

# Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists



# LSBEP Newsletter

**Kelly Parker, Editor**

**2014**

**VOLUME 27 NUMBER 1**

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## Message from Board Chair, Rita R. Culross, Ph.D.

When I first joined the Board, the possibility of serving as Chair seemed light years away. With the resignation of Dr. John Courtney, the role passed to me in this, my fourth year on the Board. I am honored by the trust my colleagues on the Board have placed in me, and I pledge to do my very

best to protect the public and to regulate the practice of psychology within Louisiana in a fair and reasoned manner. One of my goals for my term as Chair is to conduct our business in as professional a way as possible. I'd like to use my first column to highlight some of the ways the Board is striving to provide professional interactions with psychologists, potential licensees, and the public.

First, as you already know, the Board has relocated its offices to 8706 Jefferson Highway from our previous location on YMCA Drive. While the business conducted in our facility has certainly grown with the addition of the BA Board activities, our primary reason for seeking new space was to provide a more professional environment for conducting exams and hearings. In our previous space candidates often had to prepare for their oral exams in a crowded file room, and it was difficult to maintain confidentiality between the public spaces and staff work areas. Our new office addresses those issues, as well as providing easy access from both major interstates in Baton Rouge. Let me add, however, that the increase in space will not result in an increase in fees. By moving to less expensive space, we were able to expand our office without a concomitant increase in cost.

Second, in the last newsletter you learned that we have added a professional investigator, Mr. Tony McCoy. Mr. McCoy is a licensed Private Investigator with extensive law enforcement experience. In the past our investigations were conducted by experienced psychologists licensed by the Board. In addition to bringing our investigatory practices in line with LA regulations, the addition of Mr. McCoy ensures that there is unlikely to be a conflict of interest between the investigator and anyone he might be asked to investigate, as Mr. McCoy is himself not a psychologist.

Third, after many discussions of the Board and consultation with our legal counsel, the Board has made some changes in its policies and procedures for communicating with psychologists and the public. All communications with the Board must come through the Board office. Board members cannot speak individually for the Board, and all of us on the Board have been cautioned not to use our personal email accounts or phones to communicate with individuals, either psychologists or members of the public. Inquiries should be submitted in writing to the Board. Simple questions can still be directed by phone to the Board office. If the Executive Director is unable to answer the questions posed, they will be referred to the Board Chair or Vice Chair. If an individual has an issue with a staff member or member of the Board other than the Chair, the envelope can be addressed to the attention of the Chair and marked "confidential." As always, the Board does *not* accept anonymous letters or complaints.

Our intent in implementing these changes in communication is both to operate within our law and rules and to ensure that the Board can obtain complete information before issuing any decisions that impact psychologists or the public.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their service, compassion, and reasoned judgment as we deliberate each month. I am not sure that psychologists are aware of the diversity and level of expertise represented on the Board. The current members bring experience in training, research, forensics, private practice, and group practice. The three women and two men reside in five different parishes in LA and have a combined 116 years of experience as licensed psychologists. When the next vacancy occurs on the Board, I hope that qualified licensed psychologists who can bring other aspects of diversity to the composition of the Board will consider running for a position on the Board.

Rita R. Culross, Ph.D.  
Board Chair

## ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists held its annual awards ceremony in honor of former board member, Dr. Lee Matthews on November 8, 2014.

Dr. Culross presented Dr. Matthews with an honorary plaque for his dedicated service to LSBEP.



**The Statutory Reference Compilation has been updated.**

**Please review the new version for updated materials, at:**

**[www.lsbep.org](http://www.lsbep.org)**

## **\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\*\***

### **New Opinion**

Opinion #017

Retention of Continuing Education Records

Issued: September 13, 2013

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) opines that all Louisiana licensed psychologists should retain continuing education records for 6 years from the last renewal date. Continuing education records include but are not limited to: certificates of attendance and certificates of completion.

Opinion #018

Psychologists advertising as Behavior Analysts

Issued: December 13, 2013

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists [LSBEP] issues this opinion pursuant to the Behavior Analyst Practice Act – Act 351. This opinion is for the purpose of clarification that psychologists cannot advertise as “ Behavior Analysts” unless licensed by the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board.

### **New Rules**

Notice of Final Rules Effective October 20, 2013

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) have officially adopted modifications to Chapter 8- Continuing Education, Chapter 9- Licensees, and Chapter 10- Temporary Registration.

