

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE AS ORAL EXAMINERS**

In response to the level of support shown for the Oral Examination during the current Sunset Review Process, the Board would like to take this opportunity to issue a call to those licensees willing to serve as an oral examiner and request that they review [this document](#) and submit the last page to the Board for approval to serve as an oral examiner.

*Posted December 29, 2016*

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## **DFPS IS SEEKING NEW LPs, PLPs, AND LPAs FOR ITS EVALUATION AND TREATMENT PROGRAM**

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has made changes to its evaluation and treatment services program and is looking to expand the number of providers available for Texas families. Some of these changes include reimbursement for travel to designated underserved areas of the state, as well as reimbursement for missed appointments. If you are interested in becoming a service provider for DFPS, please [click here](#) to learn more about the DFPS evaluation and treatment program, as well as how to become a DFPS service provider.

*Posted on December 28, 2016*

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## **TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS ADOPTS PROPOSED REVISION TO SECTION 501.003**

In response to *Serafine v. Branaman*, 810 F.3d 354 (5th Cir. Tex. 2016), the Texas State

Board of Examiners of Psychologists met on November 10, 2016 and adopted a revised version of Section 501.003 of the Psychologists' Licensing Act. The Board's proposed revision to Section 501.003 is intended to address the court's concerns in that opinion, and has been submitted to the Sunset Advisory Commission in connection with the agency's review. Members of the public may obtain a copy of the Board's proposed revision by [clicking here](#)

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*Posted on November 16, 2016*

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### **NEW LOWER FEE FOR APPLICANTS APPLYING THROUGH THE ASPPB PLUS PROGRAM**

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is excited to offer applicants the opportunity to apply for full or provisional licensure online via the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) Psychology Licensure Universal System (PLUS). The PLUS program can be used by any applicant who is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in any participating state, province, or territory in the United States or Canada. For more information on applying in Texas via the PLUS system, please [click here](#).

To apply using the PLUS, download the *PLUS System - General Application* form by clicking on the *Forms* menu item to the left. Complete and submit the application, along with the correct fee to the Board's Licensing Division. In addition to the Texas application fee, the PLUS has a one-time \$ **75.00\*** fee.

*\*ASPPB is currently conducting fee assessments and has reduced the standard \$200.00 fee to \$75.00 for a six-month period in Texas. This fee assessment will conclude on February 15, 2017 and the PLUS fee is subject to change thereafter.*

*Posted on September 21, 2016*

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### **\*\*\*ATTENTION LICENSEES\*\*\* THE ONLINE RENEWAL SYSTEM WILL BE UNAVAILABLE JULY 17-24, 2016**

The Board's online renewal system will be down beginning July 17th through July 24th. The online renewal system will be unavailable during this time period to allow several major upgrades to be made to the Board's database system. Licensees will be unable to renew their licenses online during this time period. Licensees may however, submit the paper renewal form during this time period, which is available for download by clicking on &quot;Forms&quot; in the menu to the left.

*Posted on July 11, 2016*

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### **NEW LSSP LICENSING COORDINATOR AND RENEWAL COORDINATOR**

The Board's long time LSSP Licensing Coordinator, Ms. Carol Erickson, has announced her retirement as of July 31, 2016. Ms. Erickson has been with the Board more than 17 years, over 15 of which she served as the LSSP Licensing Coordinator. Her dedication and service will be missed by Board members and staff alike, but we wish her well in her retirement.

The Board has selected Mr. Alfonso Fernandez, the Board's current Renewal Coordinator, to fill the vacancy left by Ms. Erickson's retirement. Mr. Fernandez will continue to assist with license renewal until the Board can hire and train a replacement Renewal Coordinator, but his primary duties will be those of the LSSP Licensing Coordinator.

During this transition, the Board asks that all licensees whose renewal dates fall in July, August or September of this year make every effort to renew their license online during normal business hours and well in advance of the deadline. Licensees are encouraged to renew their license online at least 15 days in advance of their renewal date to ensure staff are available to assist them with any problems they may encounter. Licensees who wait until the renewal deadline, or shortly before to begin the online renewal process may find that staff are

unavailable to assist them on such short notice.

