



Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology Newsletter

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<http://psy.ky.gov>

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Harwell F. Smith, Ph.D., and Lorilea Conyer M.A., selected as chairperson and vice-chairperson of KBEP

At the December 2024 board meeting, Harwell F. Smith, Ph.D., was elected board chairperson, and Lorilea Conyer was elected vice chairperson, of the Board of Examiners of Psychology. Dr. Smith, of Lexington is a consulting psychologist who has been part of the Kentucky psychology community for more than 40 years. Ms. Conyer, of Louisville, is a licensed psychological practitioner who is part of a private practice in Louisville.

Board approves proposal to increase licensure fees for the first time in nearly 25 years

For the first time in more than two decades, the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology has proposed an increase to most fees charged by the board. This decision was made after a careful examination of the history of the fees, as well as the Board's current financial obligations in comparison to annual revenue.

Application fees, initial licensure fees, and renewal fees have not changed since 2002. If the proposed increases take effect in 2026 as recommended, it will be the first fee adjustment in 24 years. The Board's proposal would increase the three-year renewal fee for licensed psychologists and licensed psychological practitioners to \$795, and to \$525 for licensed psychological associates. These increases are essentially adjustments for inflation to the current fees, which were established in 2002. In addition, under the proposal, newly licensed professionals would no longer receive a discounted initial licensure fee, but instead would pay the same fee as all other licensees.

Other fees which would increase include application fees, which were also last increased in 2002, and which would increase from \$100 to \$150 under the proposal. The fee for an application for reciprocity last increased in 1980 and would increase from \$100 to \$150. The fee for retake of the state exam has not increased since it was initially implemented (Continued on next page.)

Proposed fee increase *(continued)*

in 1990, and would increase from \$50 to \$250, still less than the actual cost of having two examiners conduct a retake. Three other fees, first instituted in 2017, would also increase for the first time. The late fee for renewal would increase from \$75 to \$100, and the nonresident psychologist registration would increase from \$100 to \$150. In addition, the reinstatement fee would also increase from \$100 to \$150, but that increase would not become effective until the pending regulation change eliminating the requirement for in-person continuing education is also effective.

Before these changes were approved, the Board considered similar fees in other states. While Kentucky's three-year fee cycle results in a higher lump sum than in many other states, this is because those states assess licensure fees annually or every other year. The frequency of licensure renewals in Kentucky is set by statute and the Board has no authority to alter the schedule; only the General Assembly can do that.

A public hearing on this administrative regulation will be held on November 21, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. EST. Attendees must notify the Board, in writing, of their intent to attend no later than five working days prior to the hearing. In addition, written comment on this proposal must be received before 11:59 pm on November 30, 2025. Comments or written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing may be sent to Board attorney Mark Brengelman, at 306 W. Main St., The McClure Building Suite 503, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-1840, or Mark@MarkRBrengelmanPLLC.attorney.

Please note that this article is provided for informational purposes only. Every effort has been made to be thorough and accurate. For authoritative information, please refer to the Kentucky Administrative Regulations as well as the proposed amendments to 201 K.A.R 26 160, submitted to the Legislative Research Commission on September 16, 2025. The proposed amendments may be found on the Board's website, or at: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/201/026/160/REG/>

Governor Beshear appoints Jamie Hopkins and Lisa Bond to Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology

Governor Andy Beshear appointed Jamie Hopkins, Ph.D., and Lisa Bond, M.S., both of Lexington, as new members of the Board of Examiners. Ms. Bond replaces Joe Dickhaus, M.S., whose term expired in 2024. Dr. Hopkins will fill the remainder of the unexpired term of Leslie Jenkins, Ph.D., expiring in 2027. You can read more about each of them later in this newsletter.

Thank you to our departing board member, Joe Dickhaus, M.S.

The Board of Examiners expresses its hearty thanks and sincere best wishes to outgoing board member Joe Dickhaus of Winchester. Mr. Dickhaus's term expired in September 2024. Mr. Dickhaus generously provided eight years of service to the Board, including a term as vice chairperson, which ended when his Board term expired.. The Board commends Mr. Dickhaus for his years of service to Kentucky's citizens.

