

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

FINAL MINUTES

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

TIME: 10:35 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

April 14, 2025

State Board of Psychology
April 14, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Donald McAleer, Psy.D., Chair
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
David Zehrung, Ph.D., Secretary
Steven K. Erickson, JD, Ph.D., LLM
Katherine Bradley, Ph.D.
Daniel Warner, Ph.D.

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Ronald K. Rouse, Board Counsel
Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
Anthony Hong, Board Administrator
Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Adrienne Rachelle McClendon, Esquire, Board
Prosecutor
Carlton Smith, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Prosecution Division
Thomas Leech II, Administrative Officer 2
Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State
Deena Parmelee, Legal Office Administrator,
Department of State

ALSO PRESENT:

Molly Cowan, Psy.D., Director of Professional
Affairs, Pennsylvania Psychological Association
Wesley Rish, Esquire
Citrini Devi
Danielle Miller
Dr. Paul Kettlewell, M.D
Timothy Gates, Esquire
Jennifer Smeltz, Esquire, Republican Executive
Director, Senate Consumer Protection & Professional
Licensure Committee
JA
Erin Badstuebner, Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

State Board of Psychology

April 14, 2025, 2025

[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at 10:35 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session with Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters that are currently pending before the Board and to receive the advice of counsel.]

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Psychology was held on Monday, April 14, 2025. Donald McAleer, Psy.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

[Donald McAleer, Psy.D., Chair, requested an introduction of Board members. A quorum of Board members was present.]

[Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the meeting was being held in a hybrid format both in person and via live stream teleconference.]

Mr. Rouse also noted the meeting was being

1 recorded, and voluntary participation constituted
2 consent to be recorded.]

3 ***

4 Annual Prosecution Report

5 [Carlton Smith, Deputy Chief Counsel, referred to his
6 written Annual Prosecution Report for the
7 presentation. He noted the numbers in the report
8 were pulled the first week of January 2025.

9 Mr. Smith stated the number of active licenses
10 was almost 8,400. The number of opened cases in 2024
11 was 149, similar to 2023 with 141 cases opened. The
12 current number of open cases was 193. 123 cases were
13 closed in 2024. The average number of days to close
14 a case in 2024 is 361. The gold standard is about
15 365 days.

16 Mr. Smith outlined the processing of complaints,
17 including BEI investigations and the gathering of
18 documents related to the complaint. Charging
19 decisions are based on all information gathered.

20 Mr. Smith addressed the types of discipline. He
21 noted a couple reprimand, suspensions, and a
22 voluntary surrender.

23 Mr. Smith noted there are cases where discipline
24 is not imposed. He discussed prosecution not
25 warranted cases, noting prosecution considers the

1 seriousness of the allegations and disciplinary
2 history but also considers an expert's opinion in
3 terms of standard of care and their confidence of a
4 violation.

5 Mr. Smith explained that a warning letter will be
6 issued on matters that are not serious. He discussed
7 cases where the Board has no jurisdiction or
8 authority. Sometimes the complaints are withdrawn.
9 He explained why cases are administratively closed.
10 All of this information is published and given to the
11 General Assembly.]

12 ***

13 Approval of Minutes of the December 2, 2024 meeting
14 CHAIR MCALEER:

15 Moving on, I'd like to have approval of
16 the minutes. May we have a motion to
17 accept the minutes?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

19 So moved.

20 DR. ZEHRUNG:

21 Second.

22 CHAIR MCALEER:

23 Is there any discussion? Hearing none,
24 roll call for the vote.

25

1 DR. ZEHRUNG:

2 Second.

3 CHAIR MCALEER:

4 Could we have a roll call?

5

6 McAleer, aye; Claggett, aye; Zehrung,
7 aye; Erickson, aye; Bradley, aye;
8 Warner, aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
10 name is David Edward Baker, Ph.D.]