In the event a licensee is unable to renew a license online prior to the renewal deadline, the licensee should download and mail a renewal form, along with the correct renewal fee, to the Board's office instead. This will ensure the licensee does not incur a late renewal fee. To avoid any such late fees, renewal forms and fees received in the Board's office must be postmarked on or before the renewal deadline. The Board's renewal form is available for download by clicking on &quot;Forms&quot; in the menu to the left.

*Posted July 5, 2016*

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON DRAFT REVISIONS TO SECTION 501.003 OF THE PSYCHOLOGISTS' LICENSING ACT**

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is requesting public input on a draft revision to Section 501.003 of the Psychologists' Licensing Act found in Title 3, Subtitle I, Ch. 501, Occupations Code. Following the court's decision in [Serafine v. Branaman , 810 F.3d 354 \(5th Cir. Tex. 2016\)](#)

, the Board approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to assist the Board with preparing a revised definition for the *practice of psychology*

. Because of the complexity of this task and potential implications for the practice of psychology, both in the private sector and the public schools, the Board extended invitations to serve on the committee to several state psychological associations, as well as individuals both in and outside of the profession. The Board has relied extensively upon the expertise of this committee in developing its suggested revisions.

The Board hopes to adopt its suggested revisions to Section 501.003 at its August 18, 2016 meeting, and subsequent thereto, present those revisions to the Sunset Advisory Commission for consideration during the Board's review cycle. The Board also intends to make its suggested revisions available for use by the public during the upcoming 85<sup>th</sup> legislative session.

If you wish to comment on the suggested revisions to Section 501.003, you may do so by submitting your comments via email to the Board's Executive Director at [Executive.Director@tsbep.texas.gov](mailto:Executive.Director@tsbep.texas.gov). Please note that you will not receive a formal response from the Board or its Executive Director. All comments must be submitted on or before August 5, 2016. No comments will be accepted after this date.

To assist you with preparing comments, you may wish to consider the following guidelines which were given to the ad hoc committee when preparing the draft revisions.

*When carrying out this function, the Advisory Committee should take into consideration the various categories and subcategories of the professional practice of psychology, without attempting to define the scope of practice for each category or subcategory. The goal of this committee is not to define or establish a scope of practice, but rather to develop an accurate description of what activities or services constitute the practice of psychology in general. Additionally, this must be accomplished without encompassing those activities or services that do not require any formal education or training to provide, or which are protected from regulation by either state or federal law.*

The draft version of these suggested revisions can be downloaded by clicking on the following link: [Draft Revisions to Section 501.003](#). A copy of the current version of the statute has been included for comparison as well.

While the Board has requested public comment on these draft revisions, it is important to keep in mind that the suggested changes are not being considered for adoption as a rule, and this request for public comment is not part of a formal rulemaking process. However, those individuals wishing to submit public comment are encouraged to follow the basic guidelines for preparing and submitting comments set forth in the newsletter article entitled *Effectively Communicating Through Comments on Proposed Rules* found in the [Winter 2015](#) edition of the Board's newsletter.

One of the foundational principles in Texas government is that each citizen is entitled to provide input on any changes suggested in law. To further this long standing and important tradition, the Board encourages its stakeholders and the public to participate in this important civic function by submitting comments on these draft revisions.

*Posted June 7, 2016*

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### **EMERGENCY BOARD RULE 465.39 - LSSP SUPERVISOR QUALIFICATIONS**

The Board adopted [Emergency Board rule 465.39](#) at its May 26, 2016 meeting. In summary, this emergency rule ensures that LSSP supervisors who were qualified to provide supervision under the previous version of Board rule §465.38(5), but who are not qualified under current Board rule 465.2(d)(2), will be able to continue providing supervision to students and interns who are currently enrolled in school psychology training programs and undergoing the supervised experience necessary for licensure under Board rule §463.9. While the emergency rule will expire on August 31, 2016, the expiration will not affect the validity of any supervised experience acquired from a supervisor qualified under the rule.

*Posted May 27, 2016*

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### **50-STATE SURVEY OF TELEMENTAL/TELEBEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

The Washington D.C. law firm of Epstein, Becker and Green has released the results of a [50-State Telemental Health Survey](#). The survey is a review of state law regulating the practice of telemental health in psychiatry, psychology, social work, counseling, marriage and family therapy. The survey is organized in an easy to use question-and-answer format and shows the various approaches used by states when regulating telemental health services. Licensees currently considering or engaged in telepractice are encouraged to carefully review this survey to gain a better understanding of the legal requirements in any jurisdiction where they are delivering or plan to deliver services. Licensees are also encouraged to review Board rule 461.10 and the Board's [Guidelines for the Practice of Telepsychology](#) before delivering psychological services via remote or electronic means.

