

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF A MEETING FOR
STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
MEETING MINUTES**

January 10, 2025

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

The meeting of the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners was called to order by President Lorraine Benuto, PhD, at 8:02 a.m. on January 10, 2025, online via "Zoom" and physically at the office of the Board of Psychological Examiners, 3080 S. Durango Drive, Suite 102, Las Vegas, Nevada 89117.

Roll Call: Board President, Lorraine Benuto, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer, Stephanie Woodard, Psy.D., members, Monique Abarca, LCSW, Soseh Esmaeili, Psy.D., and Catherine Pearson, Ph.D. were present at roll call. Stephanie Holland, Psy.D. and Robert Moering, Psy.D. were absent. There was a quorum of the Board members.

Also present were Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Harry Ward; Board Investigator Dr. Whitney Owens; Executive Director Laura Arnold; Administrative Director Sarah Restori; members of the public: Thomas Kinsora, Stephen Benning, Ashley Noel Pruitt, Akiko Hines, Claudia Mejia, Jennifer Grimes-Vawters, Sabrina Schnur, Monica Zepeda, Liya Levanda, Annie Vong, Lewis Etcoff, Kelly Robertson, and Mary Marcu.

2. Public Comment. The Board wants to remind those who participate in public comment that you are limited to three minutes per person, and that public comment is reserved for comment only. It will not be used as a platform for questions and answers. If you have a statement that is longer than three minutes, please submit your statement in writing and the Board will include it in the written materials that are posted. If you have questions for which you would like answers, please email the Board office at nbop@govmail.state.nv.us.

DAG Ward wanted to remind any members of the public who may be here to comment on a pending complaint that our Deputy Attorney General has requested that no public comment be made on pending complaints.

There was no public comment.

3. (For Possible Action) Workshop to Solicit Comments on a Proposed Regulation (See Public Notice – Attachment A); and Possible Action to Forward the Proposed Regulation to a Hearing at a Future Meeting of the Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners in Accordance with NRS Chapter 233B.

Dr. Benuto informed that during the December 6, 2024, Regulation Workshop on NAC 641.136, the Board furthered its efforts to determine the language on which to move forward as it concerns continuing professional development satisfying a portion of the Board's continuing education requirements for licensees. She shared that the Board took action to remove the pro bono provision from the proposed language, and further discussed some of the other proposals that had been presented to the Board. During that discussion, the Board generally agreed that the proposed self-care provision does not align with the intent of continuing professional development and should not be included and to revise the provision permitting continuing professional development CE credits for preparing the materials for and teaching a graduate level applied psychology course, and to limit each of the academic activities identified to 6 hours. The regulation workshop was continued in favor of developing regulation language consistent with what was discussed during the December 6, 2024, meeting.

Dr. Stephen Benning provided public comment. He thanked the Board for the efforts to include these forms of professional development for continuing education credit. He sought to clarify if preparing a course applies to only a new graduate course and if it also applies to a course that has been revised. He also wondered if peer reviews of articles counts towards these credits.

Dr. Benuto shared that they did not place a limitation on whether it was a new course or course redesign. She also stated they did not discuss including peer reviewing articles towards CE credits.

On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved moving the regulation forward to a regulation hearing at a future Board meeting. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Soseh Esmaeili, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.

4. Minutes. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Minutes of the State of Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners' December 6, 2024, Meeting.

There were no comments or changes suggested for the minutes of the December 6, 2024, meeting.

On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Catherine Pearson, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on December 6, 2024. Soseh Esmaeili approved the minutes as to form, but not content. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Soseh Esmaeili, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.

5. Financials. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Treasurer’s Report for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025).

The Executive Director presented the Treasurer’s report. She shared that as of December 31, 2024, the checking account balance was \$491,750.01. She stated with the end of December being the end of the 2023-24 biennium, the Board is now in the first quarter of the 2025-26 biennium and the second half of FY2025. The Board is now operating on a total of 182,055.52 in deferred revenue from licensure renewals received prior to December 31, 2024, for the 2025-26 biennium and that is distributed to the first 2025-26 biennium quarter. She shared that the Board is also operating on \$43,713.71 that has been received in late renewals in the first quarter of the 2023-24 biennium and distributed to the fourth 2023-24 biennium quarter, as well as what the Board received in new licensures, registrations, and reinstatements during the 1st half of fiscal year 2025.

She went on to share that the savings account balance, which is the Board’s reserve account, was \$105,112.07.

