

Ethics Code Task Force (ECTF) Meeting Summary – May 18-19, 2023

The ECTF met for a multi-day, in-person meeting on May 18-19, 2023. Since its inception, the Ethics Code Task Force (ECTF) has met virtually one or more times per month and periodically, during the year, for in-person or virtual all-day meetings to continue its work on revising the APA Ethics Code. During its May 2023 meeting, the ECTF reviewed its work to-date, finalized several standard sections to be included in the revised Code (the attached Exhibit reflects the progress to-date in the preparation and review of the various standard sections), and met with liaisons from 4-5 pm on May 18th to review its work to-date, answer questions and comments.

The ECTF began its meeting by discussing the draft structure of the revised Code and its work to-date in preparing the various sections. The following represents drafts of the various sections:

- Introduction
- Principles
 - Beneficence
 - Human and Civil Rights
 - Integrity and Trustworthiness
 - Justice and Social Justice
 - Nonmaleficence
 - Recognition of Social Systems and the Natural Environment
 - Respect for Persons and Peoples
 - Scientific Mindedness
- Standard Sections
 - Competence
 - Confidentiality
 - Informed Consent
 - Professional Responsibility
 - Psychological Services
 - Relationship with the Public
 - Scientific Integrity and Research
 - Teaching, Training, and Supervision
 - Technology
 - Testing, Assessment and Evaluation
- Appendices
 - Definitions
 - Decision-Making Tree
 - Diagram of Principles

Following a discussion of the draft outline of the Code, including the various sections that have been prepared to-date, the ECTF members began a review of comments received from the Ethics Committee, its parent board, related to revised standard sections that the ECTF has prepared.

During the process for preparing and revising the Code, the Ethics Committee has been involved in reviewing and providing feedback to the ECTF. The Ethics Committee determined that it would review sections of the Code on a rolling basis as they were prepared by the ECTF (the attached Exhibit reflects the review process for the revised Code prior to its adoption by the Council of Representatives). During 2022, the Ethics Committee reviewed the revised principles and beginning in 2023 the Ethics Committee began its review of the revised standards sections. In its review of the standards, the Ethics Committee

