

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

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**March 7, 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 8:03 a.m. on March 7, 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.; Catherine Pearson, Ph.D.; and Robert Moering, Psy.D. were present at roll call. Stephanie Holland, Psy.D. was absent. There was a quorum of the Board members.

Also present were Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Harry Ward; Executive Director Laura Arnold; Administrative Director Sarah Restori; members of the public: Donald Hoier, Akiko Hinds, and Caller 1.

**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](mailto: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. Minutes. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of the State of Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners' February 14, 2025, Meeting.**

There were no comments or changes suggested for the minutes of the February 14, 2025, meeting.

*On motion by Moering, second by Pearson, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on February 14, 2024. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Robert Moering, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.*

#### **4. Financials**

- A. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025).

The Executive Director presented the Treasurer's Report for fiscal year 2025. She shared that as of February 28, 2025, the checking account balance was \$497,608.15. With the end of February being in the second half of fiscal year 2025, she shared that the Board was operating on a little over \$182,000 in deferred revenue from licensure renewals, which includes those received prior to December 31, 2024, for the 2025-26 biennium and that is distributed to the first 2025-26 biennium quarter which is the second half of fiscal year 2025. She shared that the Board is also operating on about \$56,000 that was received in late renewals in the first quarter of the 2023-24 biennium and distributed to the fourth 2023-24 biennium quarter and new licensures, registrations, and reinstatements during the first half of fiscal year 2025 and what it has received so far in the 2nd half of fiscal year 2025 (also the 1st 2025-26 biennium quarter). The savings account balance was \$105,118.87. Lastly, she shared with the end of February being 2/3 of the way through fiscal year 2025, the Board is a little over 61% of budgeted expenditures and little over 103% of expected revenue and cash based on the current budget.

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

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

- B. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Revisions to the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).

The Executive Director shared that with renewals now completed and the Board's revenue, income, and expenses having performed better in most line items than projected so far during this fiscal year, she made some revisions to the budget to adjust various budgeted amounts to more closely reflect the actual amounts that the Board has received and spent at this point in the fiscal year. She shared that for income, she increased the deferred revenue items that included revenue received and attributed to

this first biennium quarter. She shared that for expenses, she made various adjustments to get them more in line with performance, and because the Board's income and revenue is more than projected. She shared the Board continues to have a healthy projected budget.

***On motion by Monique Abarca, second by Robert Moering, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the proposed revisions to the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Robert Moering, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.***

- C. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to approve paying the 2024 Nevada State Assessment Fee for PsyPact in the amount of \$1,300.

The Executive Director shared that the Board office has received PsyPact's Assessment fee for 2024 in the total amount of \$1,300.00. That amount reflects 118 APIT Holders in the amount of \$1,180.00 and 12 TAP Holders in the amount of \$120.00. The invoice is due to be paid by April 15, 2025.

***On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Monique Abarca, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved paying the PsyPact Invoice in the amount of \$1,300. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Robert Moering, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.***

- D. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to approve paying the Board's ASPPB fees, which are expected to be approximately \$2,500.

The Executive Director shared that based on the number of Nevada licensees, the invoice for its ASPPB dues is \$2,387.00.

***On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Robert Moering, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved paying the Board's ASPPB fees. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Robert Moering, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.***

## **5. Legislative/Regulation Update**

- A. (For Possible Action) Report, Discussion and Possible Action on Regulation Activities and Legislative Activities, including the work of Interim Committees, the Nevada Legislature, the Legislative Counsel Bureau, and any position or action the Board may take on or in response to Bills that have been signed into Law, Legislative Bills, and Bill Draft Requests that the Board is tracking, following, or that may impact the Board and its Operations.

The Executive Director presented legislative updates. She stated she's still waiting for an LCB draft of R192-24 in order to schedule that regulation for a hearing. She shared that as for the continuing education regulation the Board workshopped and approved to move forward, they have obtained a legislative file number for that which is R001-25, and as with the other regulation, they're waiting on an LCB draft so that we can move it forward to a hearing.

The Executive Director shared that she continues to monitor introduced bills and bill draft requests.

She shared that SB 78, the Board consolidation bill, is still in its early stages, with the version available on the legislature's website being the same draft shared with Board members in November. The Department of Business and Industry (B&I) has presented updates on the bill but has not yet released new revisions, though they plan to do so soon. Additionally, following the implementation of SB 431 in 2023, which placed Nevada's Boards under B&I's oversight, fiscal note requests are now routed through B&I rather than directly to the Boards. Furthermore, all Boards and Commissions have been instructed to use official B&I letterhead, with each Board identifying itself and its executive director. If SB 78 passes as currently written, this Board will be abolished as of July 1, 2026, and its staff will become employees of B&I.

She went on to share that SB165 introduces a new licensure for Behavioral Health and Wellness Practitioners under this Board's regulation. The Board reviewed the bill in February, and a Committee presentation occurred on February 26. Amendments addressing concerns have been proposed but are not yet formalized. The Board will be updated once they are incorporated.