The Board’s bookkeeper, Michelle Fox, has verified and validated the information being provided in the Treasurer’s report.

On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Monique Abarca, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the Treasurer’s Report for Fiscal Year 2025. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Soseh Esmaeili, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.

6. Legislative/Regulation Update

Dr. Benuto informed that she wanted to acknowledge that the Board’s legislative expert, Neena Laxalt, passed away last week. She stated they have her passing noted under this agenda item, which they will address after the regulation and legislation updates and any impact Neena’s passing may having on them.

The Executive Director stated she’s still waiting for the LCB draft of R192-24, which is the national exam regulation, so that they can move that regulation forward to a hearing. She stated she is closely following SB 78, which is the Board consolidation bill, SB 68, which impacts the Board’s NRS 641.145 reporting requirement, and AB64 which makes some changes to public meeting requirements. She stated as they get closer to the legislative session, there will be more bills assigned to BDRs.

- A. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action in response to and as it concerns the passing of Kathleen (Neena) Laxalt, the Board’s legislative expert.

The Executive Director shared her condolences to Neena's family. She stated she feels comfortable tracking and following relevant bills and when necessary, provide input. She stated she does not feel its necessary at this point trying to engage other legislative expert for the purposes of this year's session.

In lieu of sending flowers, Neena's family has asked that donations be made in her name to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

On motion by Monique Abarca, second by Stephanie Woodard, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved sending a donation in the amount of \$150 to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Neena Laxalt's name. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Soseh Esmaeili, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.

7. Report from the Nevada Psychological Association

There were no updates from Nevada Psychological Association.

8. Report from the Board Office on Operations

The Administrative Director presented the Board office statistics. She stated the Board licensed 5 new psychologists in December. As of January 3, the Board has 650 active licensees who have renewed their active license for the 2025-2026 biennium. She stated they are currently in the late renewal portion of this renewal period, and will not have the total number of active licensees who renewed their license for the 2025-26 biennium until after March 1. Also as of January 3, 30 licensees renewed their licenses from Active to Inactive, 43 renewed their Inactive licenses, and 12 let the Board know they would not be renewing their license and are now expired. There are still 50 licensees who were active during the 2023-24 biennium that have not renewed, but many of whom may renew during the current late renewal period, and there are 12 inactive licensees who have not yet renewed.

She went on to state that the Board has 144 active applications for licensure, and as for those they register, the psychological assistants, psychological interns, and psychological trainees, there are a total of 76 that are registered and 25 active applications.

The Executive Director shared that she had no other updates as this last month the Board was consumed with renewals. She stated once the Board has completed all renewals, she will be providing updates on the Board's applicants and licensees data.

9. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action on Pending Consumer Complaints:

A. Complaint #19-0626

DAG Ward informed the hearing officer has submitted a second preliminary hearing and scheduling order on November 15th. The amended complaints have been filed and served in both cases. The hearing is set for November 12th-14th, 2025.

B. Complaint #23-0918

DAG Ward informed Formal Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served on Respondent. Respondent is represented by counsel, who has answered the complaint. He stated the hearing scheduled for 1/10/2025 has been postponed. DAG Ward is in the process of trying to resolve this matter via consent decree with opposing counsel.

C. Complaint #24-0103

DAG Ward informed the hearing officer has submitted a second preliminary hearing and scheduling order on November 15th. The amended complaints have been filed and served in both cases. The hearing is set for November 12th-14th, 2025.

D. Complaint #24-0312(1)

DAG Ward informed this matter has been referred to the MFT Board. The cease-and-desist letter has been sent to the respondent. The respondent received it on 11/26/2024, and a response was filed by them with DAG Ward and the Executive Director. The investigator requested further revision to the respondent's online site. The cease-and-desist letter and response was forwarded to the New York and California Boards.

E. Complaint #24-0312(2)

DAG Ward informed Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served on respondent. He stated the respondent, through counsel, answered the complaint. DAG Ward and counsel are in the process of discussing settlement.

F. Complaint #24-0605

DAG Ward informed this complaint was received regarding misrepresentation of credentials and practicing without a license. The Board investigators have requested additional information from the complainant, which has been provided. They are in the process of issuing a cease-and-desist letter to the respondent in regard to language on the online sites.

G. Complaint #24-0607

DAG Ward informed this was a self-report from a licensee regarding two misdemeanor convictions. The Board complaint has been prepared and forwarded to the respondent who has responded to the complaint. The respondent has agreed to the investigator's terms for resolution. Investigator to follow up with DAG Ward to resolve that matter.

