

INDIANA STATE PSYCHOLOGY BOARD

Minutes
May 9, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM 9:00 A.M.

Dr. Hale called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. in Conference Center Room 1, Indiana Government Center South, 302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana and declared a quorum in accordance with Indiana Code § 25-33-1-3(g).

Board Members Present:

Gregory Hale, Ph.D., Chair
Stephen G. Ross, Psy.D., Vice Chair and Board Liaison
Jere Leib, Ph.D., Member
Amber Finley, JD, Consumer Member

Board Members Not Present:

Vacant

State Officials Present:

Jill Haddad, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Cindy Vaught, Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency
Dana Brooks, Assistant Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency
Brad Repass, Litigation Specialist, Professional Licensing Agency

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended.

Ross/Leib
Motion carried 4/0/0

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 14, 2025 were accepted as amended.

Finley/Ross
Motion carried 4/0/0

IV. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ryan Eldridge, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, presented the consumer complaint report. He reported that they have closed nineteen (19) consumer complaints this year, opened thirty-five (35) this year, and there are currently twenty-two (22) open. The average age for open complaints is eleven point eight (11.8) months. Primarily complaints have been filed in Marion County followed by out of state/country. There are currently twenty-three (23) complaints pending against psychologists. The primary complaints against psychologists have been professional malpractice and professional incompetence.

Mr. Eldridge reported that there have been outlier complaints against people with multiple states and working telehealth which affect the duration of the complaint process. Primarily these practitioners are in the states along the Indiana border like Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, etc. Mr. Eldridge reported that they have not seen any complaints through PsyPact. He also informed the Board that the Board liaison has been sent two complaints for review and standard of care clarifications.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

There were no administrative hearings.

VI. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

A. Probation

There were no probation appearances.

B. Application

1. Adrienne Little (Ph.D.)

Dr. Little appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding her background and her termination from her internship at Adler University. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed with the Board the challenges she faced during her Adler program, and the steps she took to address what occurred. She stated that she completed a new APA approved internship at Fatina Recovery Center with no issues. Dr. Little discussed her current private practice work while under her mental health counselor license.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Little's application to sit for the EPPP examination.

Hale/Ross
Motion carried 4/0/0

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Continuing Education Audit

The Board discussed the continuing education audit reviews that each member was assigned to complete. Ms. Vaught requested that each member submit an email of their reviews and determination. She discussed the process of what will occur with those who are non-compliant and stated that the Board will need to decide on fines and options for those who have not met the continuing education audit requirements.

The Board discussed how the continuing education audit non-compliance has been done previously. They discussed what counts as home study, how many hours can be accepted, and how to review online continuing education.

Ms. Vaught provided the Board with a list of individuals who have submitted updated continuing education certificates since the Board last met. The Board members divided the list to review.

It was determined that for those who did not provide any continuing education or those who submitted up to half the required amount, the fine would be \$1000. For those who were missing ten hours or less of the required CE then the fine would be \$100.

VIII. APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

A. Limited Scope Temporary Psychology Permit

There were no Limited Scope Psychology permits.

B. Psychology by Examination/Reciprocity

1. Alice Schermerhorn (Ph.D.)

Dr. Schermerhorn's application was submitted for review as she indicated that her program was not APA approved at the time of completion, and her doctoral internship was not APA or APPIC approved at the time of completion. She completed a developmental psychology Ph.D from Notre Dame. The Board reviewed her transcripts and letters with additional information regarding her program. The Board noted that her program does not appear to have a pre-doctoral internship which is required, and her courses appear to focus mostly on teaching rather than clinical work.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny Dr. Schermerhorn's request for licensure due to not having a pre-doctoral internship as outlined in 868 IAC 1.1-4-1.

Ross/Leib
Motion carried 4/0/0

2. Jesse Stout (Ph.D.)

Dr. Stout's application was submitted for review as she indicated that their program was not APA approved at the time of completion, and the doctoral internship was not APA or APPIC approved at the time of completion. Dr. Stout provided a supporting letter regarding the training, and a clinical summary log for the Board to consider. Dr. Stout graduated from Walden University with a Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology. They indicated that the program did not have a pre-doctoral internship, but that they worked as a psychology intern in order to obtain the necessary clinical training for licensure.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny Dr. Stout's request for licensure due to not having a pre-doctoral internship as outlined in 868 IAC 1.1-4-1.

