the prior score scale with the corresponding band score used to determine eligibility for extended examination time for applicants requesting accommodation based on English as a second language. Under the updated scoring system, applicants who received a score of 85 or below on tests taken before January 21, 2026, or a score of 4.0 or below on tests taken on or after that date, will continue to qualify for time-and-a-half (1.5x) when taking the examination.

Title 16 CCR 1397.50 - Citations and Fines

Status: This package is in the Concept Stage. This phase includes a kick-off meeting to establish production steps, expectations, and timelines for developing proposed regulatory text.

This regulatory package does the following: This regulatory package amends Section 1397.50 to expand the Board’s citation and fine authority to include violations of probation terms contained in Board-issued disciplinary orders. The amendments clarify that the Executive Officer or designee may issue a citation, order of abatement, and/or administrative fine when a licensee fails to comply with any condition of probation, and that such citations may be used as an intermediate enforcement tool in addition to, and not in place of, formal disciplinary action. These changes improve enforcement efficiency, promote timely correction of probation violations, and enhance consumer protection by providing the Board with a broader range of responses to non-compliance.



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Have an idea for an article?

Email us at bopmail@dca.ca.gov

2026 Meeting Calendar

BOARD MEETINGS

February 12-13
May 15
August 14
November 12-13

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Licensure
January 30
July 10

Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
April 24
June 4

Outreach and Communications
October 9

