



Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology Newsletter

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Spring 2024 Edition

<http://psy.ky.gov>

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In this issue:

- Current leadership to continue as chairperson and vice-chairperson of KBEP
- Governor Beshear appoints Dr. Jeffrey Hicks to KBEP
- Thank you to departing board member
- Call for examiners
- Answers to many common questions may be found on our website
- Important message from the credentials committee
- Board Member Spotlight
 - Jeffrey Hicks, Ph.D.
- 2024 Legislative update
- Regulations update
- Communicating with the Board of Examiners
- Board meetings and committee meetings
- Responding to Board notices
- Board disciplinary actions

Eva Markham, Ed.D., and Joe Dickhaus, M.S. to continue as chairperson and vice-chairperson of KBEP

At the December 2023 board meeting, Dr. Markham and Mr. Dickhaus were reelected to serve in the roles they first assumed in July 2023. Dr. Markham is a retired professor of pediatrics at the University of Louisville and is a consulting psychologist in Louisville. Mr. Dickhaus, of Winchester, is a licensed psychological practitioner and is employed by Pathways, Inc.

Dr. Markham and Mr. Dickhaus will serve until their terms as Board members expire in July 2024.

Governor Beshear appoints Dr. Jeffrey Hicks to Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology

Governor Andy Beshear appointed Jeffrey Hicks, Ph.D., of Crestwood, as a new member of the Board of Examiners. Dr. Hicks was sworn in on March 4, 2024. You can read more about him later in this newsletter. Dr. Hicks replaces Elizabeth McKune, whose term expired.

Thank you to our departing board member, Dr. Elizabeth McKune

The Board of Examiners expresses its hearty thanks and sincere best wishes to outgoing board member Elizabeth McKune of Louisville. Dr. McKune's term expired in late 2023 and she graciously continued to serve until her replacement was named in March of this year. Dr. McKune provided years of service to the Board, including a distinguished term as chairperson.

We are especially grateful to her for her leadership during some of the most challenging times in the Board's recent memory, including throughout the Covid-19 emergency and during the adoption the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PsyPact) in Kentucky.

Call for examiners

We have an ongoing need for volunteer examiners to administer examinations to new licensure applicants. Examiners are compensated with an honoraria of \$200 per day examinations are administered, plus travel expenses if incurred. Examinations are typically conducted online via

videoconference, and are generally twice a month on Mondays or Fridays. Examiners may sign up for as many or as few examination slots as they wish. For more information, please contact the Board at psy@ky.gov.

Answers to many common questions may be found on our website

Board staff are available for consultation, but many issues can be resolved more quickly by referring to information available on the Board's website

The staff of the Kentucky Department of Professional Licensing provides conscientious and courteous service to member of the profession of psychology. While the department staff is available to help licensees, applicants, and the public, their roles of administrative staff do limit what assistance they can provide without specific Board approval of Action. In addition, due to normal turnover and attrition, the Department of Professional Licensing currently has a number of vacancies in authorized positions, which is stretching the existing staff thin and may result in unusual delays in receiving a response to telephone or Internet inquiries.

Therefore, before contacting the board staff with questions, we ask that you check the Board's website at <https://psy.ky.gov/>. The website includes much useful information about the rules and regulations that apply to Kentucky psychologists, psychological associates, and applicants. In the event you have a question that that is not covered by information available on the website, we recommend you seek legal counsel of your own, or talk to a colleague who has been through the same procedure, as the Board and Board counsel cannot provide legal advice to individual licensees and applicants

Important message from the credentials committee

Common application errors are resulting in delays in licensure for many applicants

For the month of April, a total of 31 applications for various KBEP credentials were reviewed by the committee and presented to the Board for a vote. Of note, 30% of the applications processed at the April meeting resulted in deferrals due to application errors on the part of the applicant.

The most common of the errors we encounter is the submission of incomplete applications. Regulations detail all specific items that must be submitted in order for the credentials committee to finalize an applicant's request. Temporary licensure, for example, cannot be granted until **all** application materials are submitted, including *either* a co-signed letter with the supervisor or the completed supervisory goals/plans. The Board has no power under state

law to waive these requirements, regardless of the circumstances.

