



**Virginia Board of Psychology
Draft Regulatory Committee Meeting Minutes
Department of Health Professions
Board Room 3
9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233
Monday, October 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**

- PRESIDING OFFICER:** William Hathaway, Ph.D., LCP
- COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sonal Pancholi Doran, Psy.D., LCP
Gary Sibcy, Ph.D., LCP
Karen Trump, Ed.D., LSP
- BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** Jaime Hoyle, Executive Director
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Charlotte Lenart, Deputy Executive Director
Meagan Ohlsson, Licensing Supervisor
- DHP STAFF PRESENT:** Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy, DHP (*arrived at 10:15 a.m.*)
Matthew Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator, DHP
Arne Owens, Agency Director, DHP
- CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Hathaway called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- MISSION STATEMENT:** Dr. Hathaway read the mission statement of the Department of Health Professions and the emergency egress procedures.
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:** With four Committee members present a quorum was established.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Committee reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on January 27, 2025.
- Motion:** Dr. Sibcy made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Pancholi Doran, to adopt the minutes from the January 2025 Regulatory Committee as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The agenda was adopted as presented with changes to the start time.
- PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** None
- PRESENTATION:** **Development of an Alternative National Psychology Licensure Examination** - Robert Romig, JD, Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (TBHEC) and John Bielamowicz, Board Chair (TBHEC)
- Mr. Roming and Mr. Bielamowicz presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining Texas's initiative to develop an alternative psychology licensure

examination. (Attachment A) They explained that the Council, which oversees all mental health professions in Texas, was directed by the legislature and governor to address workforce shortages. Texas determined that requiring the EPPP Part 2 could further limit the number of qualified applicants without clear evidence that the exam predicts professional competence.

Mr. Roming and Mr. Bielowicz emphasized that Texas is not seeking to replace or eliminate the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) but to develop a psychometrically valid, collaborative alternative that offers regulatory flexibility while maintaining high standards. The proposed exam would focus on measuring applied knowledge and practical competence rather than test-taking ability.

They outlined the development process, including stakeholder surveys, psychologist workgroups, and a technical advisory committee to guide exam design, with a draft blueprint expected within a year pending legislative funding. They invited participation from Virginia and other states, emphasizing that involvement does not represent endorsement but supports open collaboration. The Board thanked them for taking the time to come to Virginia to present in person.

The Board discussed possible ways Virginia could remain informed about the project, such as sharing the Texas Council's survey with licensees as an informational item rather than a formal endorsement. Mr. Bielowicz encouraged participation and feedback from Virginia stakeholders, emphasizing that involvement carries no obligation or commitment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion of Examination for Licensed Psychological Practitioners

The Board discussed upcoming changes to the EPPP examination and its impact on Virginia's new psychological practitioner (master's-level) license. Committee members noted inconsistencies in Virginia's Code and regulations related to separate examinations that will soon be combined into one.

Staff and members considered options for addressing the issue, including pursuing statutory language that would give the Board flexibility to determine acceptable examinations. Because of legislative timing, Ms. Barrett suggested that any proposed bill would likely need to come from the professional association.

The Board also discussed preparing potential fast-track regulatory amendments and agreed to continue the conversation at the next Regulatory Committee meeting. Staff noted that applications for the new master's license will open in November and that frequent inquiries are already being received, including from individuals with forensic psychology degrees.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Ms. Hoyle asked for the Committee's preference on future meeting dates. Several members favored holding meetings over two consecutive days to reduce travel. Staff will circulate proposed 2026 dates once room availability is confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Hathaway adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

William Hathaway, Ph.D., Committee Chair Chairperson

Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director

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