



Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology Newsletter

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Spring 2026 Edition

<http://psy.ky.gov>

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Jamie Hopkins, Ph.D.
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Jerome, "Jay" Prather, JD
Emily Skaggs, Psy.D.
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Fee structure amendments now in effect

As noted in the Fall 2025 newsletter, the KBEP Finance Committee conducted a comprehensive review during 2024 and 2025 of the Board's fee history, revenue, expenditures, and comparison with other states.

Following this review, the Board proposed adjustments to the fee structure – many unchanged since 2002 – to address inflation and ensure continued operational sustainability.

After a public hearing and written comment period, amendments to **201 KAR 26:160** were submitted to the Legislative Review Committee of the General Assembly. On February 12, 2026, the amendments were accepted and are now in effect.

Effective immediately:

- Three-year renewal fee (Licensed Psychologist and Licensed Psychological Practitioner): **\$795**
- Application fee: **\$150**
- Reciprocity fee: **\$150**
- State examination retake fee: **\$250**
- Late renewal fee: **\$100**
- Nonresident psychologist registration: **\$150**
- Reinstatement fee: **\$150**

Lisa D. Bond, M.S., elected chairperson; Lorilea Conyer, M.A., reelected vice-chairperson

At the January 2026 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology (KBEP) elected Lisa D. Bond, M.S., as chairperson and re-elected Lorilea Conyer, M.A., as vice-chairperson. Ms. Bond, of Lexington, is a Licensed Psychological Practitioner in private practice. Ms. Conyer, of Louisville, is also a Licensed Psychological Practitioner in private practice.

The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Dr. Harwell Smith for his leadership and service as Chairperson during 2025.

Fee structure *(continued)*

Newly licensed professionals will no longer receive a discounted initial licensure fee and will instead pay the standard licensure fee for the first three-year licensure period as for any other three-year licensure period.

This summary is provided for general information. Licensees are encouraged to review the full amendments to 201 KAR 26:160 on the Board’s website or the General Assembly’s website: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/201/026/160/>

Thank You to Departing Board Member Emily Skaggs, Psy.D.

The Board expresses its sincere gratitude to Dr. Emily Skaggs of Lexington, whose term concludes in March 2026.

Dr. Skaggs has served the Commonwealth for seven years since her initial appointment in May 2019. Her contributions to the Credentials and Finance Committees have been invaluable.

We commend Dr. Skaggs for her dedicated service to Kentucky citizens and to the profession of psychology and extend our very best wishes.

Board Member Spotlight

Jerome “Jay” Prather, J.D.

Jerome “Jay” Prather, of Lexington, has served as KBEP’s Citizen-at-Large member since September 26, 2022. He is an attorney with Garmer & Prather, PLLC, and is as an adjunct professor at the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he teaches medical liability.

The Board’s law mandates the inclusion of a Citizen-at-Large, which provides an important public perspective, strengthens transparency and accountability, and reinforces the Board’s commitment to consumer protection. Mr. Prather’s legal and academic experience bring valuable insight to regulatory, finance, and policy discussions.

He has been an integral member of the Regulatory, Finance, and Newsletter Committees. The Board expresses its appreciation for his continued service.

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.

KBEP Recognizes the Retirement of Influential Psychologist Sheila Schuster, Ph.D.

The Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology recognizes the impactful career of Sheila Schuster, Ph.D. Dr. Schuster recently announced her retirement after more than 50 years as a licensed psychologist in Kentucky. *(continues on the next page)*

KBEP Recognizes Sheila Schuster, Ph.D. (continued)

Dr. Schuster has been the voice and champion of Psychology and the helping professions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky across her career. She became the first Executive Director for the Kentucky Psychological Association in 1989, serving in that position for more than a decade. In 1982, she helped establish the Kentucky Mental Health Coalition. She was Executive Director of the Advocacy Action Network, was Chair of the Board for the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, was a founding board member for Kentucky Voices for Health, and has served on the Board of Advisors of the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. She has been a staunch advocate for access to mental health care, which led to her sustained support of master’s-level credentialing.

Immediate past KBEP chairperson Harwell F Smith, Ph.D., stated, “Dr. Schuster has had a profoundly positive impact on the practical disciplines of Psychology in the State during her long and illustrious career.” The Board expresses its gratitude to Dr. Schuster for her decades of service to the profession and we wish her well in her retirement.

review applicable statutes and regulations prior to submission.

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Lisa Traylor to the KBEP administrative team. Ms. Traylor replaces Ms. Staci Taylor, who departed in January 2026. She will maintain Board meeting minutes and assist licensees with application and supervision inquiries. She may be reached through the general inbox at psy@ky.gov.

Ms. Trish Bolton continues to coordinate oral and jurisprudence examinations and provides administrative support related to complaints.

Ms. Lyndsay Sipple has advanced to the position of Executive Advisor and will also continue assisting with inquiries submitted through psy@ky.gov.

We recognize that recent staffing transitions have created challenges and appreciate your continued patience as we work collaboratively with DPL to improve efficiency and responsiveness.

Regulatory Update

Additional Regulatory Amendments Effective February 12, 2026

The Legislative Review Committee approved amendments to the following regulations:

- **201 KAR 26:155** – Extends temporary license grace period from 60 to 90 days.
- **201 KAR 26:280** – Extends temporary license grace period from 60 to 90 days.
- **201 KAR 26:171** – Permits supervision to occur in-person or via two-way interactive video.
- **201 KAR 26:175** –
 - Removes the in-person continuing education requirement and eliminates any restrictions on modality of CE.
 - Aligns regulations with 2022 HB 237, requiring three (3) contact hours each renewal cycle in the area of social and cultural factors affecting health, functioning, and quality of life.

Full regulations may be accessed on the General Assembly website or through links on the Board’s website.

Update on Administrative Functions & Staffing

The Board is aware of delays in processing applications, supervision documentation, and examination requests due to staffing transitions within the Department of Professional Licensing (DPL). We appreciate your patience as processes are strengthened.

To ensure timely review, all required materials must be received no later than the **10th day of the month preceding the Board meeting** at which the request is to be considered.

This deadline allows time for:

- Administrative intake and distribution
- Fiscal processing of fees
- Review by the Credentials Committee at its monthly meeting

Requests received after the deadline may be deferred to a subsequent meeting.

For example, materials to be considered at the May meeting must be received no later than April 10. Submission by the deadline does not guarantee approval; however, failure to meet the deadline may result in postponement of Board action. Licensees are strongly encouraged to submit materials early and to

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

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.