

**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**

August 30, 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 9:03 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:** Committee Chair, Whitney Owens; Members, Lorraine Benuto, and Michelle Paul were present at roll call. Member William O’Donohue and Ben Adams were not present at roll call. Despite the two Member absences at roll call, there was a quorum of the Committee members. Also present was Executive Director Laura 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’ July 26, 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 Michelle Paul, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the minutes of the Committee held on July 26, 2023. (Yea: Whitney Owens, Lorraine Benuto, Michelle Paul.)  
Motion Carried: 3-0.*

**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 stated that she and the executive director will be working together on a Supervisor Handbook. The executive director said has started preparing one already and presented the initial draft of the handbook she and Dr. Owens will work on and explained the same. She said she believes the language will have to be further scrubbed closer to finalization. The idea is to have a few pages of summary, which pulls together the policy and regulations. The executive director thought it may be helpful to include the application process so supervisors know what is required, but she was not sure where that would be helpful to add, maybe an appendix. She has attempted to summarize everything for helpful review and compliance so people have some place to go for reference. Dr. Paul believes it would be helpful to have a frequently asked questions section, especially because not everyone understands the language and what it means. Dr. Owens indicated she thought it looked great, but suggested some revisions to the checklist to change from dashes to a check box to indicate that these are requirements that must be met before they are registered to help with compliance. Dr. Paul mentioned lay person language regarding the Waiver for help in understanding. The executive director stated that language is in the welcome letter, so she can transfer it into this handbook. She believes the Legislative Counsel Bureau is going to codify the language shortly, as the executive director has been working with them on that.

**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.

Dr. Owens stated that the Board did not have a chance to vote on the revisions yet because the last Board Meeting was continued and has not yet occurred. However, the executive director went through the NAC and has cleaned it up more since the last meeting, catching things that have previously been missed due to the Board's frequent review of the language. Dr. Owens discussed some of the changes. In the proposed language for NAC 641.1519, the executive director added the 15 CUE need to be in supervision, which now clarifies that those CE units must be in supervision, which was not previously specified. The executive director explained that it was important to add the verbiage "in supervision" because it was specified as to other requirements, but not in this language. She also realized that section 3 was not previously addressed that in the context of the Committee's proposed changes. As such, she believes that should be further revised for clarification, which resulted in her deleting subsection 3. Dr. Owens reiterates the language will be brought to the Board at their next weekend for hopeful approval.

In reference to the face-to-face language in R074-18, Dr. Paul read some of the language, but it was not the language she and Dr. Owens referenced related to face-to-face and/or onsite supervision. Dr. Owens read number 4, and asked Dr. Paul if the 50% language was removed in prior approvals. Dr. Paul confirmed that she believes they did for flexibility and provided an example. Dr. Paul stated that it is still on the supervised practice guide that is submitted. The executive director noted the 50% language in the reconciliation document she has prepared for the NAC, specifically NAC 641.080, but Dr. Owens indicated that is not the language they are looking for at this time because it has to do with the trainee has to be doing versus what the supervisor is doing. Dr. Benuto pointed out other language regarding a supervisor's presence. The Committee further discussed the language and their memories of the language and revisions, along with Dr. Benuto stating how she is always available to her students but not specifically available to them in person. Dr. Owens said she believes they should clean up the language. She explained that she does not believe a post doc needs a licensed person onsite at all times – trainees do, interns potentially, but having a licensee with a post doc at all times is a bit cumbersome. With that, she indicated she would like to see that language revised to be determined upon the training level of the

trainee. Dr. Benuto mostly agreed with the exception of an example she provided related to the psychological services center and how it is unrealistic to have someone available 24/7 (or for the clinic operating hours), as it is not feasible. She said there is always someone on site so the student is not alone, but there have been prior instances where guidance can be provided via telephone versus physical presence. Dr. Benuto thought the setting should be a determining factor.

Dr. Paul interjected, stating that she found the language and points out that the online language discusses presence of supervisor that says that at least one-half time they have to be physically present, but when it was integrated, it became a little more flexible with the exception of making sure there is somebody licensed onsite. Dr. Owens was saying regarding not having someone onsite all the time while the trainees are working, and Dr. Benuto was saying that someone licensed should just be available 100% of the time. Dr. Paul believes the intent was to avoid supervisors who try to put trainees on various locations from which supervisors are disconnected and not performing proper supervision or avoiding mishaps that occurred with other agencies. Dr. Paul believes it was to avoid abuse of trainees without providing proper supervision, abandoning trainees without a licensed person, in the event of someone being hospitalized, ensuring someone licensed is available for crises. The proposal to change the language to 100% availability of supervisor or another licensed person would be sufficient.

Dr. Owens was hesitant given Dr. Paul's examples of bad actors. The Committee discussed an additional example related to a sole practitioner not having an available licensed individual available to be there and as written it seems as though they would need to be present in-person. Dr. Paul and Dr. Benuto have questioned the language of onsite and what it means. Dr. Benuto said the balance of the language needs to be protective but also inclusive. She believes a licensed individual should be available 100% of the time, but they need to determine what is the definition of available. Dr. Paul stated that, with Zoom, she could be there and available without being physically present. Dr. Owens says they do have the language of diligent and proper oversight, which is helpful. Dr. Paul proposed putting language in place that assures the availability of another appropriate provider to be available at all times, including the supervisor – something to underscore the importance of diligent and proper oversight, but also expect that there be a written policy in place. She suggested something similar to supervised practice plan with a supervision agreement and employment agreement, and maybe the supervision agreement include the policy of availability in absences of the supervisor. Dr. Benuto believes they do have similar policies in place and liked Dr. Paul's idea, at least for her clinic. Dr. Owens agreed with Dr. Paul's suggestion. She said it would ensure that a diligent policy be in place which helps them access the oversight or supervision they need.

Dr. Owens said that she and the executive director would work on that language and take out in section 1 the language regarding the availability of another health provider at the site (number 1 under section 8 on RO74-18 under c). Dr. Paul suggested indicating someone associated with the site, so not to imply physical presence. It was agreed that clarification would include someone contracted or associated with the site. Dr. Paul also believes section (a)(4) needs to be deleted for this clarification, as well, and to add something about adding a policy regarding appropriate availability of the supervisor or another appropriate licensed provider. Dr. Owens thinks it should be in the supervision agreement, not just a policy – something else that she and the executive director will work on.

Dr. Owens asked if they want to vote now to present to the Board next week or schedule another meeting to further discuss. Dr. Paul believes they could vote to eliminate the onsite availability requirement, and Dr. Owens stated that the supervision agreement to require a policy on presence and availability of a supervision to be added. This would negate the need for another meeting and instead could be presented to the Board next week during their meeting.

*On motion by Michelle Paul, second by Lorraine Benuto, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners will recommend to the Board a language change in RO7418 Section 8 (1)(c) to strike out at the site and change it to affiliated with the site; subsection 4 to change the language to be available in the case of the absence of the supervisor; and adding to the section regarding the supervised practice plan to include a policy on availability for presence of a supervisor or designee. (Yea: Whitney Owens, Lorraine Benuto, Michelle Paul.) Motion Carried: 3-0.*

#### **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.**

No additional meetings were set at this time. Accordingly, after confirming with DAG Ward, the executive will seek approval of the meeting minutes from each member individually through e-mail.

**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 9:47 a.m.