

Ethics Code Task Force (ECTF) Meeting Summary – November 3-4, 2022

The ECTF met for a two-day, in-person meeting on November 3-4, 2022. During its meeting, the ECTF reviewed its work to-date, began its discussion and review of initial drafts of several standard sections, and met with liaisons from 4:00-5:00 pm on November 3rd to review its work during the meeting and answered questions.

The ECTF began its meeting with a presentation from the APA Office of General Counsel and a discussion of the language used in the preparation of standards. Among the points discussed was the necessity for balance when drafting language that had a general tone with language that was concise and detailed. Following its discussion with the Office of General Counsel, the ECTF members reviewed and discussed an initial draft of the standard section, Relationship with the Public. Amongst the concepts discussed related to this standard were the following: a) differentiating professional and personal roles; b) accurately representing psychological expertise and education, training and credentials in working with the media; and c) identifying and clarifying the role of the psychologist if functioning in a role other than a psychologist. In addition to its discussion about the draft standard section, Relationship with the Public, the ECTF reviewed the draft standard section, Competence. In its discussion of the draft Competence standard section, the ECTF members discussed statements to include that reflect the need for psychologists to work within the scope of their competence; evidence of competence provided to the public (i.e. degrees, certificates); and, ways in which psychologists maintain their competence (i.e. skills, knowledge, and qualifications).

The ECTF continued its discussion of the draft standard sections on November 4th, by addressing issues related to the section, Education, Training, and Supervision. Several of the issues discussed focused on the following: a) the inclusion of guidelines related to teaching materials, such as course syllabi; b) the teaching evidence – based pedagogy; and, c) the need to outline competency in supervision.

As the ECTF has done in the past during its full-day meeting, it met, on November 3rd, with liaisons from various APA groups, including members of divisions, state psychological associations, boards and committees. During the discussion, the ECTF reviewed its work and addressed questions from liaisons related to the following: a) updates on the timeline for providing public comments on the revised Code; b) issues that might arise related to adoption of the Code by licensing boards; c) addressing how specific areas of discrimination are included in the Code; and d) issues that may arise related to conflicts between standards and the ability to implement standards outlined in the revised Code.

The in-person meeting ended on November 4th with a discussion of an outline of the work ahead including the meetings to be held virtually in 2022 and the meetings to be held virtually and in-person by the ECTF in 2023.