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**State of Arizona  
Board of Psychologist Examiners**

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Application Review Committee

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Executive Director

Meghan Hinckley  
Deputy Director

Heather Duracinski  
Licensing Coordinator

**MINUTES OF TELEPHONIC MEETING  
December 6, 2011  
7:30 a.m.**

1400 West Washington  
Suite #235  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular session of the Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners Application Review Committee was called to order by Dr. Wechsler at 7:31 a.m. on December 6, 2011. No Executive Sessions were held.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Committee Members Participating by Telephone**

Frederick S. Wechsler, Psy.D. – Chair  
John DiBacco, Ph.D.

**Staff Present**

Meghan B. Hinckley – Deputy Director

**Attorney General**

Jeanne Galvin, Esq.

**3. DISCUSSION DECISION REGARDING APPROVAL OF ARC MINUTES**

**a. Regular Session Minutes-September 15, 2011**

Regular session minutes from the September 15, 2011, Application Review Committee Meeting were considered for approval. Dr. DiBacco made a motion, seconded by Dr. Wechsler to approve the minutes. Motion carried 2-0.

**b. Regular Session Minutes-October 3, 2011**

Regular session minutes from the October 3, 2011, Application Review Committee Meeting were considered for approval. Dr. DiBacco made a motion, seconded by Dr. Wechsler to approve the minutes. Motion carried 2-0.

**c. Regular Session Minutes-October 25, 2011**

Regular session minutes from the October 25, 2011, Application Review Committee Meeting were tabled to be considered at a future meeting.

**4. DISCUSSION DECISION REGARDING APPROVAL OF PSYCHOLOGY APPLICANTS**

**Requesting Approval to Sit for Examination (EPPP) Only**

Tina Ayers, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Ayers' application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Ayers' application to the full Board for review and approval to take the EPPP.

Kimberly Bernazzani, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Bernazzani's application. Upon review, the Committee noted that on Dr. Bernazzani's Supervised Internship Experience Verification form from Marana Unified School District, Dr. Berkman indicated that Dr. Bernazzani completed a total of 1500 internship experience hours. In subsequent calculations, Dr. Berkman noted that Dr. Bernazzani worked 40 hours per week for 36 weeks, totaling 1440 supervised experience hours. At this time, Dr. Bernazzani remains deficient 60 supervised internship hours which does not fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(F). The Committee requested that Dr. Bernazzani submit further documentation of a minimum of 60 additional supervised Internship hours in order to fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(F).

Christina Vasquez, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Vasquez's application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Vasquez's application forward to the full Board for review and approval to take the EPPP.

Dr. Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to forward the applications of Tina Ayers, Psy.D. and Christina Vasquez, Ph.D. to the full Board for review and approval to sit for the EPPP. The motion carried (2-0).

Dr. Wechsler then made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to issue a RAID letter to Dr. Kimberly Bernazzani, Psy.D. regarding the deficiencies as discussed in her application. The motion carried (2-0).

## **Requesting Approval to sit for Examination (EPPP) & Licensure**

Nader Babai-Siahdohoni, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Babai - Siahdohoni's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that Dr. Babai - Siahdohoni's Supervised Internship Experience Verification form completed by his supervisor, Dr. Stephen Carson, indicated that the internship experience was completed at Canyon State Academy from August 2010 – June 2011. Dr. Babai-Siahdohoni's consortium description from Walden University regarding this internship indicates that the supervision was completed at Tree of Life with Dr. Hubbard as well as Canyon State Academy with Dr. Carson. The Committee recommended issuing Dr. Babai – Siahdohoni a Subsequent Request for Additional Information and Documentation (SRAID) regarding further clarification and the distinction of supervision between the two internship sites and any additional documentation of supervised internship hours at Tree of Life from Dr. Hubbard that demonstrates the internship(s) fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(G) (Please see copies enclosed)

Lutissua Ballard, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Ballard's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Ballard's application to the full for Board for approval to take the EPPP and licensure upon a passing score and payment of the pro-rated licensure fee.

Sarah Leone, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Ballard's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Ballard's application to the full Board for approval to take the EPPP and licensure upon a passing score and payment of the pro-rated licensure fee.

Shar Najafi, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Najafi's application. Upon review of Dr. Najafi's official transcripts from Capella University, the Committee noted that Dr. Najafi's doctoral degree program in General Psychology may not fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. §32-2071(A) as “an applied psychology” degree. The Committee requested a copy of the General Psychology program description from the official University catalog from the dates that Dr. Najafi attended. In addition, a letter from the Dean of the General Psychology Program at Capella University describing the program goals and content may be submitted on official University letterhead may help clarify whether the General Psychology program fulfills the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(A).

Shelly Reed, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Reed's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Reed's application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee.

David Ross, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Ross' application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Ross' application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee.

Michael Shapiro, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Shapiro's application. Upon review, the Committee noted that on page 6 of the application, Dr. Shapiro failed to complete question #25 regarding the title of his doctoral degree. The Committee requested that Dr. Shapiro complete the question either in a cover letter or resubmit a new

document. Additionally, upon review of the Supervised Postdoctoral Professional Psychology Experience Verification form from The Barrow Neurological Institute, Dr. Prigatano indicated that Dr. Shapiro completed a total of 1,594 postdoctoral experience hours. Dr. Prigatano's subsequent calculations noted that Dr. Shapiro worked 40 hours per week for 42 weeks, which totals 1,680 supervised experience hours. Dr. Prigatano's calculations did not correlate with the original total hours of experience. Dr. Prigatano also calculated that Dr. Shapiro completed 510 hours of direct client contact during his postdoctoral experience, which does not fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. §32-2071(G)(5), "at least six hundred hours of the supervisee's time shall be in direct contact with clients." The Committee noted that Dr. Shapiro remains 90 hours deficient in direct client contact hours for his postdoctoral experience. The Committee recommended issuing Dr. Shapiro a RAID letter requesting further clarification from Dr. Prigatano regarding the calculation of total postdoctoral experience hours and direct client contact hours. In addition, the Committee requested that Dr. Shapiro submit copies of his postdoctoral supervision logs as proof of completion of his hours.