Somebody helped you – now you can help somebody else

If you are reading this, then at some point in your career, a group of dedicated psychologists volunteered their time to help you become licensed. They met with you, asked you questions about Kentucky law and ethical practice, and ensured that you were ready to take on the responsibilities of independent practice. Those volunteer examiners made it possible for you to become part of our profession – and now, it is your turn to pay it forward.

The Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology is currently seeking additional volunteer examiners to help administer the oral examination for new applicants. Every additional examiner helps reduce that delay, and volunteering allows psychologists a way to serve the psychology community.

Serving as a volunteer examiner is not only a way to give back, but also an opportunity to stay connected with the future of the profession. You'll engage with emerging psychologists, refresh your knowledge of Kentucky laws and ethical standards, and collaborate with experienced colleagues. While

the position is voluntary, the Board provides a \$200 per day honorarium to recognize your contribution. The Board also reimburses travel expenses when necessary, although most examinations are administered virtually.

The time commitment is modest — examiners may sign up for as many or as few examination slots as they wish, and select the days they will administer exams — but the impact is significant. Each examiner helps ensure that the next generation of psychologists begins their professional journey with the same support and rigor that you once received.

So we ask you to remember your own path to licensure: *somebody helped you*. Won't you help somebody else?

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer examiner or would like more information, please contact the Board office at psy@ky.gov or (502) 564-3296. Your participation truly makes a difference.

Social and Cultural Factors Continuing Education

In 2022, the Kentucky General Assembly passed House Bill 237 (HB 237), which directed the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology (KBEP) to amend KRS 319.032. This amendment requires all licensees to complete three (3) contact hours of continuing education (CE) during each three-year renewal cycle in the area of social and cultural factors that affect health, functioning, and quality of life. The original effective date for this requirement was June 2024.

Due to changes in Board counsel during the intervening years, the amendment to KRS 319.032 has not yet been submitted. As a result, this requirement is **not currently in effect and is not currently being enforced by the Board**. KBEP is aware that some licensees have encountered references to this proposed requirement when accessing eServices for renewal. To avoid confusion, the Department of Professional Licensing (DPL) IT team has removed the related language from the renewal system until the regulation is formally adopted.

KBEP plans to submit the proposed regulations to the Legislative Research Commission in fall 2025. Once approved, this requirement will be implemented and is expected to impact CEU obligations beginning in 2026.

Board Member Spotlight

The Board of Examiners of Psychology is made up of eight professional psychologists plus a citizen-at-large, all appointed by the governor for four-year terms. All Board members are volunteers and take time away from their busy practices and private lives to do the work of the Board of Examiners, to help ensure the integrity of the psychology profession in Kentucky. In addition to monthly Board meetings and an annual two-day retreat, each member spends countless hours on various committee assignments and meetings, ranging from reviewing applications for new licenses and renewals, considering and adjudicating Complaints, reviewing and revising Kentucky Administrative Regulations relating to the profession, and more.

Our newest Board members are Lisa Bond, M.S., and Jamie Hopkins, Ph.D.

Lisa Bond, M.S., LPP

Lisa Bond, M.S., LPP, joined the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology in 2024. Ms. Bond operates a private practice in Lexington, where her emphasis is on being a generalist practitioner and an ally. She is especially passionate about working with healthcare professionals in training. Ms. Bond is a proud two-time graduate of Morehead State University. She has experience working in community mental health, crisis assessment, post-acute residential rehabilitation for Acquired Brain Injury, and large group private practice. Ms. Bond is honored to receive Governor Beshear's appointment to the Board and is excited to serve.

Jamie Hopkins, Ph.D.

Jamie Hopkins, Ph.D., has been a practicing psychologist in Kentucky since 2007. This is her second stint on the Board of Examiners; she served previously from 2014 to 2022. Dr. Hopkins enjoys outdoor activities including running and cycling, spending time with her family, reading, watching University of Kentucky basketball games, snuggling with her two cats, watching movies, and doing Irish dance (not necessarily in that order). She was appointed to fill the remainder of an unexpired term, which will expire in mid-2027.

