

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 23, 2010

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board), was called to order at 8:30 a.m., Friday July 23, 2010, at 8280 YMCA Plaza Drive, Building 8-B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. Present were Board Members, Drs. Tony Young, Rita Culross and Lee Matthews; Executive Director, Jaime Monic; and, Complaints Coordinator Dr. C. Gary Pettigrew. Absent was Dr. John Courtney. Dr. Joseph Comaty was in partial attendance.

Dr. Tony Young, Vice-Chair presided over the meeting, in the absence of the Board's Chairman,

Dr. Young requested a correction to the minutes of June 25, 2010, in the matter "Bond vs. LSBEP" to reflect his vote on the motion by Dr. Courtney that that Board consult legal counsel in billing Trudy Bond for legal costs incurred by the Board as a result of the lawsuits filed in the 19th JDC and the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals as "yea". Dr. Culross moved to accept the minutes of July 23, 2010 with corrections as requested by Dr. Young. The motion passed.

Dr. Young moved to enter Executive Session to conduct file reviews and oral examinations pursuant to LSA R.S.42:6.1(4). The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows Young - yea, Culross - yea and Matthews - yea.

Dr. Comaty joined the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m. and resumed his role as presiding officer over the meeting.

Dr. Culross moved to close Executive Session to enter the following:

TJ vs. RW – Dr. Pettigrew presented this case along with his recommendation to the Board. After careful consideration and review, Dr. Culross moved to close this matter, without further action. The motion passed unanimously.

P09-10-01B – The Board received correspondence from the LA Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners explaining their final disposition on the Board's complaint in this matter.

P08-09-06P – Dr. Young after completing a committee review on this case, requested this be added to the agenda for recommendation. The Board accepted this request unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Young reviewed the licensee's participation in the Impaired Psychologist Procedure Agreement, and reported that the licensee has complied with all aspects of the agreement. Dr. Young recommended that the matter be closed without further action and that the licensee be notified accordingly. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Pettigrew, having no other business, excused himself from the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Michele M. Martel, Ph.D. appeared before Board members Young, Culross and Matthews for an oral examination for licensure. Dr. Young moved that the Board grant **Dr. Martel** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. The motion unanimously passed.**

Eric D. Deemer, Ph.D. appeared before Board members Comaty, Culross and Matthews for an oral examination for licensure. Dr. Young recused. Dr. Matthews moved that the Board grant **Dr. Deemer** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Counseling Psychology. The motion unanimously passed.**

Rafael A. Salas, Psy.D. appeared before Board members Comaty, Young, Culross and Matthews for an oral examination for licensure. Dr. Young moved that the Board grant **Dr. Salas** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology. The motion unanimously passed.**

**The effective date of licensure of this candidate is August 1, 2010, by request of the candidate.

Julia M. Wood, Ph.D. appeared before Board members Comaty, Culross and Matthews for an oral examination for licensure. Dr. Young recused. Dr. Culross moved that the Board grant **Dr. Wood** a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Counseling Psychology. The motion unanimously passed.**

Supervision and Credentials Recommendations: The Supervision/Credentials Committee conducted file reviews and made recommendations as follows:

Dr. Comaty moved to table the review and discussion of **Melanie Wheeler's** application until such time that a minimum of four board members may be present to consider any motions presented. The motion passed by majority vote as follows: Comaty – yea, Culross – yea, Matthews – yea, Young – recused.

Dr. Young, upon review of the application file for licensure of **Michael Hunter Hansen, Psy.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Hansen and invite him to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Young, upon review of the petition for Emeritus Status and licensure file of **Ronald A. Goebel, Ph.D.** recommended that the Board grant **Dr. Goebel's** request for Emeritus Status. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

After reviewing the application file for licensure of **Nicole A. Jung, Psy.D.**, Dr. Culross moved that the file be considered abandoned and withdrawn from the application process (ref. PPM #4101). The motion passed unanimously.

The Board was provided with a copy of correspondence from Dr. David Wheeler dated July 6, 2010.

