

**STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS’
AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER REGISTRATION OF SUPERVISORS OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANTS, PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERNS, AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAINEES, AND ASSOCIATED CONCERNS**

July 26, 2023

1. Call To Order/Roll Call to Determine the Presence of a Quorum.

Call to Order: Committee Chair Dr. Whitney Owens called to order at 9:04 a.m. the meeting of the Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners’ Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Registration of Supervisors of Psychological Assistants, Psychological Interns, and Psychological Trainees, and Associated Concerns (“the Registration of Supervisors Committee”).

Roll Call: Community Chair, Whitney Owens; Members, Ben Adams, Lorraine Benuto, and Michelle Paul were present at roll call. Member William O’Donohue was not present at roll call. Despite the one Member absence at roll call, there was a quorum of the Committee members. Also present was Executive Director Arnold.

2. Public Comment - Public comment is welcomed by the Committee and may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the Committee Chair. Public comment will be allowed at the beginning and end of the meeting, as noted on the agenda. The Committee Chair may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and in their sole discretion. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken (NRS 241.020)

There was no public comment at this time.

3. (For Possible Action) Discussion, Deliberation, and Possible Action to approve the minutes of NBOPE’s Ad Hoc Committee to Consider the Registration of Supervisors of Psychological Assistants, Psychological Interns, and Psychological Trainees’ June 28, 2023, meeting.

There were no comments or changes suggested for the minutes of the June 28, 2023, meeting.

On motion by Lorraine Benuto, second by Ben Adams, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the minutes of the Committee held on June 28, 2023. (Yea: Whitney Owens, Lorraine Benuto, Ben Adams, Michelle Paul.) Motion Carried: 4-0.

4. (For Possible Action) Discussion, Deliberation, and Possible Action by NBOPE's Ad Hoc Committee to Consider and Make Recommendations to the Board Regarding the Registration of Supervisors of Psychological Assistants, Psychological Interns, and Psychological Trainees.

This agenda item may include, but is not limited to, the discussion, deliberation, and possible action to make recommendations to the Board regarding the Committee's evaluation of the Board's supervisor regulations as they relate to various similar state and federal regulations regarding the qualifications and requirements for supervisors.

Dr. Owens believes the recommendation is rather than to register, the Board will create a supervision handbook that will be completed by her and Executive Director Arnold. Dr. Owens then asked if anyone had any concerns or if everyone felt good about their recommendation to the Board. No further discussion was held.

5. (For Possible Action) Discussion, Deliberation, and Possible Action to Make Recommendations to the Board Regarding Revisions to NAC Chapter 641 Provisions Related to the Practice of Supervision by a Psychologist.

- A. NAC 641.1507
- B. NAC 641.1519
- C. NAC 641.152
- D. NAC 641.156
- E. NAC 641.157
- F. NAC 641.158
- G. NAC 641.159

This agenda item may include, but is not limited to, the discussion, deliberation, and possible action to make recommendations to the Board on the Committee's evaluation of whether any revisions to the qualifications and requirements for supervisors creates additional burdens on supervision or creates supervision scenarios not intended by those revisions.

Executive Arnold pulled up Dr. Benuto and Dr. Paul's previously suggested recommendations for the Committee's review. Dr. Owens asked about Dr. Benuto's recommendation regarding getting rid of the 3-year requirement and basing those on competency instead. Dr. Paul has strong feelings regarding making it competency based

versus a 3-year requirement. She believes the timeline was from a prior time that may no longer be relevant. Therefore, it would be Dr. Paul's recommendation that the 3-year requirement no longer be necessary, and a competency-based model would be better. Dr. Benuto agrees the 3-year seems arbitrary now, despite maybe making sense at the time it was created. Dr. Adams believes everything looks good as proposed.

Dr. Owens advised Executive Director Arnold that the language "if a supervisor has not been licensed for a minimum of three years" would be removed to leave the language to read "to supervise a psychological trainee, intern, or psychological assistant, the supervisor must have obtained appropriate training such that s/he is able to competently provide supervision. The training may consist of the following." Dr. Owens then briefly reviewed the training that was previously discussed, 10-15 CEUs (Dr. Owens believes a specific number should be set for the regulations to be clear). She did not have a strong feeling on the exact number, but when considering those who have a semester in supervision or coursework, it does feel not substantially equal, but it does depend on the CEUs. It was previously discussed that the MFT Board requires 30 hours, so in comparison, 15 does not seem like too much.