Next, the Executive Director shared that SB251 proposes replacing the Board's registration process for Psychological Assistants, Interns, and Trainees with provisional licenses while updating application requirements, fees, and national exam eligibility. A fiscal note highlighted that the new maximum fees for Interns and Trainees would be lower than the current rates. However, the Board raised concerns, including a requirement in Section 13(3) that trainees complete coursework before applying for a provisional license, which conflicts with their student status. Additionally, Section 13(7) allows all supervisees to take the national exam, contradicting Board and ASPPB policies that require coursework completion and director approval. The Board also seeks to ensure that the bill does not unintentionally permit independent practice for supervisees.

She shared that AB196 is the Board's BDR request that does a bit of cleanup in our statutes that the Board discussed in late 2023. That bill was presented to the legislature in late February. If it passes out of the Assembly, it will next go before the senate.

Lastly, she shared that SB 68 impacts the Board's NRS 641.145 reporting requirement, while AB64 modifies public meeting requirements.

- B. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Identify one or more Board representatives to Engage with the Legislature during the Legislative Session without Prior Board approval when Necessary to Address Proposed Legislation.

The Executive Director shared that with the legislative session moving quickly and the Board having lost its legislative expert in January, she requested that the Board provide authorization to herself and Dr. Woodard to collaborate and respond to certain bills when circumstances do not provide sufficient time to be able to put it before the Board for consensus or approval.

Dr. Woodard added that it is important for the Board to review potential legislation to help the bill's sponsor understand how the bill is currently written as they could have has potential unintended consequences. She stated that having the opportunity to communicate on behalf of the Board is critically important so language does not move forward that is not ideal.

*On motion by Monique Abarca, second by Robert Moering, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved Laura Arnold and Stephanie Woodard as Board representatives to engage with legislatures during legislative session without prior Board approval. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Robert Moering, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 5-0.*

## **6. Report from the Nevada Psychological Association.**

There were no updates from the Nevada Psychological Association.

Dr. Benuto shared that she is on the ASPPB EPPP Task Force Committee. She stated they had their first meeting last week and wanted to make sure the representatives from NPA and the Board knew that there would be a number of Town Hall meetings that will be held for people to attend and provide feedback.

## **7. Report from the Board Office on Operations.**

The Administrative Director presented the Board office statistics. She shared that in January and February, the Board licensed 14 new Psychologists, received 22 licensure applications, and administered 8 state exams. She shared that as of February 28, which was the end of the late renewal period, the Board has 682 active licensees who have renewed their license for the 2025-26 biennium. Also as of February 28, 113 licensees renewed their license as Inactive, and 21 let the Board know they would not be

renewing their license and are now expired. She stated there are still 36 licensees who were active during the 2023-24 biennium that have not yet renewed, but some of whom may apply to reinstate their license during this biennium. Finally, at the end of February, the Board had 149 active applications for licensure, and as for those the Board registers, the psychological assistants, psychological interns, and psychological trainees, there were a total of 69 that are registered and 25 active applications.

The Executive Director shared that she had a meeting with Sarah, Dr. Holland, and Dr. Stephen Benning regarding the feasibility of having its own skills-based exam. She shared that Dr. Benning was involved in developing the State Exam as it previously existed and as it exists now. That meeting concerned their task to provide information to the Board regarding the feasibility of the Board reinstating a skills-based exam for those applicants for whom that exam would be required. She hopes to update the Board on the information in April.

## **8. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action on Pending Consumer Complaints:**

### **A. Complaint #19-0626**

DAG Ward informed there is ongoing litigation. The hearing is set for November 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 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. 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 there is ongoing litigation. The hearing is set for November 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 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 to which the respondent has provided a response. DAG Ward to send follow up cease and desist to remove additional language from all online presence.

### **E. Complaint #24-0312(2)**

DAG Ward informed this is a complaint regarding timely reporting. Complaint and notice of hearing served on respondent. The respondent, through counsel, answered the complaint. DAG Ward will forward the draft consent decree to investigator for review and feedback.

### **F. Complaint #24-0605**

DAG Ward informed this complaint was received regarding misrepresentation of credentials and practicing without a license. Cease and desist letter has been sent, with response due in early March.

G. Complaint #24-0607

DAG Ward informed this was a self-report from a licensee regarding two misdemeanor convictions. Respondent has agreed to the Investigator's terms for resolution and draft consent decree are pending opposing counsel and the DAG.

H. Complaints #24-0711

#24-0719

#24-0726

#24-0823

DAG Ward informed these four complaints are against the same psychologist. There is ongoing investigation.

I. Complaint #24-0730

DAG Ward informed Cease and Desist letter was sent from DAG Ward regarding unlicensed practice, but no response from respondent. DAG Ward to resend cease and desist with restricted delivery specific to respondent.