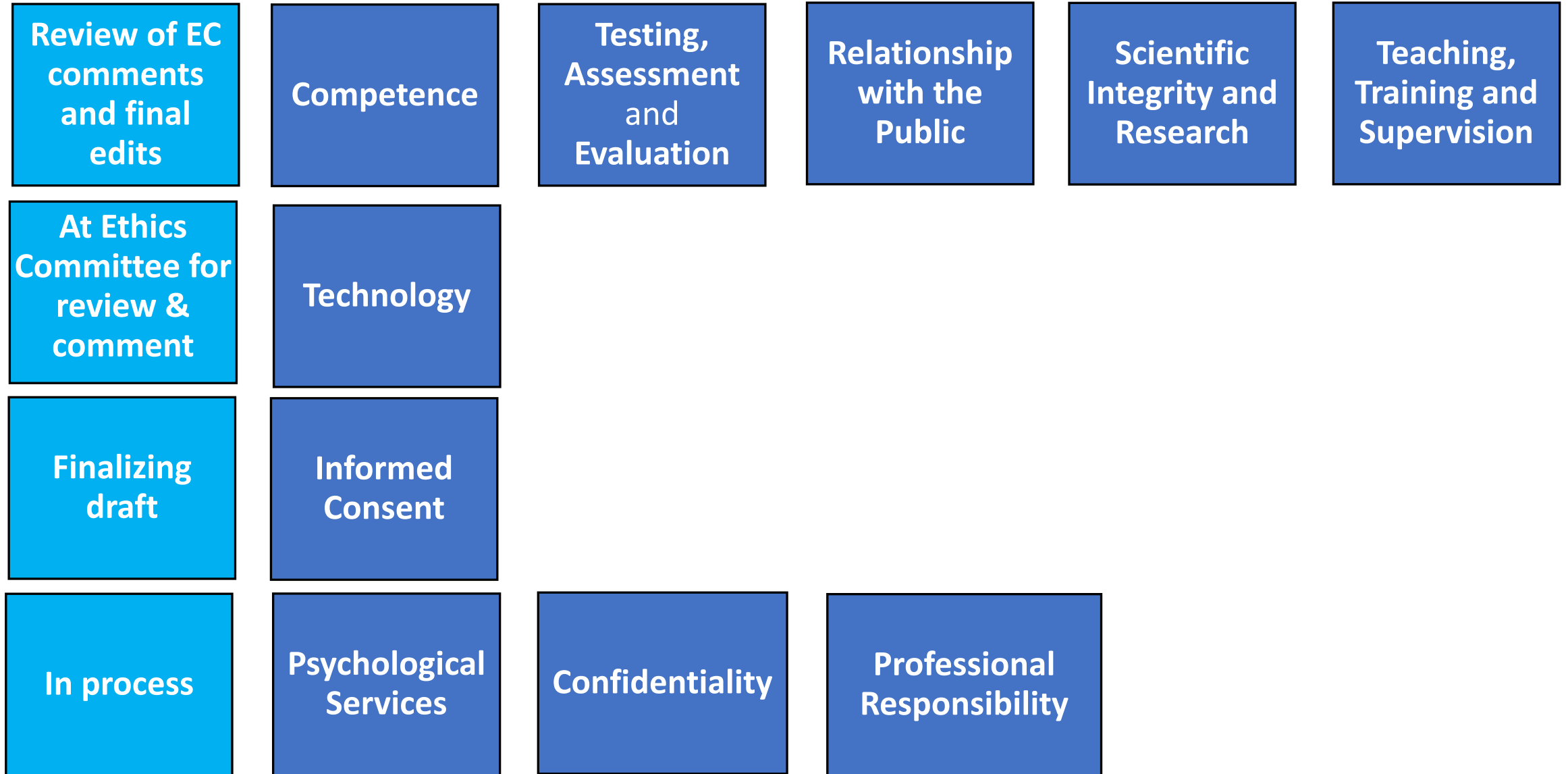
members determined that it would review each of the standards within each section and note if there were specific standards within the section that should be addressed related to the following questions: a) do the standards within the section apply broadly to all psychologists in their work; b) do the standards within the section lack clarity; and c) are the standards within the section enforceable.