Dr. Benuto questioned if it is any of one of the following or all of the following (per the language, "a combination of the above that are equivalent to any one of the above") were required. Dr. Owens believed it is any one of the listed suggestions.

Dr. Paul suggested that the ASPPB Guidelines indicate a graduate academic course for at least 1 hour or supervised experience in providing supervision of at least 2 hours a month over at least a 6-month period of time or at least 9 hours of sponsored approved continuing education. Dr. Owens asked if the ASPPB Guidelines allowed for self-study, which Dr. Paul stated did not get that deep. Her guess is that if it was an approved self-study with CEs attached to it, that it would be fine. The ASPPB model regulations are being updated, but from 2018, Dr. Paul read an agenda item being discussed regarding a supervisee not being required to be in the presence of a supervisor. The Committee will put a pin in that for the moment. Dr. Paul reads, "responsibility of a supervisor, the supervisor shall maintain professional responsibility and shall be competent to provide any services for the supervisee."

Dr. Benuto confirmed to Dr. Owens there are about 16 weeks in a semester. Dr. Paul is unsure how the ASPPB came up with the number 9. There is a task force that comes up with those guidelines, so she would assume there is a description of the process and how they came to that, but she would need to research the same. If the Committee is looking to be equivalent, then the Committee should consider the same per Dr. Owens. Dr. Paul confirmed it states at least a 1 credit course, which would be 16 hours. Dr. Owens believes 15 credit hours feels like a minimal requirement compared to 3-years, especially when the 15 hours could be completed during a weekend or within a month. To Dr.

Owens it does not feel like a huge barrier. Dr. Benuto confirmed her shared opinion that there would be equivalency there.

The Model Act indicates the supervisor needs to be competent and they may only supervise the number of supervisees for which they can provide adequate supervision, but in no case should they provide supervising to more than 4. Another topic to put a pin in for future discussion per Dr. Paul.

Dr. Owens is curious if anyone has strong feelings regarding 9 or 10 being sufficient. No comment was made in response.

When asked about the requirement of 15 CE hours by Dr. Owens, Dr. Benuto agreed. She indicated the APA Guidelines confirmed some supervision training, which will make it not an issue for many people. Dr. Paul agreed. Dr. Paul asked Dr. Benuto if the APA required a course or just coursework. Dr. Benuto said yes, it can be imbedded in the curriculum but did not have to be a full course. So, theoretically, if an individual comes from an APA internship, there should have been some training received that covered knowledge and skill development. Dr. Paul indicated it could be one semester, or the equivalent of 16 hours throughout their curriculum in their internship, as well as through their program. Dr. Benuto discussed that those who provide clinical training, they would integrate some training within that context and integrate some practical learning experiences, too. That would fall under the supervised supervisory training.

From a professional wide competency equivalent and the APA implementing regulations, Dr. Paul stated doctoral students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of supervision knowledge and practices, and knowledge of contemporary evidence-based supervision literature. The doctoral level must show that the students meet that competency. So, Dr. Paul taught a module a quarter of the semester dedicated to didactics of supervisions and readings. Everyone gets that. An elective course is also provided that dives into supervision of supervision, but again, that is elective.

Dr. Owens believes this may be the fourth exception for the combination. If someone had the quarter of training, but did not do the elective course, they could still do 7-8 hours of continuing education to qualify. Or, if they have the supervisor supervision on post doc that would work.

For internships, Dr. Paul stated they have to go over and above the knowledge, they also have to apply this knowledge in direct or simulated practice with psychology trainees or other health professionals. They have to apply the supervisory skill of observing, evaluating, and giving guidance and feedback. Dr. Paul said that on a doctoral level is the knowledge based and the internship (accredited) level is the applied skills and experience. Again, Dr. Owens confirmed that the folks coming from an APA program will

likely not be a concern, only those who have not received an APA program or where a supervisory based competency training was not there.

For the purposes of the Committee, they decided they can vote to recommend 15 CEUs to the Board. Dr. Paul confirmed CEs do not come from an accredited body but are approved. She would recommend referencing it back to the NAC as to who is approved. Accordingly, Dr. Paul believes the language should be changed from "accredited body" to "approved body." Also then referencing the Board's NAC regarding what is an approved CEUs. Executive Director Arnold specified the NAC to be approved is 641.1519. Dr. Paul stated NAC 641.136 defines what the Board approves as continuing education.

On motion by Lorraine Benuto, second by Ben Adams, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners will recommend to the Board approval of changes to NAC 541.1519. (Yea: Whitney Owens, Lorraine Benuto, Ben Adams, Michelle Paul.) Motion Carried: 4-0.