# PROVISIONAL LICENSURE TASK FORCE

## **PROVISIONAL LICENSURE TASK FORCE – FINAL RECOMMENDATION**

The Provisional License Task force was formed at the request of the Board at the Long Range Planning meeting in March 2013. The task force was created to study the feasibility of instituting a provisional license as a psychologist in the State of Louisiana. The Board sought self-nominations to the task force from psychologists working within institutions conferring doctoral degrees in psychology and pre-doctoral internships within the state as well as the Louisiana Psychological Association. The task force first met on June 7, 2013 and has held meetings as needed.

### **RATIONALE**

Providing the option for provisional licensure within the state of Louisiana will provide benefit to both the public and professionals. One duty of the LSBEP is to ensure individuals are well trained and qualified to provide services and that their activities are in conformity with the professional standards of practice within the state. The provisional licensure process will allow the LSBEP to more closely monitor the supervision of individuals as an approved supervised practice plan is required. Requiring continuing education during the period of provisional licensure will help ensure competence. The ability to revoke a provisional license allows the board and additional avenue for discipline.

Allowing individuals who have completed one year post doctoral supervision or an approved internship to become provisionally licensed is an ongoing national trend and supported by national psychological associations. One of the benefits of provisional licensure would be the ability of provisionally licensed individuals to offer services for compensation in areas not available to individuals who are not provisionally licensed. This may allow institutions employing such individuals additional avenues for revenue and the ability to increase the services offered to the public or the ability to train or hire more mental health professionals. Overall, this may lead to greater access to mental health services. Lastly, the ability to obtain a provisional license offers an option for individuals at this level to have a professional identity/title.

### **SUMMARY OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

After careful consideration, the Provisional Licensure Task force formally recommends that the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists create a new licensure category entitled provisional licensure.

Individuals eligible for provisional licensure will be those individuals who have completed one year of post-doctoral supervised practice (or an approved pre-doctoral internship) and have received a doctoral degree from an approved institution.

It is further recommended that individuals who are provisionally licensed be supervised for an additional one year prior to eligibility for full licensure.

Other recommendations include:

1. Provisional licensure candidates must complete and have approved a supervised practice plan prior to granting provisional licensure.
2. Termination of the supervised practice plan of a provisionally licensed individual must be reported to the LSBEP by both the supervisor and supervisee in writing, by postal mail within 7 calendar days from when either party knew or should have known supervision was terminated.
3. Provisional licensure applicants must pass the jurisprudence examination
4. Provisional licensure applicants must complete a Criminal Background Check as well as meet other specific standards as defined in the licensure law.
5. Provisionally licensed individuals may sit for the EPPP as per already established Board laws and regulations.
6. Provisionally licensed individuals must complete annual CE's as defined by the Board.
7. A provisional license is renewable yearly and may be renewed a total of three times. Failure to renew in a timely manner will result in termination of the provisional license. If not renewed, an individual may make a new application to the Board, with appropriate fees, and any other requirements, as the Board deems appropriate.
8. Provisionally licensed individuals are subject to the rules, regulations, standards of practice, code of ethics and any other guidelines adopted by the LSBEP.

# SCHOOL SPECIALIST TASK FORCE

## **Report of the School Specialist Task Force Prepared for the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists Revised November 21, 2013**

At its March 2013 Long Range Planning meeting, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) was approached by Dr. Steven Welsh, licensed psychologist with a specialty in school psychology, about the possible regulation of school specialists under LSBEP. At its subsequent board meeting, LSBEP agreed to appoint a task force to study the issue and report back to the board. The board appointed Dr. Rita Culross, then Vice-Chair of LSBEP, to chair the task force. Other members who were subsequently appointed to the task force were Dr. Carmen Broussard, licensed school psychologist representing the Nicholls State University Specialist Program in School Psychology; Ms. Susan Ratterree, Louisiana representative to the National Association of School Psychologists; Dr. Constance Patterson, licensed school psychologist, representing the Tulane University doctoral program in School Psychology; Ms. Francois Parr, representing the Louisiana Association of School Psychologists; Mr. David White, Executive Director of the Louisiana Psychological Association; Dr. Welsh, retired Nicholls State dean and licensed school psychologist; and Ms. Kelly Parker, Executive Director of LSBEP (ex-officio). The task force began meeting June 28, 2013 and met monthly through October 25, 2013.