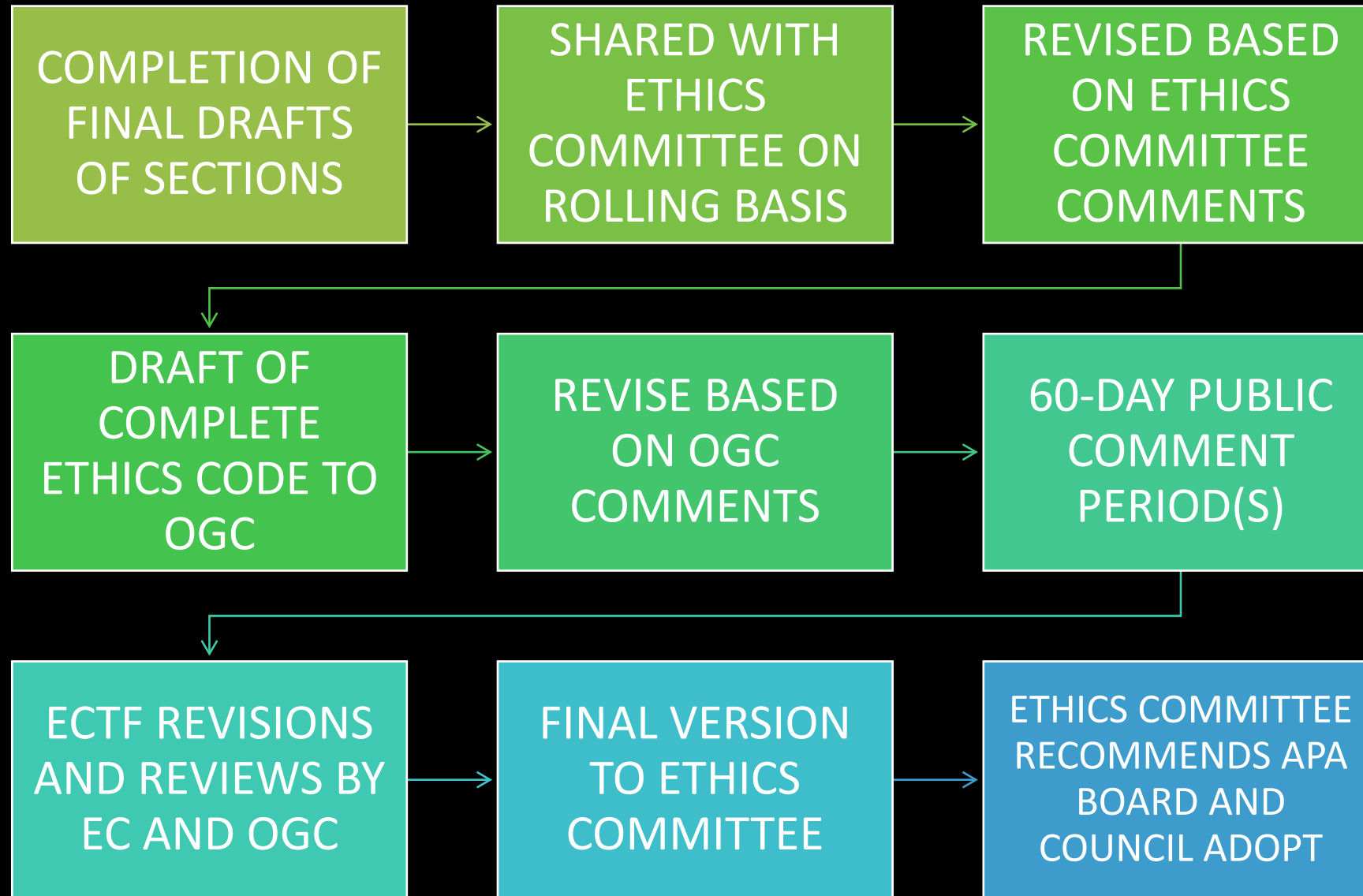
During its May 2023, the ECTF reviewed the comments from the Ethics Committee received related to the following standard sections: a) Relationship with the Public; b) Education, Training, and Supervision; c) Competence; d) Scientific Integrity and Research; and e) Testing, Evaluation, and Assessment (partial review). As a result of its review, the ECTF updated and finalized several standard sections.

Review of the Task Force Meeting Discussions with Liaisons: Whenever the ECTF has met for full day meetings, whether in-person or virtually, it has provided an opportunity to representatives from APA boards and committees, divisions, state associations and other stakeholder groups by allocating one-hour at the end of each full day to provide an update on discussions by the ECTF members and receive comments.

As the Task Force has done in the past during its full-day meetings, liaisons from various groups joined the Task Force in a discussion hour at the end of the meeting. Appointed liaisons were invited to register to participate in the open meeting discussion that occurred from 4:00- 5:00 pm (eastern time) on both May 18, 2023. During the discussion with the liaisons, the Task Force members reviewed the structure of the revised Code and provided an update on progress to date including the following: a) a summary of the principles; b) an outline of the standards sections; and c) an identification of the appendices that may be included (see draft structure above). In addition, the Task Force reported on progress to date including the standards sections shared with the Ethics Committee; standards sections in process; and final standards sections currently being prepared for Ethics Committee review (see attached slide). The Task Force also explained the process for finalization of the Code including public comment period(s) (see attached slide). Finally, Task Force members addressed several questions and concerns that arose from the liaisons that centered on how the Code may address the following issues: a) applicability of the revised Code to psychologists in many different areas of practice; b) the role of third party observers; and c) updates on the timeline for providing public comments related to the revised Code.

Preparation of the Standards





ECTF Review Process