J. Complaint #24-0829

DAG Ward informed this complaint is regarding documentation and the investigation is complete. DAG Ward will prepare proposed disciplinary consent decree per investigator's recommendations.

K. Complaint #24-0903

DAG Ward informed this complaint was received regarding advertising unlicensed activity and forwarded to investigator for review. DAG Ward prepared and served a Cease and Desist letter, to which respondent provided a response. The investigator will continue to monitor respondent's social media for the next few months.

L. Complaint #24-0924

DAG Ward informed this complaint was received and forwarded to the investigator for review. The Cease and Desist letter was sent to the respondent but returned without being delivered. DAG Ward will try to contact respondent through website to perfect service of cease and desist.

M. 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 letter is pending.

N. Complaint #25-0110

DAG Ward informed this is a complaint for unlicensed practice. The complaint was forwarded to the respondent for response. They are pending receipt of response.

O. Complaint #25-0128

DAG Ward informed this is a complaint for unlicensed practice. The complaint was forwarded to respondent for response. They are pending receipt of response.

P. Complaint #25-0218

DAG Ward informed the complaint was received and reviewed. The complaint concerns a court-ordered evaluation, which requires additional documents and information per the Board's complaints policy and they are in process of doing more investigation.

**9. (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: **Frank Weber, Glory Finnegan, Stephen Winston, Christina Figueroa, Julian Filoteo, Ramy Bassioni, Michelle Brandon, Heather Manor, Kaitlyn Abrams, and Kameron Sheikh.**

*On motion by Catherine Pearson, second by Stephanie Woodard, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the following applicants for licensure contingent upon completion of licensure requirements: Frank Weber, Glory Finnegan, Stephen Winston, Christina Figueroa, Julian Filoteo, Ramy Bassioni, Michelle Brandon, Heather Manor, Kaitlyn Abrams, and Kameron Sheikh. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Soseh Esmaeli, Robert Moering, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 6-0.*

**10. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Proposed Examination Retake Application Policy.**

The Executive Director presented the proposed examination retake application policy. She shared that in its continuing efforts to streamline the Board's various applicant review procedures, she prepared a draft policy that governs the review procedure for applicants who request to retake an examination for licensure for a fourth time. She stated that currently, those who fail an examination required for licensure three times must apply to the Board to retake that examination a fourth time, which is considered and addressed at an open and public Board meeting. A review process that does not require an applicant to be subject to a review during a public meeting when facing a fourth exam retake aligns and is consistent with the rationale for the review policies the Board has created for other review scenarios, such as background check reviews and test accommodation applications.



*On motion by Robert Moering, second by Monique Abarca, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the Examination Retake Application Policy. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Soseh Esmaeili, Robert Moering, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 6-0.*

**11. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Revision to the Board’s Employment, Compensation, and Evaluation Policy to add a Board Consultant position.**

The Executive Director presented the proposed revisions to the Board’s Employment, Compensation, and Evaluation policy to add a Board Consultant position with the idea that Dr. Lenkeit could be the first to fill that roll so that the Board could continue to benefit from Dr. Lenkeit’s deep knowledge regarding and experience with the Board when and if needed. She shared that pursuant to NRS 641.115, which permits the Board to “Employ attorneys, investigators, consultants, hearing officers, and employees necessary to the discharge of its duties” she drafted the proposed revision to the Board’s Employment, Compensation, and Evaluation policy to add a Board Consultant role. She shared that with the Board Consultant role in place in that policy, and depending on what happens with SB 78, the Board can continue to benefit from the knowledge and experience of not only Dr. Lenkeit, but other past Board members that may succeed Dr. Lenkeit in that role when issues arise for which the Board seeks input and consultation.

DAG Ward added that contractors, like Board investigators, would be bona fide employees of the Board.

*On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Monique Abarca, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved revision to the Board’s Employment, Compensation, and Evaluation Policy to add a Board Consultant position. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Soseh Esmaeili, Robert Moering, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 6-0.*

**12. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action on revising Question No. 20 on the Board’s License Renewal Application Form to comply with 2013 SB338.**

The Executive Director presented the current license renewal application. She shared that during the license renewal period for the current biennium, a licensee noted that Question No. 20 of the renewal application contained language that had been changed during the 2013 legislative session. Specifically, 2013 SB338 changed the term “mental retardation” to “intellectual disability.” It is proposed that the Board approve revising

that question to incorporate what is required by 2013 SB338, by stating “those with intellectual disabilities” in place of “the mentally retarded.”

*On motion by Robert Moering, second by Catherine Pearson, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved revising Question No. 20 on the Board’s License Renewal Application Form to comply with 2013 SB338. (Yea: Lorraine Benuto, Monique Abarca, Soseh Esmaeili, Robert Moering, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 6-0.*

**13. (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, April 11, 2025, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

**14. Requests 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.

**15. 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](mailto: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.

There was no public comment.

**16. (For Possible Action) Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, President Dr. Benuto adjourned the meeting at 8:49 a.m.