Procedurally, the task force sought wide input on the issue of regulating school specialists through LSBEP. The task force conducted a survey of all licensed psychologists and all school psychologists certified through BESE in Louisiana (LA). 189 individuals responded to the survey, indicating whether they were licensed by LSBEP and/or certified by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), whether they were Nationally Certified School Psychologists (NCSP), where they were employed, how many years of experience they had, what qualifications LSBEP should consider in regulating school specialists, what they believed the advantages and disadvantages might be, and whether they would pursue licensure, if offered.

The task force also sought to ascertain the number of licensed school psychologists within LA\* and the distribution of those in the state, compared the training of doctoral-level school psychologists with specialist-level school psychologists, looked at national models of training for specialist-level school psychologists, and reviewed the scope of practice articulated by NASP. The following summarizes the task force findings.

\*Note: Individuals licensed as psychologists with a specialty in school must hold the doctoral degree.

### Rationale

The primary role of the LSBEP is "to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare of this state, and in order to protect the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified, and improper application of psychology." Although specialists in school psychology are trained by psychologists within psychology programs in LA and elsewhere, they are not regulated by the profession of psychology. Within LA they are permitted to perform their official duties and use the title "certified school psychologist" only within the context of their employment by a public agency regulated by BESE. They are exempt from regulation by LSBEP as long as they do not seek to practice psychology outside an agency regulated by BESE. While this division provides some assurance to the public that the individuals serving the needs of students in schools are qualified to offer psychological services, certified school psychologists are not subject to the ethical and professional standards of the profession as promulgated by the Board. Permitting at least a portion of these individuals to be licensed under LSBEP would increase the quality control of school psychological services.

Currently, there are 77 psychologists with a specialty in school licensed by LSBEP. Nine of those reside out of state, leaving 68 to serve students within LA's 64 parishes. In truth, licensed school psychologists reside in only 17 of the 64 parishes, leaving 47 (73%) of LA's parishes, especially those in rural areas, without a licensed school psychologist. While there are approximately 240 certified school psychologists in LA, none of those is authorized to practice outside a public school. Likewise, certified school psychologists may not contract with a school under existing law. They can only perform psychological services as a school employee. In 2013 there were approximately 690,000 students in LA public schools. The effective ratio of certified school psychologists to students is 2875 to 1. The ratio of LA students to licensed school psychologists to LA students is >10,000:1. Moreover, such numbers do not include the number of students enrolled in private schools in LA. There are an additional 140,000 students in private schools and an unknown number enrolled in LA's 77 charter schools. By law, certified school psychologists may not serve private school students. It is unlikely they serve students in charter schools as well, as most such schools are too small to employ a certified school psychologist on staff.

# SCHOOL SPECIALIST TASK FORCE

## (continued)

Louisiana faces a chronic shortage in the number of qualified licensed and certified school psychologists. A provision through which LSBEP would license specialists in school psychology to provide services as contract employees to schools—public, private, and charter—and would increase the availability of psychological services to children and youth in LA.

Louisiana currently has two specialist-level training programs within its higher education system, one at Nicholls State University and one at Louisiana State University-Shreveport. Both are nationally-accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists. Louisiana also has two doctoral-level school psychology training programs, Tulane University and LSU A&M. Both doctoral programs are accredited by APA. While the primary mission of the two specialist programs is to prepare practitioners, the primary mission of the two doctoral-level programs is to prepare university professors, researchers, and systems' level administrators.

In comparing specialist-level and doctoral level training, the chart reveals the following. The doctoral program requires 90 credit hours post-baccalaureate vs. 72 for the specialist program. The most significant difference in preparation is that the doctoral program requires much more training in research methods and statistics, as well as a thesis and a dissertation. Both require an internship. The doctoral program requires a 12-month internship of 2000 hours vs. a 9-month, 1200 hour internship for the specialist-level. Both programs require extensive preparation in assessment and diagnosis, treatment/intervention/prevention/and foundational work. To be licensed for independent practice in Louisiana, doctorally-prepared psychologists must also complete a supervised post-doctoral experience. Certified school psychologists must practice under supervision within the schools for a minimum of three years after obtaining their degree and school psychologist's certificate. Please note: The specialist degree is **not** a master's degree. It requires considerably more preparation than the typical master's degree. Indeed, national accreditation now recognizes the specialist degree as the entry level degree for certified school psychologists.