11 ***

12 [Adrianne McClendon, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
13 presented for the Petition to Stay Suspension for
14 Case No. 22-63-006195.]

15 MR. ROUSE:

16 Regarding the Consent Agreement and
17 Item No. 4 on the agenda, which is the
18 Petition to Stay Suspension of Citrini
19 Devi, Ph.D., at Case No. 22-63-006195,
20 after discussion in Executive Session,
21 I believe the Chair would entertain a
22 motion to deny the Petition to Stay
23 Suspension.

24 CHAIR MCALEER:

25 Do we have a motion?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 So moved.

3 DR. ZEHRUNG:

4 Second.

5 CHAIR MCALEER:

6 Could we have a roll call?

7

8 McAleer, aye; Claggett, aye; Zehrung,

9 aye; Erickson, aye; Bradley, aye;

10 Warner, aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12 ***

13 Report of Board Counsel

14 Proposed Adjudication and Order

15 MR. ROUSE:

16 Item No. 5 on the agenda, which is In

17 Re: Application for Licensure to

18 Practice Psychology of Kathryn E.

19 Murphy, Psy.D., Case No. 24-63-02321.

20 This was a matter that was discussed in

21 an Executive Session.

22 And regarding the Proposed

23 Adjudication at Item No. 5 on the

24 agenda, I believe the Chair would

25 entertain a motion to direct Board

1 Counsel to prepare a final Adjudication
2 and Order consistent with the
3 discussion in Executive Session.

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

5 So moved.

6 DR. ZEHRUNG:

7 Second.

8 CHAIR MCALEER:

9 Could we have a roll call?

10

11 McAleer, aye; Claggett, aye; Zehrung,
12 aye; Erickson, aye; Bradley, aye;
13 Warner, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 ***

16 Matters for Deliberation

17 [Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Board Counselor, presented
18 the Request for Extension for Case No. 25-63-004312.]

19 MR. ROUSE:

20 And regarding the Request for Extension
21 of Provisional Endorsement License to
22 Practice Psychology of Christina
23 Volstad, Psy.D., Case No. 25-63-004312,
24 I believe the Chair would entertain a
25 motion to grant the extension of Dr.

1 Volstad's Provisional License to
2 Practice Psychology for 12 months.

3 CHAIR MCALEER:

4 Do we have a motion?

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

6 So moved.

7 DR. ZEHRUNG:

8 Second.

9 CHAIR MCALEER:

10 Roll call?

11

12 McAleer, aye; Claggett, aye; Zehrung,
13 aye; Erickson, aye; Bradley, aye;
14 Warner, aye.

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16 ***

17 Request for Reconsideration

18 MR. ROUSE:

19 If I could proceed to the next item,
20 which is Item No. 7, which is a request
21 for reconsideration of the denial of
22 the PPLE Examination Waiver of Taryn
23 Goldberg, Ph.D., and after discussion
24 in Executive Session, I believe the
25 Chair would entertain a motion to deny

1 the request for reconsideration.

2 CHAIR MCALEER:

3 Do we have a motion?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

5 So moved.

6 DR. ZEHRUNG:

7 Second.

8 CHAIR MCALEER:

9 Do we have a vote?

10

11 McAleer, aye; Claggett, aye; Zehrung,

12 aye; Erickson, aye; Bradley, aye;

13 Warner, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 ***

16 Report of Regulatory Counsel

17 [Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Board Counselor referred to
18 16A-6317 and affirmed the document's revision and
19 approval. It is currently under review at the Office
20 of the Attorney General.

21 Dr. Erickson asked for clarification in the
22 rulemaking process.

23 Mr. Rouse answered that the Attorney General's
24 office would have 30 days to review the regulation.
25 Afterwards, the public and general assembly may

1 review. Finally, the Independent Regulatory Review
2 Commission (IRRC) will review, revise, and send the
3 document back to counsel.