- H. Complaints #24-0711
 - #24-0719
 - #24-0726
 - #24-0823

DAG Ward informed these four complaints are against the same psychologist. All complaints have been forwarded to the respondent and appropriate federal agencies. DAG Ward informed he has been in communication with counsel for respondent; respondent is in the process of preparing answers to the complaints and answers to complaints are due 1/17/2025.

I. Complaint #24-0730

DAG Ward informed a cease-and-desist letter has been sent to and received by respondent. DAG Ward informed he will follow up on respondent's failure to timely respond.

J. Complaint #24-0829

DAG Ward informed this was received and forwarded to an investigator for review. Additional information was received from both the complainant and respondent per the investigator's request. DAG to prepare disciplinary consent decree per investigator's recommendations. It is hoped this will be resolved without a hearing in the next couple months.

K. Complaint #24-0903

DAG Ward informed this was received and forwarded to an investigator for review. He is in the process of preparing a cease-and-desist letter with service pending locating an accurate address.

L. Complaint #24-0924

DAG Ward informed this was received and forwarded to an investigator for review. The investigator has requested to prepare a cease-and-desist letter to the respondent. The investigator provided a response and recommendations for a cease-and-desist order, which DAG Ward is in the process of preparing.

M. Complaint #24-1023

DAG Ward informed complaint received regarding ethical violations and forwarded to investigator. He informed the response to complaint was received and forwarded to investigator and DAG Ward. He stated there are issues of immunity defense. Investigator to provide update to DAG Ward and investigator to address incidental finding in complaint regarding unlicensed practice by another psychologist.

N. Complaint #24-1125

DAG Ward informed email complaint received regarding misrepresentation of credentials and forwarded to investigator. Respondent is an applicant for licensure in

Nevada. He stated response to complaint was received and online information updated. All responses and additional information forwarded to the investigator. He stated the investigator continues to monitor online information. Complaint forwarded to CA Board regarding providing services to CA residents from NV.

O. Complaint #24-1202

DAG Ward informed complaint received and forwarded to and reviewed by investigator. Complaint forwarded to respondent for response. DAG Ward stated cease-and-desist may be warranted.

DAG Ward shared that for complaints regarding unlicensed activity, such as advertising on social media, the Board investigates these complaints and DAG Ward often sends cease-and-desist letters in these cases, however, they're often unable to get physical addresses to serve these letters. He encouraged these complaints still be sent to the Board for investigation.

10. (For Possible Action) Review and Possible Action on Applications for Licensure as a Psychologist or Registration as a Psychological Assistant, Intern or Trainee. The Board May Convene in Closed Session to Receive Information Regarding Applicants, Which May Involve Considering the Character, Alleged Misconduct, Professional Competence or Physical or Mental Health of the Applicant (NRS 241.030). All Deliberation and Action Will Occur in an Open Session.

The following applicants are recommended for approval of licensure contingent upon completion of licensure requirements: **Stephan Kappler, Liza San Miguel-Montes, Willann Stone, Tara Tanaka, Evan Fertel, Anna Arya, Dominique Cheung, and Benjamin Loew.**

On motion by Monique Abarca, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the following applicants for licensure contingent upon completion of licensure requirements: Stephan Kappler, Liza San Miguel-Montes, Willann Stone, Tara Tanaka, Evan Fertel, Anna Arya, Dominique Cheung, and Benjamin Loew. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Soseh Esmaeili, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.

- B. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Dr. Jennifer Grimes-Vawters' request to be allowed to register as a PA without compensation.

Dr. Benuto informed that Dr. Jennifer Grimes-Vawters, who is approved as a Psychological Assistant, has requested Board approval under NAC 641.154 to work as a Psychological Assistant without compensation. She shared that NAC 641.154 states, in

relevant part, that a Psychological Assistant is entitled to compensation paid in equal amounts on a fixed schedule over the course of his or her training. She shared that an employment agreement that does not provide for the payment of a salary or stipend may be approved by the Board if the Board determines that the agreement is in the best interest of the Psychological Assistant.

Dr. Owens shared that the intention of that rule is to protect trainees from exploitation from supervisors. She wanted to remind the Board that decisions the Board makes don't just affect that applicant but can have further impact on applicants in the future.

Dr. Woodard sought clarification regarding her being paid in her work as a licensed professional counselor, and the work she's doing as a psychological assistant and not a professional counselor.

