

TSBEP NEWSLETTER
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New Licensing Database

Beginning June 3, 2011, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists has a new licensing and enforcement system which encompasses internal operations as well as an external online renewal system component.

The Board along with five other small state agencies faced the dilemma of separate, antiquated legacy computer systems which left the agencies at high risk for inoperability due to outdated hardware that could not support software that also needed to be updated. However, the cost of creating separate individual systems was prohibitive. Therefore, in the 81st Legislative Session, the Boards representing pharmacists, dentists, optometrists, land surveyors, plumbers, and psychologists joined together and requested appropriations in order to purchase an off-the-shelf system that could be customized to fit the specialized needs of each agency. This united effort promised to save many thousands of dollars in up-front costs as well as ongoing maintenance costs.

The 81st Legislature approved the requested funding provided that the agencies raise their licensing fees in the amount received for this purpose. All agencies raised their fees in order to pay for their share of the new system in the current biennium. The Psychology Board raised all of its licensing renewal fees by \$26 in fiscal year 2010. After the purchase of the system, the Board was able to lower renewal fees by \$10 in fiscal year 2011.

The development of and transition to the new system has proved as difficult a challenge as any faced by the Board. However, after numerous delays but with cooperation, diligence and expertise, the agencies agreed to go live with the new system. Although it is anticipated that some internal tasks will have to be done manually until the final processes are complete, the Board staff are willing to take on this task in order to transition to the new system.

Most of the changes in operations will be internal and will not be apparent to either applicants or licensees, but there is one component that will affect all licensees. Online renewal will no longer be available through the Texas Online statewide system, but instead will be a feature of the new system for these six agencies.

Licensees can access this online renewal system through the link on the Board's website at www.tsbep.state.tx.us. The licensee should click on the Renewal page which is listed on the menu on the homepage. The new online renewal system will require all licensees to have an email. The profile information requirement will not be changed. The lengthy set of questions that were added in recent years as mandated by the legislation are still required. However, for many of these questions once the information is entered it will pre-populate the information for the next annual renewal, thereby avoiding the licensee from having to reenter the information every renewal cycle.

While the fine tuning that the Board can do to the system is limited by the fact that this is a shared system and because additional programming to the system is costly, the Board encourages licensees to relay to the Board any concerns that they may have regarding the online renewal system.

The Board is pleased that this giant step forward in technology has been made by the Board and is confident that the cost savings will continue for many years to come.

Online Rulebook to Replace Paper Version

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists has found it necessary to stop publishing its annual paper Rulebook. Due to significantly reduced funding appropriated by the 82nd Legislature for the next biennium, the Board determined that by eliminating the paper rulebook it could save the agency both printing and postage costs.

However, in place of the paper rulebook, beginning in July 2011 the Board will provide an online Act and Rulebook which will be available through the Board's website at www.tsbep.state.tx.us.

This new online Rulebook can be downloaded at no cost. Additionally, unlike the paper Rulebook, it will be updated four times a year. At the start of the Rulebook, in a manner similar to that which was formerly provided in the paper version, there will be a list of any changes to rules that have been made by the Board since the last quarterly online edition of the Rulebook.

While the paper Rulebook will be missed by many, the Board believes that the online version is user friendly, easily accessible, and can be provided at no cost to the user or the Board.

Disciplinary Actions:

October 2010, February 2011, April 2011, and August 2011 Board Meetings

Misty C. Atha, M.S., Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (San Angelo)

Complaint: Respondent failed to report a legal action to the Board, and has personal problems with the potential to impair competency.

Sanction: Respondent's license was suspended for 2 years, with the suspension being probated upon receipt by the Board of a satisfactory psychological evaluation and payment of \$500.00 administrative penalty.

Bonnie Lou Brookshire, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Bellaire)

Complaint: Respondent failed to provide proof that she obtained the minimum twelve hours of continuing education for the preceding year.

Sanction: Respondent's license was reprimanded, she was required to complete three hours of continuing education in ethics, and she was assessed an administrative penalty of \$1,000.00.

