

**Meeting of the Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and
Subspecialties in Professional Psychology
March 21, 2024**

Spring 2024 Open Session Minutes

Commissioners present: Sharon Bowman, PhD, ABPP (Chair), Trista A. Perez Crawford, PhD (Vice Chair), Ester Cole, PhD, Linda Berg-Cross, PhD, ABPP, Jennifer Ho, PsyD, Adeirdre Stribling Riley, PhD, Lindsay Phillips, PsyD, ABPP, Steven Smith, JD

Commissioners absent: Celeste Malone, PhD and Ric G. Steele, PhD

Liaisons/Observers Present: Carlen Henington, PhD (CoS liaison), Alex Siegel, PhD (ASPPB liaison)

Staff: Jennifer Taylor, PhD, and Kristen Knight-Griffin, MPS

Action O1: Approval of Minutes from Fall 2023 Open Session

CRSSPP is asked to approve the minutes from the Fall 2023 open session of the Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Subspecialties in Professional Psychology (CRSSPP).

ACTION: CRSSPP approved the minutes from the Fall 2023 open session of the Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Subspecialties in Professional Psychology (CRSSPP).

Item O2: Liaison and Observer Reports

Informational updates on activities of various boards, committees and external groups were provided to CRSSPP.

Carlen Henington, PhD (CoS) attended the open session and noted that CoS holds monthly executive committee meetings and quarterly organization meetings (March, June, September, and November). Additionally, it was noted that the bylaws have been updated, and there has also been progress on the taxonomy. CoS developed a Taxonomy Review Committee and are working on three specialties' taxonomies, in preparation for their submissions due at the end of the year. Additionally, the postdoctoral workgroup is continuing its work on the shortage of postdoctoral trainees/decrease in fellowship applications. It was further noted that CoS has approved a revised process for CoS travel reimbursement and are exploring possibilities for keeping their website up-to-date. Their next quarterly meeting will be June 8, 2024. The taxonomy project was noted as a priority for the future.

Alex Siegel, PhD (ASPPB) attended the open session and provided a brief overview of ASPPB, noting that ASPPB works with 66 jurisdictions to help them regulate the practice of psychology. There have been many efforts to exclude psychology licensing boards (e.g., Utah will have a licensing board that combines multiple professions in one board, and there is no guarantee a psychologist will be on the board; other states are considering similar process). It was also noted that licensure in the Virgin Islands may allow counselors to get licensed in assessment with limited training. Dr. Siegel also noted that PSYPACT is continuing to grow. There are currently 39 active states (it was also noted that in July 2024,

there will be 41 active states). Massachusetts and New York introduced legislation, as have Mississippi and California. It was noted that there are only 10 jurisdictions which do not have legislation with PSYPACT (e.g., Guam, Virgin Islands). ASPPB is also working in collaboration with APA and BPA to address considerations related to master's level licensure. ASPPB is developing model regulations and model acts to differentiate scope of practice for master's and doctoral-level practitioners. (It was noted that master's level clinicians would not be referred to as "psychologists".) ASPPB is developing a HRSA grant (<https://asppbcentre.org/>), which has 64 of the 66 jurisdictions and provides a thumbnail resource on licensure requirements across jurisdictions. They are also helping jurisdictions enact a smooth process in relation to the new skills test for the EPPP. Beginning on January 1, 2026, the EPPP will consist of two parts. It was also noted that ASPPB is continuing to work with psychopharmacology states to develop regulations and requirements for the exam. As one example, it was noted that Utah has provisions for psychopharmacology for psychologists.

David Cox, PhD, ABPP (ABPP) sent a written update to CRSSPP. Three new specialty boards, Serious Mental Illness Psychology, Addiction Psychology, and Psychoanalytic and Psychodynamic Psychology, are now recognized by ABPP and monitoring of exams is ongoing. CoS has also been collaborating with ABPP on the Psychology Taxonomy website, which can be viewed at: www.psychologytaxonomy.org. It was noted that not all specialties and subspecialties are currently housed on the Taxonomy website, but several are and more will be added over time. Clinical Psychopharmacology may also return to ABPP to seek affiliation in December. Lastly, ABPP will be holding an in-person meeting in June 2024 and a virtual meeting in December 2024. Dr. Cox invited Commissioners to contact him if there are particular items Commissioners would like ABPP to discuss/review.