Dr. Grimes-Vawters stated she is currently being compensated as a professional counselor and this will transfer to just being a psychological assistant under Dr. Berg. Dr. Benuto sought clarification as it sounded like Dr. Grimes-Vawters will receive compensation under Dr. Berg. Dr. Grimes-Vawters confirmed this. Dr. Benuto informed Board approval would not be needed if she's getting compensated.

Dr. Owens stated that they wanted to protect trainees and students so they aren't being paid on a per patient basis so that supervisors aren't paying their students only if they're seeing patients as the intention of the postdoctoral year focuses on training and not on revenue generation for the supervisor.

Dr. Grimes-Vawters stated she did believe she would be paid on a per patient basis and this is her request. She informed this was her actual request and wrote the letter to the Board incorrectly.

Dr. Woodard wanted to touch on the potential implications of this request. She stated she does not understand the extenuating circumstances in this case that would qualify this for an exemption. She reminded the intent is to deter the relationship to be a business transaction.

This was tabled for a future agenda item so Dr. Grimes-Vawters can clarify her request to the Board.

11. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the EPPP Exams, including Potential Financial Assistance that Could be Provided to Certain Applicants for EPPP Study Materials.

Dr. Benuto informed they met with Dr. Hunt with BeHere Nevada regarding the potential for financial resources that could help applicants with cost of study materials. Dr. Benuto also asked the Executive Director to provide basic data analysis on EPPP

data on Nevada Applicants. The Executive Director informed that she did speak with Dr. Hunt and she has no updates at this time. Dr. Hunt is scheduled to meet with the financial folks at UNLV to get guidance on distributing their state funds. They will stay in touch with BeHere as they develop possible financial assistance.

Dr. Benuto reviewed the EPPP Score Data that the Executive Director prepared for Nevada applicants. She noted that 259 individuals took the EPPP1 and 230 of those passed, and 65 individuals took the EPPP2 and 47 passed. Dr. Benuto stated, as discussed in the last Board meeting, there is no alternative test to the EPPP2 skills test for Nevada. She wanted to continue to be in communication with BeHere Nevada to develop resources for test takers.

Dr. Woodard wanted to reiterate the importance of having some sort of competency-based exam for the applicants and since there is no alternative, the importance of the EPPP2. She noted the expenses related to these exams and encouraged continued work with BeHere Nevada.

Dr. Owens wanted to clarify that Nevada did not add an extra exam, but the EPPP2 replaced a previous skills-based exam. She stated their previous exam existed for about three decades. She stated this Board has worked hard to remove barriers while also ensuring the quality and standards that help protect the public by use of standardized exams.

12. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Proposed Policy/Regulatory Guidance regarding R095-23 (Response to 2023 AB244).

The Executive Director shared that in 2024, the Board worked diligently to respond to 2023 AB244, which established certain rights to a person compelled to submit to a mental or physical examination, including that person's ability to have a third-party observer present during the examination. Included in the Board's response were regulation revisions that passed through the Legislative Commission as R095-23.

She shared that the Board's Regulation Workshops and Hearings on the various proposed draft versions of R095-23 included a lot of public comment that sought clarity and distinctions in the terminology suggested and proposed for the regulation. The Board ultimately decided to approve a version of the regulation that would allow it to address its regulatory intent with guidance if that was deemed necessary. The Executive Director began drafting a document for that purpose. She shared that the first section of that document is the background that gave rise to R095-23, that being AB244 that went into effect during the 2023 Legislative Session, and the Board's efforts to respond to it by publishing a statement on its website and developing clarifications to

its regulatory language. The second section of that document goes through R095-23 as it was passed through the LCB and the Legislative Commission and highlights what the regulation does and what it says.

The Executive Director shared that she wanted to defer to the Board members to develop regulatory guidance language for R095-23. She synthesized the primary comments and questions related to how R095-23 could or should be interpreted and understood. She shared that Dr. Lenkeit wanted to ensure that the Board's licensees know about R095-23 that it is what clarifies and provides regulatory guidance in response to AB244.

Dr. Benuto informed she can help draft regulatory guidance language for the Board to further support efforts for creating R095-23 and these can be discussed at future Board meetings.

13. (For Possible Action) Strategic Planning Session - Discussion and Possible Action on the Board's Strategic Plans for 2025.