4 Dr. Erickson inquired about the length of the
5 process to which Mr. Rouse responded with a length
6 approximately 18 months; however, it could be longer
7 or shorter.

8 Mr. Rouse stated that a general revision to the
9 Code of Ethics, 16A-6324, has been documented and an
10 annexation will be reviewed at a future Board
11 meeting.

12 Mr. Rouse referred to regulation 16A-6323,
13 Preamble Volunteer License, and stated that counsel
14 is in the process of updating this document.

15 Mr. Rouse provided an update to the policy
16 approval of 16A-6327 as of April 09, 2025. The
17 packet is currently being prepared for delivery to
18 the General Assembly and IRRC.

19 Chair McAleer commented that a draft of the
20 Ethical Code's latest revision is available for
21 public comments and the Board awaits revision from
22 the American Psychological Association (APA). The
23 revised code is lengthy and has received significant
24 pushback.

25 Mr. Rouse noted that the inclusion of

1 aspirational principles in concert with general Code
2 of Conduct rules could raise complexities for
3 psychologists.

4 Mr. Rouse addressed an annex regarding general
5 revisions for 16A-6320. This annex reflects
6 amendments to the Professional Psychologists Practice
7 Act of 2016. Mr. Rouse opened the meeting to the
8 Board to discuss potential amendments to the
9 document. Various edits were reviewed and confirmed
10 by the Board.

11 Chair McAleer emphasized the importance of both
12 research and practical training. He noted the
13 various differences. The Board agreed that each
14 specification needs an operational definition to
15 ensure proper understanding of general postdoctoral
16 requirements.

17 Mr. Rouse noted that most information is
18 unchanged; however, two main options for compliance
19 with postdoctoral requirements are listed.
20 Requirements were reviewed by Mr. Rouse and the
21 Board.

22 Chair McAleer noted a typo in Section 1A.
23 Correction from Fill-time to Full-time. Typos noted
24 were confirmed by the Board. Chair McAleer brought
25 forth concerns of potential training loopholes. The

1 Board seeks to ensure that skills gained in
2 Pennsylvania may be easily transferred and meet the
3 qualifications of other states.

4 Mr. Rouse discussed virtual supervising
5 requirements and implemented the Board's statements
6 into the regulation.

7 Chair McAleer voiced preference for a shorter re-
8 examination period to observe short-term growth. He
9 commended the growth of psychology as a field of
10 practice and emphasized the importance of
11 reexamination in a timely fashion.

12 Mr. Rouse concluded the amendments by stating
13 that a licensee must notify the Board of disciplinary
14 action taken in another state in 30 days instead of 90
15 days. Suspended licensees who are prohibited from
16 engaging in counseling services or other mental
17 health practices must notify their clients.]

18 ***

19 Report of Board Chairperson - No Report

20 ***

21 Report of Board Commissioner

22 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, informed the
23 Board of the November 10, 2025 Licensure Expo. He
24 requested that at least two Board members be in
25 attendance to meet with students.

1 Dr. Claggett updated the Board in regards to the
2 new platform, Evoke. Systems Automation was selected
3 as the vendor. Evoke is scheduled for launch in the
4 summer of 2026.]

5 ***

6 Report of Board Administrator

7 MR. ROUSE:

8 I believe the Chair will entertain a
9 motion to find that Illinois'
10 Psychology Licensure requirements are
11 substantially equivalent to
12 Pennsylvania's and approve the
13 Application to to Sit for the
14 Psychology Licensing Examination of
15 Hollie Duonnolo.

16 CHAIR MCALEER:

17 Do we have a motion, please?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

19 So moved.

20 DR. WARNER:

21 Second.

22 CHAIR MCALEER:

23 Do we have a vote?

24

25 McAleer, aye; Claggett, aye; Zehrung,

1 absent; Erickson, aye; Bradley, aye;
2 Warner, aye.

3 [The motion carried unanimously. David Zehrung,
4 Ph.D., Secretary was absent for the motion.]

