

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
State Board for Psychology  
June 28, 2024 (State Education Building, Albany, NY)**

**Present:** Eloise M. Archibald, Chair  
Angela Marie Adger-Antonikowski  
Lauren De Caporale Ryan (nonpublic location)  
Matthew David Johnson  
Anu Raj

**Absent:** Kerry L. Brand  
Caroline Clauss-Ehlers  
Barbara Fontana  
Julia Saur

**Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards:**  
Mariann Burnetti-Atwell, PsyD, Chief Executive Officer  
Hao Song, PhD, Associate Executive Officer of Examination Services

**Department Staff:**

Erika Bondatti	Board office staff
Diane Martin	Board office staff
Karen Shier	Board office staff
Paul Thompson	Board Executive Secretary (Acting)

**Meeting Convened**

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Board members, guests, and staff introduced themselves. Mr. Thompson noted that comments and discussion are restricted to State Board members and Department staff.

**Discussion with the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)**

- Dr. Burnetti-Atwell provided an overview of ASPPB services and activities, including its strategic plan; updated website; training available to new board members; and the upcoming annual meeting in Dallas.
- Dr. Burnetti-Atwell also noted opportunities for participation on committees and other groups. In addition, ongoing initiatives (e.g., model practice act; continuing competency white paper; and the working group on a master's-level credential) seek feedback from the field.
- Board members initiated a discussion of the ASPPB's plan to mandate all applicants to complete the "Part 2" ("skills") portion of the EPPP licensing exam. Members identified areas of concern:
  - There is a general movement away from "paper" clinical exams, due to concerns about their efficacy and potential for bias against underrepresented groups.
  - There seems to be an unproven assumption that candidates lack clinical skills; it is not clear what problem the mandate addresses.
  - The lack of independent research on the effectiveness of Part 2 provides a poor foundation on which mandate the exam. For example, Board members expressed concern that there is no data to assess the validity of the exam across diverse groups of people.

- Part 2 will cost candidates time and money, creating additional, unnecessary barriers to licensure. Those barriers will lessen access to care and may cause students and patients to migrate to professions that require less education.
- Board members asked the ASPPB to consider alternatives to mandating the Part 2 exam, such as:
  - increasing the clinical skill content in Part 1 to avoid the cost burden of supporting and completing two lengthy exams;
  - allowing states to retain the ability to “opt in” to the Part 2, pending the results of independent research that assesses the exam performance of groups of candidates and their subsequent practice; and
  - engaging with accreditors and higher education programs to address any identified shortfalls in clinical preparation.
- Drs. Burnetti-Atwell and Song stated that other licensed professions assess clinical skills, and as such the field of psychology is lagging. They maintained that standardized assessments are important for ensuring practitioner quality and patient safety.
- ASPPB is concerned about variations in passing rates by program and accreditation status. Dr. Song believes that some percentage of Part 1 passers have weak clinical skills that compromise public safety.
- Dr. Song noted that exam writers are selected to ensure diversity, and they are trained on how to avoid bias in developing content. ASPPB bias reviews found that only a tiny fraction of exam items were potentially problematic, and those items were retired.
- Dr. Song stated that differential performance on an item does not automatically equate to bias. Self-reported data on race has been unreliable.
- Board members and Drs. Burnetti-Atwell and Song also reviewed options and processes for reasonable accommodations and testing in languages other than English.

**Other items:**

- Members inquired about the status of the search for a Board Executive Secretary. According to Mr. Thompson, the second search did not yield a candidate that met the Department’s needs. In light of this, the Department will suspend the search for now and revisit it in the future.

**Conclusion of public session**

Motion: Anu Raj

Second: Matthew Johnson

Resolved: That the public session of the meeting adjourn at 11:55 a.m.

**Executive Session (12:20 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.)**

Discussion of matters relating to professional discipline cases.