The Executive Director reviewed the 2024 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. She started by stating one of the top priorities at the Board office, which consists of herself and the Administrative Director Sarah Restori, is customer service which includes being highly responsive and engaged with those who contact the Board office. She stated the Board regularly sends out emails through the database's Listserv to advise licensees on office closures, sub-committee and board member opportunities, regulation workshop and hearing notices, regulation and legislation that affects them, calls for volunteers, Board office happenings, renewal reminders, and other information. She shared that she created a separate Listserv where the emails come directly from the Executive Director to ensure licensees are being reached.

She went on to share that they are always updating the website and making sure the information on the website is up to date. She stated the State of Nevada is currently involved in a Content Management System Modernization project by which it intends to migrate the State's existing websites from the current Ektron platform to a new platform. She looks forward to this development as Ektron is not user friendly and antiquated.

She shared that all NAC Changes are uploaded to the website with a description of the change and kept current under the Rules and Regulations tab until such time as they are codified into the publicly available version of NAC Chapter 641. She stated in 2024 they worked to develop the Supervisor Handbook which has been updated to the website.

The Executive Director shared that they added a full-time administrative director, Sarah Restori, to the Board Staff in March 2024. She started her role by organizing the Board

office and working to align the records that are in the office with the Board's policies regarding files and records. They are intending on hiring part-time summer assistant to take on some of the record and file transition projects.

She shared that since adding the administrative director role, she's been able to put more effort into legislation, regulation, and policy that affects the Board. During this time and with Board approval, she's accomplished revising the numerous Board policies to align them with current practices. She stated they have a BDR for the next legislative session that will address some of the technical changes the Board wanted to make to NRS Chapter 641, those being removing the provision requiring registration of business entities, which the Board does not do, clarifying when the term "psychometrist" can be used, and providing a statute of limitations for when someone can submit a complaint to the Board against a Psychologist. She also shared that they moved a number of regulation revisions through the Board, LCB, and Legislative commission processes during 2024, as well as finally getting a more updated codified version of NAC Chapter 641. As a larger project, she intends to categorize and go through NRS Chapter 641 NAC Chapter 641 and their policies to ensure consistency and to tag anything that should be reviewed for revision or repeal.

Regarding cost analysis associated with the roles and responsibilities of the two full time roles, the Executive Director shared the cost analysis of the Board's office staff is always included in what she provides to the Board at every meeting with the treasurer's report.

She shared that they are actively transitioning to a paperless office. She stated the application, registration, licensure, and renewal processes are almost entirely paperless, although they do maintain an option for applicants to print, fill out, and mail in applications. She shared the plan to scan all of the Board's paper files, which include licensure, disciplinary, complaints, and Board office operations files primarily prior to 2023, is high on the priority list and they have a plan for it.

The Executive Director reviewed the revisions to numerous policies and procedures that were approved over the last year. She shared that in January, the Board approved the creation of Sarah's full time Administrative Director role and the Board office move to Las Vegas. In February, the Board approved revisions to the Employment, Compensation, and Review Policy to incorporate Sarah's role and to update Board staff performance evaluation procedures. During the February and March meetings, the Board discussed and approved some substantive changes to the Board's Complaints, Disciplinary, and Remediation Policy. She shared that in the April and May meetings, the Board discussed and approved revisions to its Policies and Procedures for Psychological Assistants, Interns, and Trainees which included changes which have helped improve the efficiency and understanding by which they process those applications and registrations. The May meeting also resulted in the Board approving related revisions to the ATEAM policy and procedures, approving revisions to the Board's licensure by endorsement policy, and approving a Board Investigator Performance Review

Evaluation Tool. She shared that during the June meeting, the Board approved revisions to its Licensure Application processes, which has resulted in great improvements in how the Board office processes the different levels of licensure applications, and during the June and July meetings, the Board discussed and approved the Board's required Language Access Plan. She shared that in August, the Board approved revisions to its Renewal Policy and its Application for Reinstatement. In September, it approved revisions to its Budget policy. And in October, it reviewed and discussed the proposed Supervisor Handbook, which was approved earlier today during the Board's regular meeting. The Board did not have a November meeting, and the December meeting included the beginning discussions around financial assistance to certain applicants taking the EPPP exams. She shared that the Board approved a records retention policy in late 2023.

She stated the Continuing Education requirement is something that has been in progress for the past six or seven months. She shared that the CE approval is something that the Board office does with great efficiency and consistency in conjunction with Ms. Abarca, they just need to write down the procedure.

She stated they still have to update an Employee Manual.

Regarding annual legislative and regulation training, she shared she is not sure what is available for this and if there is still a need for this. She can research this and come back with some information.