Dr. Comaty addressed the Board, presiding over his first meeting as Chair, to outline his expectations and goals for the coming year. He acknowledged the contributions of the Board Members who served before him, including the leadership of Dr. Rovaris, and the contributions of his fellow members Drs. Courtney and Young. He also welcomed the Board's newest members, Drs. Culross and Matthews. He generously expressed his gratitude for the hard work of the staff, Ms. Monic and Ms. Lively and challenged the Board to also express their appreciation regularly. Dr. Comaty continued by reminding the members of its responsibility under the law to the citizens of Louisiana,

“Now, I would like to offer my expectations and goals for the coming year. I am keenly aware of the Board's responsibility under law to the citizens of Louisiana. And I do not take this responsibility lightly. I want us all to remember our duty and to be serious and professional in all that we do, especially when we are representing the Board before the public. We are literally the last shield protecting the public from harm and I want us to think about this when making decisions about whether an applicant is sufficiently prepared and qualified to become a candidate for licensure and whether a candidate is properly prepared to qualify for a license to practice psychology. I want the Board to hold each candidate to the highest standards of the profession and to impress upon them the significance of what they have earned but also the tremendous responsibility they now assume to uphold the honor and tradition of psychology and to demonstrate that our faith in them has not been misplaced.”

He continued by elaborating on his expectations and goals for the Board to always use *proper decorum with candidates and conduct themselves professionally during meetings, discussions, etc.; offer orientation and assistance to new members; have board meetings in different locations; provide education to both the public and psychology community; provide education about training to LA psychology programs regarding level of*

training, preparation and counselor education; reviewing and updating policies, procedures, opinions; and, improve the Boards relationship with the legislature.

Dr. Comaty made the following Committee Assignments effective at the close of business this date. The CE Committee shall be responsible to complete the remaining CE reviews, under current assignments, for the 2010 renewal period.

Complaints Committee: Joseph Comaty, Chair and Tony Young, Vice Chair

Long Range Planning Committee: Joseph Comaty, Chair and Tony Young, Vice Chair

Legislative Oversight Committee: John Courtney, Chair and Tony Young, Vice Chair

Supervision and Credentials Review: John Courtney, Chair and Rita Culross, Vice Chair

Oral Examination Committee: Joseph Comaty, Chair and Rita Culross, Vice Chair

CE Committee: Tony Young, Chair and Rita Culross, Vice Chair

Liaison Professional Organizations/Boards: John Courtney, Chair and Lee Matthews, Vice Chair

Jurisprudence Exam Committee: John Courtney, Chair and Lee Matthews, Vice Chair

Representatives on the **Ad hoc Committee: Behavioral Health Professionals Working Group**, remain unchanged.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: The Board reviewed the June 2010 Financial Statement prepared by Ouida Nugent, CPA. Ms. Monic reported the need to purchase filing cabinets, which represents a substantial purchase. The Board acknowledged and granted permission to Ms. Monic to make the necessary purchase.

Complaints Committee: Ms. Monic reported 18 open complaints and 2 investigations pending assignment to an investigator. She also discussed the need to begin looking at ways of improving the complaints process.

Long Range Planning Committee: Dr. Matthews requested and the Board agreed that a discussion item for "Technology" (such as online applications) be placed on the LRP Agenda. The Board also agreed to schedule the LRP Meeting and Awards Ceremony for the month of February.

Continuing Education Committee: Dr. Young reported that CE reviews were going well, with 8 days left before the close of renewals, 11 extensions have been granted and 87 renewals still outstanding.

Ad hoc Committee: Behavioral Health Working Group Representatives: Dr. Comaty reported that the Behavioral Health Professionals Working Group would be having its first meeting on July 28, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Bienville Building (DHH) to discuss organizational matters and set future meeting dates.

There was no report from the following committees: Oral Examination Committee, Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards; or Legislative Coordinator:

Discussion Items:

ASPPB Annual Meeting - Dr. Comaty invited members to review their calendars and consider attending the 2010 ASPPB Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA from October 13 – 17, 2010.

Inquiry: Julie Nelson, Psychology Times – The Board reviewed and approved the response drafted in collaboration with the Board's attorney Lloyd Lunceford. Dr. Comaty presented the written response to Dr. Julie Nelson who was present for the meeting.

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The Board received the most recent edition of *The Register Report* magazine published by the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology.

Dr. Matthews moved to adjourn, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

(Note: Sign-In Sheet for Public Attendance Attached)

