

BEA Master's Accreditation Task Force

Conference Call Minutes (FINAL)

October 26, 2018

Present on the call: Jim Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP (Chair); Nadya Fouad, PhD, ABPP; William Hathaway, PhD; Tammy Hughes, PhD, ABPP; Elizabeth Louis, MA; David Lutz, PhD; Celeste Malone, PhD; Jason Washburn, PhD, ABPP; Valene Whittaker, PhD.

APA Staff: Jim Diaz-Granados, PhD; Cathi Grus, PhD; Lynn Bufka, PhD; Jessica Andrade, Jackie Tyson.

Jessica Andrade provided information on the in-person meeting scheduled for November 30-December 2, 2018 at the American Psychological Association.

Jim L. asked each of the subgroup leads to provide an update on the work of their groups.

Group 1: SCOPE (Developing a statement that broadly delineates the scope of accreditation for training at the master's level as contrasted with the current scope at the doctoral level.) Tammy Hughes shared her group's discussion on looking at the scope of accrediting bodies. While expanding APA's scope of accreditation to include master's programs, the group proposed that the purposes of accreditation remain fundamentally unchanged. In this regard, *health service psychology*, remains defined as "the integration of psychological science and practice in order to facilitate human development and functioning." Programs in the US that are accredited to provide training in health service psychology, irrespective of whether this is at the doctoral or master's level and will prepare individuals to deliver science-based psychological practices with diverse populations in diverse settings.

The group understands the scope of accreditation to be applied to the program context whereas the scope of *practice* is relevant to individual state requirements. However, the group recognizes an important relationship between the scope of accreditation and practice. This group shared their discussions about the proposed scope of accreditation for US master's programs in psychology that provide training in the practice of health service psychology (programs may stand alone or could be housed in clinical, counseling, or school psychology doctoral programs but would not apply to master's degrees earned while enrolled in a doctoral psychology program).

Group 2: PATHWAYS (Prioritizing possible pathways for APA to establish accreditation of master's programs in psychology. For example, what are the advantages and disadvantages of creating an entirely new accreditation system vs. expanding the scope of APA's current accrediting body? Included would be a review of how the accreditation body would (or would not) overlap with existing accreditation systems for individuals trained at the master's level in health service areas of psychology.) Celeste Malone provided an update on the work the group has done thus far. She said that with all the discussions they have had, no clear direction has been decided. They are split between recommending that CoA's scope be expanding and developing a new accrediting body. A key consideration is the length of time it would take to begin accreditation operations in each model. The group will continue to discuss this and provide their recommendations at their in-person meeting in November.

Group 3: EXPERTISE (Identifying the necessary expertise for the accreditation decision-making body: Who (what groups) needs to be included in the master's accreditation decision-making process and how can individuals be identified or selected?) Dave Lutz provided an update on this group. He shared that it was difficult to know what expertise is needed until the Task Force identifies the potential structures and purpose of the accreditation process. The subgroup agreed to give some thoughts about different models given the likely options for structures and scope in advance of the next meeting.

Action Steps

Members are asked to continue working within their assigned subgroups. The groups will be asked to report on their recommendations at the Task Force's in-person meeting in November.

Next Meeting

Friday, November 30 – Sunday, December 2, 2018 at the American Psychological Association