### Recommendations

The task force recommends that LSBEP create a category of licensure under the board entitled "Licensed Specialist in School Psychology." The scope of practice for such individuals is defined as follows:

The practice of licensed specialists in school psychology (LSSP) is defined as applying psychological principles, methods, and procedures to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. Licensed specialists in school psychology collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community for all students. Licensed specialists in school psychology apply their knowledge of both psychology and education during consultation and collaboration with others. They conduct effective decision making using a foundation of assessment and data collection. Licensed specialists in school psychology engage in specific services for students, such as direct and indirect interventions that focus on academic skills, learning, socialization, and mental health. Licensed specialists in school psychology provide services to schools and families that enhance the competence and well-being of children, including promotion of effective and safe learning environments, prevention of academic and behavior problems, response to crises, and improvement of family-school collaboration. The key foundations for all services by school psychologists are understanding of diversity in development and learning; research and program evaluation; and legal, ethical, and professional practice. (Adapted from [http://www.nasponline.org/about\\_sp/whatis.aspx](http://www.nasponline.org/about_sp/whatis.aspx)) Licensed specialists in school psychology would maintain a scope of practice consistent with NASP standards, and consistent across public, private, and charter schools. The types of evaluations performed by licensed specialists in school psychology will be those that are germane to the current state educational bulletins, specifically Louisiana Bulletins 1706 and 1508. No school based evaluations conducted by licensed specialists in school psychology would employ DSM or ICD diagnosis.

Licensed specialists in school psychology may practice independently as employees or contractors of public, private, or charter schools or through a contractual arrangement with a licensed psychologist. Any licensed specialist in school psychology who is working outside of the school system would be required to do so under the clinical supervision of a licensed psychologist, such that the licensed psychologist is both administratively and clinically responsible for the final work product of licensed specialist in school psychology, and the licensed psychologist would be required to cosign any final reports produced under the contract. Nothing in this proposal would prohibit school psychologists duly certified by the Louisiana Department of Education from fulfilling their duties within the public schools. Further, nothing proposed would prohibit licensed psychologists providing service within the schools as long as the services provided are within the psychologist's area of competence.

# SCHOOL SPECIALIST TASK FORCE

(continued)

The qualifications for licensure are as follows:

- a. Completion of a 72-hour School Specialist degree from a NASP-approved program or equivalent to include: psychoeducational assessment, social-emotional assessment, consultation, behavior management, professional and legal issues, counseling, organization and operation of schools, research, and related practica.
- b. A 1200-hour, 9 month internship (600 hours of which must be in a school setting), supervised by a certified school psychologist in the school setting or by a licensed psychologist in a community setting (e.g. clinic).
- c. 3 school years of supervised experience as a certified school psychologist within the public schools
- d. A criminal background check.
- e. Successful completion of the LA jurisprudence exam.
- f. Successful completion of the written Praxis exam in School Psychology required for the NCSP.
- g. Continuing education of at least 25 hours per year.

These qualifications are a combination of the model promulgated by the NASP accrediting body (sections a and b) in combination with existing requirements (sections c-g) in LA law.

An advisory panel consisting of three licensed psychologists with a specialty in school psychology plus the Executive Director of LSBEP (ex-officio) would review applications for licensed specialists in school psychology and make recommendations to LSBEP. No changes in the composition of the Board are proposed.

## DO OTHER STATES HAVE AN EMERITUS LICENSE?

The LSBEP is currently considering changes to the Emeritus license. The LSBEP has accepted and considered all comments received to date. Most recently, the LSBEP polled other states through the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards [ASPPB] list serve to gain national information. Below is a summary of the [ASPPB] responses:



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION	
<b>Submitting Jurisdiction:</b>	Louisiana
<b>Requestor:</b>	Kelly Parker, Executive Director
<b>Date Posting Submitted:</b>	1.3.2014
RESPONSES	
Responding Jurisdiction	Responses
Arizona	Arizona law does not allow for "Emeritus" status. A license is either Active or Inactive.
Massachusetts	Massachusetts does not have a similar emeritus or retired status.
Mississippi	<p>Mississippi Rules does allow for "Emeritus" status as follows.</p> <p><b>RULE 9.4: PSYCHOLOGISTS EMERITUS:</b> A psychologist who holds a valid license to practice in Mississippi may apply for psychologist emeritus if the psychologist meets following criteria, from Miss Code Ann §73-31-17:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The psychologist is 65 years old or older, and</li> <li>B. Has held a Mississippi license for at least twenty (20) continuous years, and</li> <li>C. Is retired from full-time practice, as defined by no more that eighty (80) hours per month of practice of any type, as defined by Miss Code Ann §73-31-3 (d), and</li> <li>D. Has submitted the appropriate application to the Board.</li> <li>E. Upon approval by the Board, the psychologist emeritus must renew his or her license on the same annual schedule as permanent license at one half (1/2) the amount of the permanent license renewal fee.</li> <li>F. Continuing Education requirements are unchanged.</li> <li>G. If a psychologist wishes to give up emeritus status and reinstate a standard license he or she must file a written request with the Board.</li> </ul> <p>Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§73-31-3(d), 73-31-7 and 73-31-17</p>

