



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

4334 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, #C-150
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Voice: (225)295-8410
Fax: (225)295-8412
Email: admin.lsbep@la.gov
Website: lsbep.org

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE #3

April 8, 2020

Dear Licensee,

The LSBEP officers and administration recognize the rapid changes occurring in your lives and practices. Therefore, this agency will continue sending weekly updates every Wednesday for the duration of the COVID19 emergency. This update is the third in this "Weekly Wednesday" series and contains information and decisions made by the Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on April 3, 2020; refer to the LSBEP website for archived weekly updates and other communication from the board. Additionally, please note that we are aware that due to rapid changes in information and interpretation of various directives from state and local officials, information may vary over time. Please ensure you are referencing the most updated information when making decisions about their practice.

As previously noted, should news impacting your practice require more immediate attention, additional updates may be necessary. Koren Boggs, Ph.D., Chair; Amy Henke, Psy.D., Vice Chair; and Jaime Monic, Executive Director have been meeting daily via telephone or Zoom to discuss developments in regulation and resources you need to remain compliant in your practice while putting the health and welfare of your patients first. Our goal is to keep you informed, but not overwhelm your email!

For our third Weekly Wednesday Update, we would like to advise you of the following:

- 1) As many of you are aware, Governor John Bel Edwards extended the "Stay At Home" Order until April 30, 2020 (Proclamation No. [Proclamation 41-JBE-2020](#)).
- 2) LSBEP has posted LDH Advisory Memo [#2020-COVID19-ALL PROVIDERS-001](#) from Interim Secretary Stephen R. Russo to all health care providers. This memo was published by the Louisiana Department of Health and contains a summary of recent federal legislation passed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the types of funding available to health care providers.
- 3) **Continuing Professional Development** - For the 2020 renewal period, the Board is waiving the requirement that CPD credits must be obtained from at least two different subcategories under the LAC §803. That is, licensees can obtain **all** CPD credits from activities in **one** of the nine subcategories listed in the LAC Chapter 8. Additionally, for BOTH the 2018-2020 and 2019-2021 renewal periods, the board reduced the number of required CPD credits from 40 to 30, understanding the hardship imposed on all licensees during this crisis.
- 4) **Revised Tele-Supervision Application** - A revised tele-supervision application ("[Application For Authorization To Provide Tele-Supervision To Psychology Trainees/Unlicensed Assistants To Psychologists](#)") is available on the LSBEP website. The application does NOT need to be re-submitted if the licensee has already applied and been approved to provide tele-supervision. The new application allows for a supervising licensed psychologist to submit one application form for all individuals under their supervision. The Board voted to continue to waive the \$25 fee for this

application for the duration of the Governor's "Stay at Home" Order. Local and regional Ordinances issued by Mayors will also be taken into consideration should the statewide Order expire.

- 5) **Supervision Requirements** - On April 3, 2020, for the period beginning March 11, 2020, through the duration of the Governor's "Stay at Home" Order, the Board voted to waive the requirement that at least 50% of approved tele-supervision of trainees and assistants be provided in-person. All other supervision requirements remain the same (e.g., minimum supervision time requirements, appropriateness of activities delegated to assistants and trainees, etc.).
- 6) **Licensing Requirements** - Oral examinations for licensure continue! LSBEP will continue to process applications and issue licenses in accordance with LA R.S. 37:2356 *et al.*
 - a) The Board will waive the in-person requirement for administration of the Oral Examination and will conduct face-to-face examinations via Zoom.
 - b) Background check requirements have not been waived. Appointments are required when going directly to Louisiana State Police for fingerprinting. Alternately, **IdentoGO** has some locations that will print fingerprint cards for applicants to submit to the LSBEP for processing. It is advised that you make an appointment and also call ahead to confirm this option is available at the location nearest you. Their website is: <http://marketing-appserver-prod-alb-155151427.us-east-1.elb.amazonaws.com/locations>
 - c) Testing sites for the EPPP remain closed. There is a direct link to Pearsonvue on our website with information on continuing testing.
- 7) The Louisiana Department of Health - Office of Behavioral Health (LDH-OBH) is providing free, 24/7 counseling support services for Louisiana citizens. These services can be accessed through <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/5492>.

LSBEP again thanks Louisiana Psychologists for stepping up to the challenges in applying technology to deliver psychological services to their patients and clients safely, while respecting the health and well-being of their patients/clients, the people with whom they work, themselves, as well as the individuals who have no other choice but to be exposed to COVID19. Our Ethical Standards are established for the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom psychologists work. Therefore, our charge is to think of others before ourselves and to consider all risks when determining how to provide vital care to our clients and patients. Emergency Orders and Proclamations from Federal, State and Local Governments impose stricter but necessary restrictions and guidelines impacting the delivery of psychological services for the time being. History will remember our actions or inactions at this time. Let us remember why we all chose this profession and be on the side of history that aligns with the health and well-being of all people.

Sincerely,

LSBEP Executive Committee

Koren Boggs, Ph.D., Chair

Amy Henke, Psy.D., Vice Chair

Jaime T. Monic, Executive Director