Kimberly Sullivan, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Sullivan's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Sullivan's application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee.

Tanis Thouin, Ph.D. - Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Thouin's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review the Committee noted that the CEO of La Paloma Family Services, David Bradley, submitted a letter attesting to aspects of Dr. Thouin's supervised psychology internship experience with La Paloma Family Services. The Committee noted that Dr. Hill served as Dr. Thouin's secondary supervisor at La Paloma, but upon further review, it was noted that Dr. Hill is not a licensed psychologist within the State of Arizona. The Committee recommended issuing Dr. Thouin a SRAID requesting further information regarding Dr. Hill's licensure status and his involvement and role in her supervised psychology internship experience as it pertains to the statute A.R.S. § 32-2071(F)(2).

Dr. Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to forward the applications of Lutissua Ballard, Psy.D., Sarah Leone, Ph.D., Shelly Reed, Ph.D., David Ross, Ph.D. and Kimberly Sullivan, Psy.D. to the full Board for review and approval to take the EPPP and licensure upon a passing score and payment of the pro-rated licensure fee. The motion carried (2-0).

Dr. Wechsler then made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to issue RAID letters to Shar Najafi, Ph.D. and Michael Shapiro, Ph.D. and SRAID letters to Nader Babai-Siahdohoni, Ph.D. and Tanis Thouin, Ph.D. regarding the deficiencies as discussed in their applications. The motion carried (2-0).

### **Requesting Approval of Licensure by Waiver**

Sherry Addicott-Brandt, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Addicott-Brandt's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Addicott-Brandt's application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee.

Jennifer Baumgardner, Ph.D. - Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Baumgardner's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was

the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Baumgardner's application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee.

Briana Fields, Ph.D. - Dr. DiBacco recused from reviewing Dr. Fields' application. Due to lack of a quorum, Dr. Fields application was not reviewed and was moved to the full Board for substantive review.

Jonathan Fluck, Ph.D. - Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Fluck's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Fluck's application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee.

Violet Heise, Ph.D. - Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Heise's application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Heise's application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee.

Leslie Ralph, Ph.D. - Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Ralph's application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Ralph's application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee.

April Weichmann, Ph.D. - Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Weichmann's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee requested that Dr. Weichmann provide copies of original documentation (primary source) relied upon to calculate the total number of postdoctoral supervision hours. If supervision logs were not available, the Committee requested other such documentation for example, copies of applicable page from Dr. Weichmann's and/or her supervisor's, Dr. Lacritz', appointment books that document hours spent completing supervision. The Committee also suggested Dr. Weichmann submit time sheets that might identify specific activity related to postdoctoral supervision hours. The Committee recommended that Dr. Weichmann be issued a Final Request for Information and Documentation regarding this issue.

Dr. Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to forward the applications of Sherry Addicott-Brandt, Psy.D., Jennifer Baumgardner, Ph.D., Jonathan Fluck, Ph.D., Violet Heise, Ph.D. and Leslie Ralph, Ph.D. to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon the receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee. The motion carried (2-0).

Dr. Wechsler then made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to issue a FRAID letter to April Weichmann, Ph.D. regarding the deficiencies as discussed in her applications. The motion carried (2-0).

### **Requesting Approval of Supervised Professional Experience Hours and Licensure**

Barbara Merchant, Ph.D. - Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Merchant's postdoctoral experience forms. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Merchant's application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of a passing score and the pro-rated licensure fee.

Dr. Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to forward Barbara Merchant's application to the full Board for review and approval and licensure upon receipt of a passing score on the EPPP and payment of the pro-rated fee. The motion carried (2-0).

**Requesting Approval of Supervised Professional Experience Hours and Licensure**

Alexander Troster, Ph.D., ABPP - Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Troster's application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Troster's application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated licensure fee.

**5. DISCUSSION/DECISION REGARDING APPROVAL OF BEHAVIOR ANALYST APPLICANTS**

**Requesting Approval of Licensure by Certification:**

After having reviewed the applicants in the category of behavior analyst licensure by certification and finding no deficiencies, Dr. Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to forward the application of Nicole Taylor, MS, BCBA to the full Board for review and approval for licensure upon payment of the pro-rated fee. The motion carried (2-0).

**Requesting Approval of Behavior Analyst Licensure by Experience:**

After having reviewed all of the applicants in the category of behavior analyst licensure by experience and finding no deficiencies, Dr. Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to forward the application of Lisa Stewart, M.A., BCBA to the full Board for review and approval for behavior analyst licensure upon payment of the pro-rated fee. The motion carried (2-0).

**6. NEW AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dr. DiBacco requested that a future agenda item regarding streamlining the Postdoctoral Supervision Verification forms used by applicants and supervisors for the psychologist licensure applications be placed on a Board agenda for discussion and approval. Specifically, Dr. DiBacco asked that Board staff include language within the form that states applicants should only report/claim the first 1500 hours of completed postdoctoral hours. Dr. DiBacco noted that he would contact Board staff and suggest language to be added for review and approval by the full Board at a future meeting. Board staff noted the request.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Dr. DiBacco, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

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**Frederick S. Wechsler, Psy.D., ABPP - Chairperson  
Application Review Committee**