<b>Missouri</b>	<b>Missouri does not, in Missouri a practitioner must hold an active license if work 1 day so no one can work in Missouri for any amount of time without an active license.</b>
<b>Nevada</b>	<p><b>Your Emeritus license sounds similar to our inactive license, here is the regulation:</b></p> <p><b>NAC 641.133 Placement of license on inactive status; renewal or restoration to active status. (NRS 641.100, 641.110, 641.160, 641.170)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Upon written request to the Board and payment of the fee prescribed by the Board, a psychologist, licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant behavior analyst may have his or her license placed on inactive status.</b></li> <li><b>2. A person whose license is placed on inactive status shall not engage in the practice of psychology or applied behavior analysis, as applicable, during the period in which the license is on inactive status.</b></li> <li><b>3. A person who wishes to renew a license that is placed on inactive status must submit to the Board:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(a) An application for the renewal of the license; and</b></li> <li><b>(b) The fee for the biennial renewal of a license on inactive status.</b></li> </ol> </li> <li><b>4. A person whose license is placed on inactive status may apply to the Board to have the license restored to active status. The Board will restore the license to active status upon:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(a) The submission of an application for the restoration of the license;</b></li> <li><b>(b) The payment of the appropriate fee as set forth in NAC 641.135 for the restoration to active status of a license on inactive status;</b></li> <li><b>(c) The submission of proof of completion of the requirements for continuing education for the 2 years immediately preceding the date of the application;</b></li> <li><b>(d) If the applicant has engaged in the practice of psychology or applied behavior analysis, as applicable, in another jurisdiction during the period his or her license was on inactive status, the submission of proof that he or she is in good standing and that there are no disciplinary proceedings pending against him or her in that jurisdiction;</b></li> <li><b>(e) Submission of any other proof the Board may require to determine whether the applicant is qualified and competent to engage in the practice of psychology or applied behavior analysis, as applicable; and</b></li> <li><b>(f) If the Board considers it necessary, the successful completion of the national examination or the state examination administered by the Board pursuant to NAC 641.112 or 641.113, as applicable</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	<b>Our Board does not have this status.</b>

<p><b>New York</b></p>	<p><b>New York State does not have any form of "emeritus" status for any license in the 50 professions.</b>  <b>If a person wishes to use the title "psychologist" solely for social purposes and not form of professional practice, he or she may do so, but this is not contingent on age. The closest thing that NYS would have to this situation is that for licensed accountants who are not performing any type of accounting, tax, financial or management advisory work in New York State may request and receive an exemption from mandatory CPE requirements by filing a written statement with the Department. For example, an accountant is appointed to the Board of Directors of an entity and is recognized as an accountant for that position (often a retired person) and would require licensure, but if the work does not include any of the noted activities, then he or she could be exempt from continuing education. This, of course, would apply only if he or she confines all work done to activities that meet these requirements.</b></p>
<p><b>Nova Scotia</b></p>	<p><b>Nova Scotia has a "retired" category of registration, with a reduced fee, no work as a psychologist, and no CE requirement.</b></p>
<p><b>Oklahoma</b></p>	<p><b>Oklahoma does not have an Emeritus status. We only have Active, Inactive which means they are not practicing but still have the ability to reactivate without penalties, Invalid which means they let their license lapse and in order to be active and good standing there are penalties.</b></p>
<p><b>Pennsylvania</b></p>	<p><b>The Pennsylvania Board does not have a like or similar "Emeritus" status.</b></p>
<p><b>Rhode Island</b></p>	<p><b>RI does not have Emeritus status. RI has "Inactive" status which is similar to "Expired" status in that it does not allow someone to practice and if they want to renew, they must provide proof of completion CE for a two year licensing cycle.</b></p>
<p><b>Saskatchewan</b></p>	<p><b>We do not have this category of membership – we do have a non-practice category which a retiree can choose to move into and allows them contact with the profession, and re-entry into practice without reapplication should they decide later they wish to do so .</b>  <b>We do require all categories of membership including non-practice to meet the CE requirement of 20 hours annually. They can apply to be exempted from CE if they are sure they will not return to practice – but if they do this and then decide to return to practice they are required to make up for the CE hours they should have earned. The annual renewal fee for non-practice is significantly less than the practice fee.</b></p>