Shona Vas, PhD (APPIC) provided a written update to CRSSPP. It was noted that Dr. Jeff Baker recently retired, and Dr. Mariella Self now serves as the new APPIC Executive Director. Exhibit 1 of Item O2 lists a full summary of APPIC's recent updates, including their current APPIC member composition numbers, updates on recruitment of interns/postdocs and scholarships for applicants, updates related to APPIC's accreditation requirement to access the match in the 2024-2025 cycle, updates related to the postdoctoral training crisis (e.g., 35% of positions remain unfilled, similar to last year's survey results). Dr. Bowman, CRSSPP Chair, will attend the summit jointly hosted by APPIC and APA on the Future of Postdoctoral Training.

Item O3: CRSSPP Stakeholder Engagement, Taxonomy Initiatives, and Resource Development

The Commission was provided with this item as information pertaining to action steps for further promotion of the Taxonomy for Education and Training in the Health Service Specialties in Professional Psychology ("the Taxonomy"). The taxonomy worksheets that CRSSPP developed for the 2023 APA convention have been disseminated to CoS members, who may adapt them for each of their respective specialties. Additionally, Dr. Victor Molinari from CoS shared an update from Dr. Scott Sperling, who crafted proposed next steps for taxonomy dissemination. It is designed as a long-term project with a carefully detailed plan. They plan to: 1) create one core expert inter-organizational taxonomy workgroup, 2) Finish Online Taxonomy Tool, 3) Prepare "Real-World" Program Examples, 4) Share "Real-World" Program Examples, 5) Acknowledge the Programs that Utilize the Taxonomy (e.g., disseminate a list via training councils and APAGS outlets), and 6) And collaborate with Training Councils (e.g., educate training directors and assist training directors in adopting the language of the taxonomy).

Item 04: Council of Representatives Update

The Commission was provided with this item as information pertaining to the February 2024 meeting of the Council of Representatives (Council). Council passed several resolutions, including calling for an end to involuntary isolation in incarcerated youth, promoting secure firearm storage practices, recognizing the biases and challenges often encountered by parents with disabilities, and combatting misinformation and promoting psychological science literacy. Additionally, Council passed a policy statement on evidence-based inclusive care for transgender, gender diverse, and nonbinary children, adolescents, and adults. The APA/APASI strategic plan was also approved, which includes revised language that enhances specificity, aligns with current EDI strategies, and highlights the importance of partnerships. Council also approved revised “Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults”, which now addresses the increased use of technology and telehealth for the first time.

Item 05: APA Advocacy Priorities

The APA Advocacy Coordinating Committee (ACC) sought input on the APA Advocacy Priorities, recognizing that APA Advocacy Office Staff also address emerging advocacy needs as they arise. The Commission discussed and provided its recommendations for APA’s advocacy priorities.

Item 06: Needs, Slating and Campaigns Committee (NASCC) Needs Assessment for Board of Directors Slates

The Needs Assessment, Slating and Campaigns Committee (NASCC) is responsible for conducting an annual needs assessment as part of developing the slates for the open Board of Directors positions. As part of the needs assessment, NASCC requested input from the Commission, and the Commission provided their suggestions through the *2025 Board of Directors Future Needs Survey*.

Item 07: Orientation Debrief

The Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Subs specialties in Professional Psychology (CRSSPP) discussed its annual orientation. Commissioners noted that reviewing a sample petition was useful, as was meeting in small groups in advance of the large group discussions on petitions, and learning about APA’s organizational structure. One suggestion for future years was to invite a “hand-off” between public members, so the outgoing public member is available, should the incoming public member have questions.