Update on KBEP Administrative Staffing and Application Processing

The Board is aware of recent delays in processing applications, supervision paperwork, and requests for oral and state examinations. These delays have occurred as the Department of Professional Licensing (DPL) works through staffing transitions.

We are pleased to announce that **Staci Taylor** has joined the KBEP administrative team, replacing Kayla Maupin, who departed from DPL in early 2025. Staci has been onboarding over the past several months and will be responsible for keeping Board meeting minutes and assisting licensees with questions related to applications and supervision. If you experience difficulty reaching her by phone or through the general KBEP inbox (psy@ky.gov), Staci can also be contacted directly at stacir.taylor@ky.gov. Please join us in welcoming Staci to the team!

We are also fortunate to continue working with **Trish Provence**, whose dedication and expertise have been invaluable to KBEP. Trish plays a central role in coordinating oral and jurisprudence examinations and provides steady, reliable support

for administrative functions related to complaints. Her responsiveness and professionalism make her an essential resource for both the Board and licensees. Questions about examinations or complaint-related matters may continue to be directed to the general KBEP inbox at psy@ky.gov.

The Board extends its gratitude to **Jamar Carter**, who served as Executive Advisor to KBEP in recent years. Jamar has transitioned to another role, and we wish him the very best in his new position. **Lyndsay Sipple**, who has been serving as Interim Executive Advisor while becoming familiar with the operations of KBEP, has been promoted to that role on a permanent basis. She is also assisting with responses sent through the psy@ky.gov inbox.

We understand the challenges these staffing transitions have created and recognize the frustrations they may cause for our licensees. Please be assured that KBEP remains committed to working closely with DPL to strengthen processes and improve responsiveness.

Regulatory Update

Board proposes several regulatory amendments

The Board has recently recommended several regulatory changes that will have an opportunity for public comment and hearing before they can become law. The proposed changes are summarized below, but are not effective unless approved. The full proposed amendments will be posted on the Legislative Research Commission website, <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/proposed-regulations/>, when the public comment period begins.

Earlier this year, the Board adopted a new administrative regulation, 201 KAR 26:320, which implements the statutory per diem rate for Board members. The \$100 per diem was established by the General Assembly at least 37 years ago and is unchanged. The regulation clarifies that Board members may receive the per diem for attending to official business of the Board outside of regular meetings. The proposed regulation received no public comment and became effective on July 30, 2025.

Three other proposed regulation amendments have previously been reported: 201 KAR 26:171 (allowing clinical supervision via video conference), 201 KAR 26:175 (eliminating the requirement for in-person CE courses and requiring education on the topic of social and cultural factors that affect health, functioning, and quality of life), 201 KAR 26:190 (allowing supervised professional experience at the pre-internship level to be conducted either in-person or by video conference). While the Board approved these amendments in 2024, due to administrative delays the Board again voted to approve each amendment at the August meeting. In addition, the Board approved a new regulation, 201 KAR 26:118 (implementing PsyPACT).

Each of these proposed has a public hearing scheduled for December 22, 2025. Licensee and members of the public may monitor their progress at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/proposed-regulations/>

COMMUNICATING WITH THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

No matter what the situation, please remember to always use the official Board email address to communicate with the Board:

psy@ky.gov

Board meetings and committee meetings

The Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology meets each month at 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601. Meetings are open to the public and typically conducted with the option for Board members and the public to attend either in person or via videoconference. Board meetings typically begin at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted. Other meetings are held as posted. The meeting schedule is available online at https://psy.ky.gov/newstatic_Info.aspx?static_ID=413.

RESPONDING TO BOARD NOTICES

Please respond timely to any and all notices or correspondences received by the Board. Failure to respond may result in disciplinary action.

Board disciplinary actions can be found:

http://psy.ky.gov/newstatic_Info.aspx?static_ID=432&menuid=116

under the "Quick Links" section on the right side of the page