<b>Texas</b>	<p><b>Texas does not have an equivalent to your Emeritus license. A licensee may only practice in Texas with an active license, or in some cases a restricted license, e.g. license with probated suspension. Furthermore, a licensee is still required to comply with professional development requirements, i.e. continuing education, even if his/her license is suspended.</b></p> <p><b>Texas does allow a licensee to retire their license or place it on inactive status. A retired license may not be returned to active status, but a license placed on inactive status may after meeting certain criteria. However, once a licensee retires their license or places it on inactive status, they may no longer practice.</b></p>
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>Wyoming has nothing like this</b>

### **2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The 2014 Louisiana Legislative Session will begin on Monday, March 10, 2014 and is scheduled to end on June 2, 2014. You can find more information about the session and bills at [www. www.legis.la.gov](http://www.legis.la.gov)

### **Communication with the Board**

The LSBEP always encourages feedback and input from the psychology community. We understand that sometimes you may have concerns regarding Board policies or procedures. Your questions and concerns are important to us. However, it is improper to contact individual board members at their personal email addresses, on their personal telephones or at their places of work. Board members cannot speak individually for the Board.

If you have any concerns regarding Board policies or procedures, you may submit them in writing via US mail to the Board office. Any submissions will be reviewed at the next scheduled Board meeting if submitted by the deadline date.

Thank you for your understanding and anticipated cooperation.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE LOCATION!**

**8706 JEFFERSON HWY, SUITE B, BATON ROUGE, LA 70809**



**UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES:**

**February 21, 2014**

**March 21, 2014**

**April 25, 2014**

**May 30, 2014**

**June 20, 2014**

**July TBD**

**Public Hour Begins at 1:00 PM**

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists takes seriously all allegations of wrongdoing against Louisiana licensed psychologists, as well as the unauthorized practice of psychology within this state. Below you will find a listing of recently disciplined psychologists and a brief description of the violations.

### **SUSPENDED - John Boutte, Ph.D.**

The disciplinary hearing of LSBEP v. John Boutte, Ph.D. was held on September 24, 2013. The hearing was held due to Dr. Boutte's violation of a previous Consent Order.

On November 12, 2013, the LSBEP ordered that John Boutte, Ph.D., License #734, be suspended from practice of psychology in the State of Louisiana for a period of 6 months. Said suspension is to be followed immediately by probation for a period of 18 months which shall consist of direct supervision of Boutte's psychological practice. A fine was ordered in the amount of \$500. Boutte was also ordered to pay the administrative costs associated with the investigation and hearing process.

### **REPRIMANDED- Lynn Schechter, Ph.D.**

On December 13, 2013, Lynn R. Schechter, Ph.D., License #940, received a formal reprimanded and entered into a Consent Order with the LSBEP for violations of La. Rev. Statute 37:2359(A), B(12), b(14), and Ethical Standard 2.01(a), Boundaries of Competence, of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (2002).

## **NEW LICENSEES**

### **Issued October 11, 2013**

Dana Broussard Labat, Ph.D. #1249(CL)  
Rebecca E. Becker, Psy.D. #1250(CL)  
Melissa A. Middleton, Ph.D. #1521(CL)  
Robert C. Clanton, Ph.D. #1252(CO)

### **Issued November 7, 2013**

Tommy Max Overman, Ed.D. (reinst.)#845  
William McBride, III, Ph.D. #1253(CL)  
Emily K. Sandoz, Ph.D. #1254(CL)  
Ann M. Crapanzano, Ph.D. #1255(DV)  
Valerie Bellas, Ph.D. #1256(CL)

### **Issued December 13, 2013**

Chavez M. Phelps, Ph.D. #1257(SC)  
Caitlin M. Singletary, Ph.D. #1258(CO)  
Shannae Harness, Ph.D. #1259(CL)  
Bithiah R. Reed, Ph.D. #1260(CL)

### **Issued January 24, 2013**

Julia Becker Cretu, Psy. D. #1261(CL)  
Melissa Jane Dufrene, Psy. D. #1262(CL)  
Kristin L. Savicki, Ph.D. #1263(CO)  
Gustave F. Sison, Jr., Ph.D. #1264(CL)  
Robert M. Nevels, Ph.D. #1265(CL)