5 ***

6 MR. ROUSE:

7 I believe the Board would entertain a
8 motion to provisionally deny the
9 Application to to Sit for the
10 Psychology Licensing Examination of
11 Ivan Javier Vazquez-Torres.

12 CHAIR MCALEER:

13 Do we have a motion, please?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

15 So moved.

16 DR. WARNER:

17 Second.

18 CHAIR MCALEER:

19 Do we have a roll call?

20

21 McAleer, aye; Claggett, aye; Zehrung,
22 absent; Erickson, aye; Bradley, aye;
23 Warner, aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously. David Zehrung,
25 Ph.D., Secretary was absent for the motion.]

MR. ROUSE:

And as to Item No. 12, George S. Matyas, I believe the Chair would entertain a motion to find that New York's licensing requirements are substantially equivalent to Pennsylvania's. However, the Board denies the applicant's request for waiver of the PPLE examination.

CHAIR MCALEER:

Do we have a motion, please?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

DR. ZEHRUNG:

Second.

CHAIR MCALEER:

Do we have a roll call?

McAleer, aye; Claggett, aye; Zehrung, aye; Erickson, aye; Bradley, aye; Warner, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

Report Board Members - No Report

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Discussion Items

[Thomas Leech II, Board Administrator, addressed EPPP Committee vacancies and requested a nomination to fill any vacancies.

Clarification was needed amongst the Board regarding the responsibilities of members on the Continuing Education Committee. Dr. Bradley explained that individuals submit varying degrees of documentation in request of accommodations. Spots on the Committee would include approving or denying these accommodations. Chair McAleer volunteered to fill a vacancy.

Chair McAleer opened the discussion to the public on the topic of Master's Licensure requirements.

Dr. Paul W. Kettlewell informed the Board that both APA and the ASPPB have developed model licensing proposals for master's clinicians. The ASPPB is finished while APA is currently nearing completion. A task force was created by the Pennsylvania Psychologists Association to review and regulate the rules of Master's licensure. If legislation passes, the document will move to the State Board for further regulation and establishment.

The primary issue regarding Master's licensure is

1 the alignment of both masters and doctoral practices.
2 The board discussed that this overlap in duties adds a
3 level of complexity, as competition is introduced in
4 the practice. This leaves many doctoral psychologists
5 at a disadvantage. Further details were being
6 discussed by APA and ASPPB.]

7 ***

8 Upcoming Meeting Dates

9 Donald McAleer, Psy.D., Chair, noted the upcoming
10 2025 meeting dates are April 14, June 16, August 18,
11 October 20, and December 15 of 2025. Meetings for
12 2026 are February 16, April 13, June 15, August 17,
13 October 19, December 21.]

14 ***

15 Adjournment

16 CHAIR MCALEER:

17 I would entertain a motion to adjourn
18 the meeting.

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

20 So moved.

21 DR. ZEHRUNG:

22 Second.

23 CHAIR MCALEER:

24 Thank you all, be well.

25 ***

1 [There being no further business, the State Board of
2 Psychology Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.]

3 ***

4
5 CERTIFICATE

6
7 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary
8 minutes of the State Board of Psychology meeting, was
9 reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and
10 that the minutes accurately summarize the substance
11 of the State Board of Psychology meeting.

12 

13 Erin Badstuebner,

14 Minute Clerk

15 Sargent's Court Reporting
16 Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
REFERENCE INDEX

April 14, 2025

TIME	AGENDA
10:35	Official Call to Order
10:39	Introduction of Board Members
10:49	Approval of Minutes
10:57	Report of Board Prosecution
11:00	Report of Board Counsel
11:53	Report of Regulatory Counsel
11:53	Report of Board Chair
11:54	Report of Commissioner
11:57	Report of Board Administrator
12:06	Discussion Items
12:06	Public Comments
12:08	Adjournment