

Board of Professional Affairs

Monday, November 17, 2025 3-5pm ET

Virtual Meeting MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENT: There is no December BPA meeting. A new member orientation will be scheduled for January. The next full BPA meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 5th, 2026. The 2026 meeting schedule will be announced prior to the end of the year.

1. Dr. Prasad called the meeting to order at 3:03 ET.
2. Dr. Prasad led a review of minutes for the October 2025 BPA meeting. **Dr. Gabriel moved to approve the minutes as written. The Motion passed unanimously.**
3. Dr. Prasad, current chair of the Board of Professional Affairs, led a **discussion on the draft revised Model Act for State Licensure of Psychology Professionals.**
 - a. **MLA Task Force Presentation:** Members of the MLA Task Force, Dr. Art Gillaspay, Dr. Deborah Bell, and Dr. Erica Wise, attended the meeting to present the changes to the MLA. The task force, appointed in May 2024 to update the MLA, has focused on four key areas: reviewing current MLA language, updating licensure language for psychologists, drafting model language for master's degree professionals, and coordinating with the work group appointed by the APA Board of Directors which focused on applied issues in licensure. They have proposed major changes, including a focus on health service psychology, revised title exemptions, and specific educational and supervision requirements for master's-level clinicians. The task force aims to have their work reviewed by APA Council of Representatives in August 2026, with the goal of creating a distinct pathway to master's-level psychology licensure that aligns with current practices and other behavioral health professions.

MLA task force members explained that the revised document was based on reviewing existing practices for master's licensure in psychology in 19 states, as well as related master's professions such as social work. The task force aimed to both create a distinction between doctoral and master's licensure in psychology while also emphasizing the need to retain psychology graduates in the field rather than directing them to other disciplines.
 - b. **MLA Applied Exemptions Discussion:** The task force described the approach taken regarding applied psychologists and exemption language in the Model Licensing Act. Task force members explained that they focused on health service psychology as it is the area of focus that requires licensure, noting that the APA Board of Directors designated



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a workgroup to focus on applied aspects and that work group did not recommend a required pathway to licensure for applied psychologists.

BPA discussed the definition and scope of health service psychology, particularly addressing the distinction between consulting psychology and health service psychology. BPA then discussed the challenges of defining which practices fall under healthcare or licensable activities, with concerns raised about the clarity of these distinctions for both professionals and the public. BPA members emphasized the need for a more thorough analysis of applied roles. Additional concerns were raised regarding potential legal implications for state licensing boards if oversight is reduced for certain kinds of psychologists. It was clarified for attendees that most states with existing master's licensing would 'grandfather' those already licensed if new regulations are enacted; additionally, these recommendations are not mandatory for states to adopt.

- c. **MLA Document Public Comment Discussion and Vote:** BPA discussed whether the revised MLA document was ready to proceed to public comment, acknowledging that the applied community needed to lead the effort on defining its activities that may require licensure and other next steps. After discussion, BPA voted 7 in favor of proceeding to public comment and 2 opposed. BPA approved the document to proceed to public comment, but this vote does not indicate endorsement of the document in its current form.
 - d. **MLA Document Next Steps:** BPA leadership is scheduled to meet with MLA TF leadership to discuss framing the document for public comment, emphasizing that BPA's approval to proceed to public comment is not an endorsement of the document in its current form. APA staff clarified that if substantial changes are needed after public comment, another round of public comment would be required, potentially delaying bringing the final document to Council in August 2026. BPA could direct staff to include specific questions for feedback during the public comment period.
4. Dr. Prasad provided a **brief update on the response to the BPA letter** from Dr. Bufka and Dr. Orsillo regarding unintended consequences of licensing master's professionals in psychology. Dr. Prasad has drafted a response and will send it to BPA members for additional comments. Dr. Prasad is aiming to finalize BPA's response and send it to Dr. Bufka and Dr. Nicole Barnes (new Head of Education) prior to the end of 2025.
5. Dr. Prasad led a brief discussion regarding **next steps for the revised COPPS Framework Document**. APA staff will distribute the revised COPPS Framework document to BPA members via email for review and a vote on advancing the document to public comment. BPA plans to dedicate a future meeting to discussing nuances and potential consequences of the inclusion of standard language in guidelines. BPA will provide formal feedback during the public comment process. BPA will again thoroughly review the revised document after public comment and provide a recommendation on COR approval.