Hale/Ross
Motion carried 4/0/0

C. HSPP Endorsement

1. Heather Bleeke, Psy.D., License No. 20043888A

Dr. Bleeke's application was submitted for review of her post-doctoral and practicum hours. The Board noted that she is supplementing mostly practicum hours and reviewed her letter requesting that the Board accept and use the practicum hours. The Board discussed the importance of post-doctoral experience versus practicum hours. They discussed the statutory requirements, how they reviewed cases previously, and mitigating factors. The Board noted that she graduated with her Ph.D in August 2024, and per the statute 25-33-1-5.1 she should have 1 year experience obtained after her doctoral degree. The Board noted that she meets the hour requirements; however, not the time after graduation and unclear if she is still working on her post-doctoral training. It was noted that they will request an appearance to discuss her hours at their September Board meeting as the Board wished to remain consistent in how they review applicants.

The Board tabled Dr. Bleeke's application until the September Board meeting.

2. Claire Scott-Bacon, Ph.D., License No. 99129919A

Dr. Scott-Bacon application was submitted for review of her post-doctoral and practicum hours. She graduated with her Ph.D. in January 2025. They noted the same concerns regarding the previous HSPP application. The Board noted to table her application and have her appear at the January 2026 meeting to discuss her hours.

The Board noted that she is supplementing mostly practicum hours and requests that the Board accept and use the practicum hours. The Board discussed the importance of post-doctoral experience versus practicum hours. They discussed the statutory requirements, how they reviewed cases previously, and mitigating factors. The Board noted that she graduated with her Ph.D in January 2025, and per the statute 25-33-1-5.1 she should have 1 year experience obtained after her doctoral degree. The Board noted that she meets the hour requirements; however, not the time after graduation and unclear if she is still working on her post-doctoral training. It was noted that they will request an appearance to discuss her hours at their January 2026 Board meeting as the Board wished to remain consistent in how they review applicants.

The Board tabled Dr. Scott-Bacon's application until the January 2026 meeting.

3. Stephanie Gansert, Psy.D., License No. 20043936A

Dr. Gansert's application for HSPP was submitted for review. She is currently licensed out of state, and provided a copy of her application from another State in place of the Indiana forms. She indicated to the Board staff that due to how long ago her training was, it was difficult to gain signatures from her training director and supervisors. The Board noted that it is preferred that the State forms to be submitted, and they do not have anything provided that shows her attempts to get the State forms completed.

The Board tabled Dr. Gansert's application until further documentation has been received.

D. Continuing Education

1. Optimal Access Inc.

The Board reviewed the submitted CE Sponsor application. They noted that the program appears to not focus on clinical psychology training, and the presenter has a Ph.D. in public health.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny the CE Sponsor application as it does not provide direct clinical psychology training.

Hale/Ross
Motion carried 4-0-0

IX. INDIANA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION REPORT

Mr. Dick Rhoad of the IPA provided his report.

He stated that for the current legislative session there have been 1,229 bills introduced with 244 bills passing. He noted that the IPA followed over 100 bills that would impact or tangentially impact psychologists. He discussed the Prior Authorization bill, changes with Behavior Health licensing, Medicaid budget has increased, and that Fees are frozen for the largest non-profit hospitals. He stated that the laws regarding changes to the course requirements for Behavioral Health clinicians and the income credit for clinical preceptors did not pass.

He stated that there has been no update from the Behavior Health Board regarding clarification of the code for those who are supervised under an HSPP and doing Medicaid services.

Mr. Rhoad stated that the Governor is working on a working group to develop plans for ABA therapy. He stated that they completed CE presentations in April with their annual ethics conference, and a joint presentation with PsyPact. There will be a summer webinar by Dr. Rose Juan, and the IPA does offer a number of home study programs throughout the year. Currently the fall conference will be November 6 and 7th.

He stated that he has not heard of any movement regarding the Board obtaining a new member for their vacancy, but he is aware that the application submission process has changed.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and having completed its duties, the meeting of the Indiana State Psychology Board adjourned at 11:42 a.m.