Regarding future legislative needs, the Executive Director shared that Master's level licensing is an ongoing topic in the ASPPB, but she's not aware of any model language that is yet available. She stated she continues to track this development. Once there is more concrete information and model language, it is something the Board can consider and discuss as it concerns any legislative efforts on that. She shared that regarding removal of legislation that requires registration of businesses with the Board and a revision to address the term psychometry as it relates to a regulation to which they want to align it, are in a Bill draft request that will hopefully go through during this next legislative session. As to 2025 legislative tracking, that is something she has been and will be doing on an ongoing and engaged basis during the next session

Regarding external audits and financial oversight, she stated this is not something that specifically needs to be overtaken. She works closely with the bookkeeper and their financial audit team on a regular basis to ensure their finances are accurate. She added this may be obsolete if the Board's finances get handed over to the state depending on what happens with SB78.

Regarding the State Exam, she stated this is something that they have begun reviewing with Dr. Holland, and will be picking back up on after they get through renewals and as they make their way through the legislative session.

Lastly, the Executive Director reviewed future goals and objectives. She shared that one of the objectives is an increase in base pay for Board staff. She shared that after the late renewal period ends on March 1, she will be evaluating the budget to determine the extent to which the Board can afford to increase the Board Staff's base salaries. She stated there are a number of considerations that she will address with the Board when that comes up for Board approval, not the least of which is to bring those salaries more in alignment with what the Board office staffs role entail and require as well as who the Board has in those roles, and also to address cost of living increases that the State provided to state employees in 2023 and in 2024 and with which other Nevada Boards have followed suit.

She went on to share that EPPP assistance is something that is currently being discussed in cooperation with BeHereNV. It was a topic that was discussed a bit during the December 2024 meeting and will continue to be discussed as BeHereNV has updates and is able to develop funding plans.

Lastly regarding goals, she shared that the Board's current database and renewal system is a bit antiquated and can be frustrating for its users. For purposes of it being the Board's renewal platform, it is not terribly efficient, as licensees who use it often have trouble logging in, the system is particular about how certain information is entered, and despite providing instruction, it doesn't always get entered correctly, and it requires a lot of manual effort on her and Sarah's part. She stated they both think there are better and more automated ways to process licensure renewals and maintain a database for applicants, registrants, and licensees. She stated that until they know how the State's new CMS rollout will go and what will be offered with it, and until they know what is going to happen with SB78, they aren't sure yet what they should be looking into.

The Board had no other additions for the future goals and objectives.

14. (For Possible Action) Schedule of Future Board Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops. The Board May Discuss and Decide Future Meeting Dates, Hearing Dates, and Workshop Dates.

The next regular meeting of the Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners is currently scheduled for Friday, February 14, 2025, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

15. Request for Future Board Meeting Agenda Items (No Discussion Among the Members will Take Place on this Item)

There were no requests for future Board meeting agenda items.

16. Public Comment. The Board wants to remind those who participate in public comment that you are limited to three minutes per person, and that public comment is reserved for comment only. It will not be used as a platform for questions and answers. If you have a statement that is longer than three minutes, please submit your statement in writing and the Board will include it in the written materials that are posted. If you have questions for which you would like answers, please email the Board office at nbop@govmail.state.nv.us.

Dr. Benuto wanted to remind members of the public that our Deputy Attorney General has requested that no public comment be made on any pending complaints.

Akiko Hines provided public comment. She shared that Nevada is the last state that offers the EPPP Part 2 because Georgia reversed their decision last month. She stated she feels it is easy for Board members to state they need to continue to have this test but if they've never taken it, it's not fair to require that if they've never had to take it. She stated there's quite a few people who have to retake the test, which costs \$450. She stated this does not benefit the marginalized community if they need providers. She stated if ASPPB is going to combine the tests, then she isn't sure why they need to continue to have two separate tests.

Dr. Thomas Kinsora shared concerns around test security. He stated that he feels they're on the brink of losing the protection of their test materials and this is something he is going to push to the state Supreme Court. He believes the Board needs to start putting things together including getting attorneys together to go before the Supreme Court. He stated he's in a case now where he was forced to turn over his raw data. He stated the attorneys are requesting all copies of his tests and all materials. Being forced to turn these documents over sets a dangerous precedent. He stated if attorneys are able to get these materials, they will coach their clients. He stated he needs something from the legislature or directly from the Board that guides psychologists so when they're faced with this, so they can go to the judge with this information to protect them from giving their protected tests.

17. (For Possible Action) Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, President Dr. Benuto adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.