Applicants can decrease their risk of being deferred by reviewing the regulations specific to the credential they are applying for and verifying that they have all items necessary before sending in their application. All applicable regulations are available on the Board's website, under the "Legal" link, or can be found here: https://psy.ky.gov/newstatic_Info.aspx?static_ID=432.

As a reminder, applications forwarded to the credentials committee for monthly review must be received by KBEP no later than 10 days prior to the meeting in order to allow for necessary processing and filing. Applications received after that 10-day cut off are often moved to the following month's meeting.

Board Member Spotlight

The Board of Examiners of Psychology is made up of eight licensees plus a citizen-at-large, are 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 member, **Jeffrey Hicks, Ph.D.** Dr. Hicks is the founder and president PPL Therapeutic Services, PLLC, which is a leading provider of mental and behavioral health services to residents in long-term care facilities across the Commonwealth. He has mentored over 50 doctoral and master's level clinicians by providing practica and internship opportunities, and has provided clinical supervision for those seeking their degrees and eventual full-licensure. He is honored to receive his colleague's endorsement and Governor Beshear's appointment to the Board and looks forward to learning and serving.

2024 legislative update

Amended law shortens the required supervision time for certain credential holders to obtain a license to practice without supervision, and authorizes the Board to extend the grace period for submission of a completed application by new graduates.

The Kentucky General Assembly passed House Bill 56 this session. The bill was signed by Governor Beshear on April 5 and will become law on or about July 15, 2024. A broad-reaching bill dealing with several licensed professional services, it affects Kentucky psychologists in two ways.

- The bill allows a certified psychologist or a licensed psychological practitioner who meets the other existing requirements, to obtain a license to perform certain functions without

supervision after obtaining two years of full-time professional experience under the supervision of a board-approved licensed psychologist. Previously, the statute required five years of two years of full-time, supervised professional experience. All other existing requirements remain the same.

- The bill authorizes the Board to extend the temporary licensure grace period to up to 180 days from the time the applicant's degree requirements are completed. The complete application for an appropriate credential must be submitted before the end of the grace period. This applies to applicants for credentials as both a licensed psychologist and a licensed psychological associate. Under existing law, the Board has been required to establish a grace period of up to 60 days. The current grace period is 60 days. This amendment to the statute does not require the Board to extend the grace period, but authorizes it to do so after the bill becomes effective this summer. The matter has been referred to the Board's regulations committee for further review. The regulations committee will make a recommendation to the full Board relating to any changes at a later date.

More information about House Bill 56, including its full text, can be found here: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/24rs/hb56.html>

Please note, neither of these new laws are effective until 90 days after the Generally Assembly finally adjourned. If you have specific questions about how the changes to the law apply to you or your practice, please consult an attorney.

Legislative Non-Advocacy Policy

The Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology ("KBEP") is charged with enforcing KRS 319, *et seq.*, and 201 KAR 16:115-310 regarding the practice of psychology. Such enforcement includes the licensing and disciplining of individuals practicing psychology. As such, the Board will only advocate for or against legislation that affects the enforcement of these laws. The Board will not advocate for or against other legislation that may impact the profession in some way, but does not involve the licensing or enforcement.

Regulations Update

The Board has recently recommended several regulatory changes that will have an opportunity for public comment and hearing before they can become law. The changes are summarized below. The full proposed amendments will be posted on the Board website, <http://psy.ky.gov/>, when the public comment period begins.

201 KAR 26:171: The proposed amendment, if adopted, will allow clinical supervision requirements to be met either in-person or via 2-way interactive video.

201 KAR 26:175: The proposed amendment, if adopted, will eliminate any limitations on the

amount of continuing education that may be earned through online or home-study courses. It also brings the licensure requirements into compliance with KRS 319.032 by requiring, during each three-year renewal period, that psychologists obtain at least three hours of continuing education “on the topic of social and cultural factors that affect health, functioning, and quality of life.”

201 KAR 26:190: The proposed amendment, if adopted, will allow supervised professional experience at the pre-internship level to be conducted either in-person or by 2-way interactive video.

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 by Zoom. Board meetings typically begin at 10:00 a.m., unless noted. 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