

**The Board of Educational Affairs (BEA)/Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) Task Force to
Delineate Competencies for Students Completing Master's Level Programs in Health Service
Psychology**

Conference Call Minutes (FINAL)

July 30, 2019

Present on the call: Timothy A. Cavell, PhD (Chair); Olufunke O.R. Awosogba, PhD; Kristin L. Dempsey, MFT, LPCC, EdD; Carlen Henington, PhD; Arpana G. Inman, PhD; Ellen I. Koch, PhD; Jim Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP; Juan R. Pantoja-Patino, MS, NCC; Celeste Malone, PhD; Michael Westerveld, PhD, ABPP-CN.

APA Staff: Catherine Grus, PhD; Lynn Bufka, PhD; Mary Hardiman, MS; Jessica Andrade.

Tim provided an introduction and overview of the meeting agenda. Each member gave a brief introduction of themselves and what motivated them to apply for the task force.

Cathi reviewed the charge of the task force. The task force will be charged with delineating a set of professional competencies for students completing a master's level program in health service psychology (HSP) and distinguishing such from those of individuals trained at the doctoral level. She mentioned that the final product of the group will be a report. The competency materials in the Dropbox folder may help the group become familiar with different models for such a document.

Cathi also provided an overview of the timeline for the work of the task force. The timeline is ambitious, but the goal is to have a final draft by the end of the year. That would allow sufficient time if the group decides to send an item forward to the Council of Representatives for their February 2020 meeting.

Lynn mentioned that the task force would not be developing or outlining scope of practice or licensure as it relates to Masters-level HSPs (M-HSPs). The task of developing competencies for M-HSPs will also be separate from the development of standards for accreditation, which is being undertaken by the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA). By developing a set of competencies for M-HSPs, the field and the public will have a better understanding of what professionals trained in psychology at the master's level might be able to do. Tim provided a definition of the term *competencies*, which refers to the educational aims (e.g., knowledge, skills, attitudes) necessary for entry into a given healthcare profession.

A member expressed hope that the work of the task force would not be inconsistent with what professionals with a master's degree in psychology are already doing. Another member wondered if the work of the task force would reflect current research on the evolving nature of public health. Tim noted that developing competencies for M-HSPs will likely involve managing the tension between what has been precedent and what is current scientific evidence.

Jessica provided information about the logistics for the in-person meeting, as well as the monthly conference calls. The group will be meeting in Washington, DC at the APA building on September 13-15, 2019.

Tim discussed the possibility of inviting guests to our monthly conference calls and/or our in-person meeting, as a way to provide Task Force members with additional resources. Members should consider how these individuals/constituencies would be most helpful to the group. If Task Force members have individuals/constituencies (e.g., ASPBB, SAMHSA, the National Council for Behavioral Health, NASP, MPCAC, dissemination and implementation science) they would like to invite, Tim asked that members

share the name of the individual or constituency with rationale for involvement on the listserv, prior to the August conference call.

Action Steps

If a member of the Task Force has materials that would be useful to the group, please send an email to Tim, Cathi, Lynn and Jessica.

Please share your recommendations on the listserv about inviting individuals/constituencies to our monthly conference calls or in-person meeting, and how they might help broaden and guide the group's efforts to develop professional competencies for M-HSPs.

Please review the materials in the Dropbox folder in preparation for our next meeting.

Next Meeting

Friday, August 30th from 2:30PM – 4:00PM (eastern)