Robert M. Cross, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Sherman)

Complaint: Respondent, while providing therapy to a patient, performed a forensic evaluation on the patient utilizing an outdated test instrument, and incorrectly scored another test instrument.

Sanction: Respondent's license was reprimanded, and he was assessed an administrative penalty of \$1,500.00 and required to complete six (6) additional hours of continuing education in ethics.

George W. Denkowski, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Fort Worth)

Complaint: Respondent evaluated defendants in capital murder appeals, for mental retardation (intellectual disability). In his forensic reports, Respondent did not identify limits to the certainty of his opinions about persons evaluated.

Sanction: Respondent's license was reprimanded and he was assessed an administrative penalty and costs in the amount of \$5,500.00.

Cynthia V. Eaton, M.A., Licensed Psychological Associate (Westlake)

Complaint: Respondent failed to report a legal action to the Board.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$350.00.

Lindy M. Frazer, Ed.S., Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (Round Rock)

Complaint: Respondent provided supervision to an unlicensed person.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$500.00, and required to complete three (3) additional hours of continuing education in ethics or Board rules.

Ronald J. Jereb, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Longview)

Complaint: Respondent failed to properly maintain records of psychological services.

Sanction: Respondent's license was reprimanded, and he was assessed an administrative penalty of \$1,000.00 and required to complete six (6) additional hours of continuing education in ethics.

William M. Kennedy, Ed.D., Licensed Psychologist (Bedford)

Complaint: Respondent provided psychological services to the Complainant/Mother's minor child, and during the course of therapy, produced a letter that included a visitation recommendation at the request of the Father's attorney.

Sanction: Respondent's license was reprimanded, and he was assessed an administrative penalty of \$1,000.00.

Stephen Liter, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

(College Station)

Complaint: Respondent failed to obtain informed consent from patient.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$1,000.00 and required to complete six (6) additional hours of continuing education in ethics.

William A. Montgomery, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

(San Angelo)

Complaint: Respondent failed to safeguard patient records.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$1,000.00.

William M. Moss, M.A., Licensed Psychological Associate

(Corpus Christi)

Complaint: Respondent failed to report a legal action to the Board.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$350.00.

Matthew L. Nance, Ph. D., Licensed Psychologist

(Houston)

Complaint: Respondent has personal problems with potential to impair competency.

Sanction: Respondent's license was suspended for one year with suspension probated. Respondent must not use alcohol or drugs. He will undergo a psychological evaluation, pay an administrative penalty of \$1,000.00 and provide notice to the Board of completion of his court-ordered program.

Brian E. Pope, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

(Arlington)

Complaint: Respondent incorporated the “mini-mult short form” of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) in test batteries and reports on adolescent females.

Sanction: Respondent’s license was reprimanded, and he was assessed an administrative penalty of \$1,500.00 and required to complete six (6) additional hours of continuing education in assessment and ethics.

John W. Pope, M.S., Licensed Specialist in School Psychology

(Paris)

Complaint: Respondent failed to report a legal action to the Board.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$350.00.

Geoffrey T. Sanderson, M.A., Licensed Specialist in School Psychology

(McKinney)

Complaint: Respondent failed to report a legal action to the Board.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$500.00.

Laurel L. Strahan, Ph.D., Licensed Specialist in School Psychology

(Burleson)

Complaint: Respondent provided psychological services in the public schools while her license was delinquent.

Sanction: Respondent’s license was suspended for six months with suspension probated. She will verify corrective action taken, obtain nine hours of additional continuing

education in ethics, and pay an administrative penalty of \$500.00. The term of probated suspension may be reduced upon early and satisfactory compliance with the terms of the order.

Resignations in Lieu of Adjudication/CE

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| 1) Frank E. Miller, M.Ed. <u>(CE Complaint)</u> | (Del Rio) |
| 2) Rhonda A. Morris, M.S. | (Ladson, SC) |
| 3) Rhoda B. Rogers, M.A. | (Friendswood) |
| 4) Michael E. Sturman, M.A. | (Waco) |
| 5) Donald Reynolds, Ph.D. | (Austin) |
| 6) Sherri A. Sharp, Ph.D. <u>(CE Complaint)</u> | (Summerville, SC) |