6. 2026 Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Dr. Paul Kettlewell was elected as the 2026 Chair of BPA, and Dr. Paul Korte was elected to serve as the 2026 Vice Chair. Dr. Prasad thanked all candidates for their willingness to serve and expressed confidence in the incoming leadership.

BPA members:

Ravi Prasad, PhD, Chair (2023-2025)
Catherine C. Vieira-Baker, PhD, Vice Chair (2023-2025)
Tiffany Brown, PhD (2025-2027)
Nicolle Cai, MA (2025-2027)
Charles D. Callahan, PhD, MBA, ABPP, FACHE (2023-2025)
Michelle Casimir, PsyD, ABPP (2025-2027)
Kamieka O.S. Gabriel, PhD (2023-2025)
April Harris-Britt, PhD (2024-2026)
Paul Korte, PhD (2025-2027)
Janine M. Jones, PhD (2024-2026)
Paul W. Kettlewell, PhD, ABPP (2024-2026)
*Krithika Malhotra, PhD (2024-2026)
Eric Russ, PhD (2025)
Theresa Schultz, PhD (2025-2027)

Practice Team Staff:

Lynn Bufka, PhD, ABPP, APA Head of Practice
Marnie Shanbhag, PhD, Senior Director for Independent Practice
*Vaile Wright, PhD, Senior Director of Health Care Innovation
*Raquel Halfond, PhD, Senior Director, Evidence-Based Practice & Health Equity
*Leanna Fortunato, PhD, Director of Quality & Innovation
*Aaron Jones, MA, Project Manager
*Shakila Pedris, Executive Assistant

Additional APA staff:

Deborah Baker, JD, APA Head of Professional Legal and Regulatory Affairs
*Stephen Gillaspay, PhD, Deputy Chief of Health & Health Care Financing
Maddie Boening, APA Advisor, Elected and Appointed Leadership
*Connie Galietti, JD, Managing Director for State Engagement & State Advocacy
*Robert Walsh, Senior Director Administration and Governance, Education

Liaisons to BPA:

Rhonda Allen, PhD, APA Board of Directors Liaison
Mary Ann McCabe, PhD, ABPP, APA Board of Directors Liaison



*Andrew Boucher, National Register of Health Service Psychologists
Cathi Grus, PhD, National Register of Health Service Psychologists
*Melissa Bray, PhD, APA Division 16
*Mariann Burnetti-Atwell, PsyD, Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards
*Bhupin Butaney, PhD, EdM, ABPP, APA Division 42
Stewart Cooper, PhD, ABPP, Committee for the Advancement of General Applied Psychology
David Cox, PhD, ABPP, American Board of Professional Psychology
Christina Derbidge, PhD, ABPP, Division 22
*Kalyani Gopal, PhD, Membership Board Liaison to BPA
Kim Gorgens, PhD, ABPP, Board of Educational Affairs Liaison to BPA
*Jessica Jackson, PhD, Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest Liaison to BPA
Suzanne Margiano, PhD, Division 16
Hugh Moore, PhD, Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards
*Peter Oppenheimer, PhD, APA Division 31
Alex Siegel, PhD, Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards
Elizabeth Stuart, PhD, Committee on Early Career Psychologists
Rachael Ellison, APA Division 40

Guests:

Art Gillaspy, PhD, MLA TF Member
Deborah Bell, PHD, MLA TF Member
Erica Wise, PhD, MLA TF Member

* = not present