



# 2026 ANNUAL PA-SARA STATE MEETING

Location: Virtual

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026

Time: 11:00am – 2:00pm

## Meeting Agenda

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|------------------------|--|--|
| <b>11:00am-11:05am</b> | Welcome & Introductions  | Jenny Piper  |
| <b>11:05am-11:30am</b> | PDE & PA SARA Updates  | Jennifer Stone   |
| <b>11:30am-12:00pm</b> | The Operational Reality of Distance Education Compliance: Insights on Licensure and Federal Requirements | Kathryn Kerensky, State Authorization Network (SAN)    |
| <b>12:00pm-12:30pm</b> | Break for Lunch  |  |
| <b>12:30pm-1:00pm</b>  | Best Practices for Professional Licensure – Panel Discussion   | Jenny Piper<br>Mark Prestopnik<br>Dr. Carl J. Sheperis |
| <b>1:00pm-1:30pm</b>   | Handling Student Complaints  | Jennifer Stone   |
| <b>1:30pm-2:00pm</b>   | Questions & Closing Remarks  |  |

## Presenter Information

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**Kathryn Kerensky** has served as the Director, Digital Learning, Policy, and Compliance with the State Authorization Network (SAN), which is a network of the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET), since 2021. She assists with the overall activities of SAN, with a focus on related institutional and programmatic compliance rules and regulations, including accreditation requirements, international compliance issues, professional licensure, and strategies for institutional regulatory compliance when serving students by means of digital learning. Previously, she served as a state authorization compliance professional at the University of Louisville for 7 years. Kathryn received her B.A. in psychology and Juris Doctor from the University of Louisville.



**Mark Prestopnik** is the Director of Online Learning & Strategy for Duquesne University, a private nonprofit university located in Pittsburgh, PA. Through 20 years of experience, Mark has developed deep knowledge of the online learning landscape, specializing in strategic online program design, online course development, and regulatory compliance related to distance education, including state authorization and professional licensure. He brings extensive expertise in learning management systems and online faculty development, with a consistent focus on course quality, continuous improvement, and student success.



**Dr. Carl J. Sheperis** serves as Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies at Kutztown University. Dr. Sheperis has extensive experience in pediatric and family mental health and has served as an expert to various media outlets including *The Huffington Post*, *The Conversation*, *the Denver Post*, *Seattle Times*, *Parenting*, *Prevention*, and others. His interviews have reached over 50,000,000 readers.

Dr. Sheperis is recognized as an expert in the application of artificial intelligence to the health professions. He has delivered keynote addresses worldwide on this topic and serves as co-chair of the AI working group of the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). Dr. Sheperis has published articles on AI in healthcare and has a forthcoming book on artificial intelligence in counseling.

Dr. Sheperis is the author of several textbooks, including: *Research in Counseling, Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Methods*; *Foundations of Clinical Mental Health Counseling*; *Diagnosing and Treating Children and Adolescents*; *Assessment for Counselors and Helping Professionals*. He has also published entries in various textbooks, academic journals, and reference volumes.

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