For the number of supervisees, Dr. Benuto and Dr. O'Donohue were to look at this provision, and Dr. Paul was looking at the ASPPB regarding supervisees. Dr. Owens opened the floor for discussion. Dr. Paul stated the Model Act said no more than 4. The psychological trainee confirmed that it is the registered students, not non-registered per Dr. Benuto.

If there is trainee registered with the Board and then that trainee works with Dr. Benuto, then do the rules apply to Dr. Benuto for supervision of the registered trainee or since the trainee has another supervisor that registered the trainee does the supervision requirement fall on the supervisor who registered the trainee? Dr. Owens does not believe it would fall upon Dr. Benuto if she is not registering the trainee with Medicaid, as it would fall on the original supervisor who registered the trainee. Dr. Paul also believes it should be tied to the supervisor that has registered the trainee, only. From a responsibility framework, per Dr. Owens, there are other levels of responsibility that Dr. Benuto has to report to but a psychologist really has no one but the Board to report to in order to follow the rules. Dr. Benuto thinks that for her program, this should be fine, as she now understands the trainee registration definition. Dr. Paul said the supervisors for any practicum supervisee still need to abide by good supervision practices.

Dr. Paul was trying to reconcile the 3 full time equivalent supervisees and the Model Act saying up to 4 post docs, and she thinks the Model Act is different from the supervisor guidelines that came out with the ASPPB Task Force because they do not always perfectly overlap. She just wanted to point that out as most of her write up is from the ASPPB Task Force versus the Model Act. Dr. Owens believed they could define what 3 full time equivalent supervisors as long as it is defined, and now it is just a matter of deciding on 3 or 4.

Dr. Owens confirmed the nested supervision model is already in the Board regulations on some capacity. Executive Director Arnold indicated she thought it was part of NAC 641.158, which is a provision that has been amended. Dr. Paul confirmed. Dr. Owens is

specifically looking for the specific supervision language. Executive Director Arnold reviewed NRS 641.100, 641.170, but both her and Dr. Owens believe the language is in NAC not NRS. NAC 641.152 is the provision Dr. Owens wanted to review that is referencing the language suggested by Dr. Paul. It was also suggested by Dr. Paul to add language of NAC 641.1519 regarding registration and qualification of a supervisor. Dr. Owens stated NAC 641.152 does not allow for a trainee to supervise, it only allows for an assistant and an intern. Dr. Paul indicated she expanded it so that any one of these folks can be supervising another junior level person.

If it were to be simplified to revise the regulation to be the equivalent of 2 or 3 full time and the same for the nested model, what is the max amount for that nested model, and to add the language for the trainees to be able to supervise. Dr. Owens believed it could be streamlined. She asked if anyone had any strong recommendations regarding 3 or 4. If they are thinking about full time equivalency, potentially 96 lives a week that they could be responsible for, but the typical population would be affecting less than 100 lives a week. Dr. Owens would be okay with 4. Dr. Paul provided Executive Director Arnold the Model language to be shared. Essentially it states, a person can only provide supervision for those that it can adequately provide supervision for, which language Dr. Paul likes. The proposed language of NAC 641.158 was read by Dr. Owens with the exception of 4 students from the written 3. Dr. Paul's language as proposed would also be added. It would not be more than 160 hours of work per Dr. Paul. With the ASPPB Model Act language being added, and the number of full-time equivalent supervisees be changed to 4 instead of 3, Dr. Owens questioned if the Committee would be comfortable with that language. Similar to NAC 641.152, with the change to 4 full time equivalency supervisees, she believes this is ready to be recommended for approval to the Board.

On motion by Michelle Paul, second by Lorraine Benuto, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners will recommend to the Board approval of changes to NAC 641.152 and NAC 641.158. (Yea: Whitney Owens, Lorraine Benuto, Ben Adams, Michelle Paul.) Motion Carried: 4-0.

6. (For Possible Action) Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Dates for the Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners' Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Registration of Supervisors of Psychological Assistants, Psychological Interns, and Psychological Trainees.

At the next meeting, the Committee may discuss the onsite supervision regulations. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is Wednesday, August 30, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

7. Public Comment - Public comment is welcomed by the Committee and may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the Committee Chair. Public comment will be allowed at the beginning and end of the meeting, as noted on the agenda. The Committee Chair may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and in his sole discretion. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the

matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken (NRS 241.020)

There was no public comment at this time.

8. (For Possible Action) Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, President Owens adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.