*Posted May 23, 2016*

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## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS**

The Sunset Review of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists has begun, and the Sunset Advisory Commission has requested that every Texan take this opportunity to suggest ways in which the mission and operations of the Board can be strengthened. The Board would also take this opportunity to encourage stakeholders and the public alike to review its [Self Evaluation Report](#) and offer any comments or suggestions to the Sunset Advisory Commission regarding improvements needed to the agency's mission or operations.

A brief description of the Sunset Review process can be obtained by downloading the [TSBE P Sunset Review Announcement](#), or by visiting the [Sunset Advisory Commission's webpage](#). This information will also provide you with directions on how to submit comments or suggestions to the Sunset Advisory Commission.

All comments or suggestions should be made on or before **July 15, 2016**, if possible.

*Posted May 10, 2016*

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### **\*\*\*ATTENTION APPLICANTS\*\*\* SECURITY BREACH REPORTED BY PEARSON VUE**

The Board has received notification that Pearson VUE's Credential Manager System suffered a recent security breach and some applicant information may have been compromised. For more information on the steps being taken to remedy the breach, you are encouraged to reiew

the press release issued by Pearson VUE by clicking [here](#) .

Please note that the reported security breach did not affect any applicant information held by the Board, nor has any licensee information been compromised.

*Posted November 23, 2015*

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### **JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION TO BE ADMINISTERED ONLINE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2015**

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists has partnered with eStrategy Solutions to begin administering its Jurisprudence Examination online beginning on November 1, 2015. Not only will this change improve test security, but it will provide greater flexibility and convenience for applicants as well.

Effective November 1, 2015, applicants approved to sit for the exam will no longer receive paper exam materials through the mail, rather, they will be directed to the Board's website where they can register for and take the examination online. Instructions on how to register for the online version of the examination will be contained in the revised *Exam Request Form* which will be made available for download from the Board's website on November 1, 2015.

Until November 1, 2015 however, applicants wishing to take the Jurisprudence Examination must continue to do so in paper format.

*Posted September 29, 2015*

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**REPEAL OF \$200 PROFESSIONAL FEE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**

In accordance with Section 31 of Tex. H.B. 7, 84th Leg., R.S. (2015), the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists will discontinue charging for and collecting the \$200 professional fee currently required by Section 501.153 of the Psychologists' Licensing Act on September 1, 2015. However, in the event you renew prior to September 1, 2015 you will be charged the \$200 professional fee. Please be aware that no refunds will be granted to licensees whose renewal date falls after September 1st, but who renew prior to that date.

We ask for your patience and understanding while we update our forms and online renewal system. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please telephone the Board's office at 512-305-7700.

*Posted August 24, 2015*

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**Fingerprint criminal history check requirement for renewals beginning January 2015**

Beginning with those licensees due for renewal in January of 2015, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists will begin conducting fingerprint criminal history checks on all individuals who applied for licensure prior to October of 2007, but who did not undergo a fingerprint criminal history check as part of the Board's licensing process.

This one-time renewal requirement set to begin with January 2015 renewals, will be phased in with approximately twenty-five percent of eligible licensees required to submit their fingerprint criminal history checks in the first calendar year. The remaining eligible licensees will be required to submit their fingerprint criminal history checks over the course of the next three years.

Those licensees who have not previously undergone a fingerprint criminal history check will be notified by letter prior to their renewal date, that they have been selected to undergo a fingerprint criminal history check.

Pursuant to Board rule 463.7, a licensee's fingerprint criminal history check must be received

by the Board on or before their renewal date, or their license will not be renewed.

Instructions on completing a fingerprint criminal history check will be set forth in the notification letter sent to the licensee prior to renewal.

Unfortunately, the Board is not permitted to receive or utilize fingerprint criminal history checks performed for other governmental entities. Thus, you will need to undergo a fingerprint criminal history check as indicated, regardless of whether you have undergone one recently for another governmental entity.