

Board of Professional Affairs

Friday, October 17, 2025 3-5pm ET

Virtual Meeting MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENT: Next BPA meeting will be Monday, November 17 from 3-5pmET

1. Dr. Prasad called the meeting to order at 3:02 ET.
2. Dr. Prasad led a review of minutes for the September 2025 BPA meeting. **Paul Korte moved to approve the minutes as written. The Motion passed unanimously.**
3. Dr. Prasad announced that Dr. Robin Mcleod has departed from APA as of 10/10/25. Madeline Boening is the APA staff liaison to BPA, and Dr. Lynn Bufka is the lead staff psychologist. Alan Nessman, JD, announced that he will be retiring at the end of February 2026.
4. Dr. Eric Russ led a discussion on the *final recommendations from the Applied Psychology Model Licensure Act Work Group*. The workgroup did not recommend licensure for applied psychologists and does recommend development of an operational definition of “non HSP psychologist” that reflects the diversity of training and roles in the field. The workgroup also recommended an exemption for use of the title “psychologist” for those who provide applied psychology services, in addition to those who teach and conduct research, however, titling exemptions vary by state. State licensing boards may issue a cease-and-desist order to any individual who claims to be a licensed psychologist but is not licensed, however, this tends to be in response to filed complaints and not an active search for such incidents. When BPA receives the updated MLA for review, this report can provide context for the BPA review.
BPA members were reminded that the Board of Directors appointed this work group; hence the report was directed to the Board of Directors. At the same time, the TF updating APA’s MLA also has access to the report and liaised with the workgroup.

This led to a brief review of the role of the BOD in reviewing this work (after the public comment process). Rhonda Allen ensured BPA that the BOD values and will take into serious consideration BPAs recommendations.

5. Dr. Vieira-Baker provided an update on the *MLA Revision document and timeline*.

BPA will use the majority of the November meeting time to review the revised MLA and decide if it is ready to go to public comment. BPA leadership will consolidate feedback on draft and meet with TF leadership to resolve concerns after the Nov 17 meeting. APA staff will aim to provide the revised MLA document one week prior to the November meeting.

The timeline for the revised Model Licensure Act to go to Council in August is as follows:

January 2nd – Revised MLA document out for public comment (60 days).

March 3rd – Public comment period ends.

TF members write responses to public comment and modify draft MLA as appropriate. Final version of updated MLA to governance office in May for a second review by OGC, review by Council Leadership Team and Board of Directors. IF it is determined that the MLA was significantly modified as a result of public comment, a second round of public comment may be required which might delay when the updated MLA goes to Council.

August – Presented at the COR meeting.

6. Dr. Bufka provided an update on the *COPPS in person meeting*.

COPPS has been working on a framework for PPGs to replace the current “guidelines on guidelines”. Dr. Bufka provided feedback to COPPS on the document and has worked with COPPS leadership to update the document. BPA will receive the framework document for review prior to the November BPA meeting. BPA will review and decide if the framework document is ready for public comment, possibly appointing a subset of BPA for this review.

7. Ms. Boening led a brainstorming discussion on the *2026 Workplan for BPA and targeted nomination statements*. BPA members discussed possible priorities for 2026 and revisited the 2025 work plan to evaluate completion and if any items would still be in progress in 2026. The revised MLA document/ considering roles of doctoral and master’s psychology professionals and some COPPS items will carry over from the 2025 work plan to the 2026 work plan. BPA should also include any standards or guidelines that are expiring or coming to Council in the next 2 years on the 2026 workplan. The discussion around targeted nomination statements was to identify slates and descriptions for individuals whose term begins in 2027. Ms. Boening provided information on the slates for the individuals rotating off at the end of 2026 to ensure BPA is soliciting needed expertise. A draft 2026 work plan and targeted nomination statements will be circulated to BPA over email for review and approval.
8. Dr. Prasad led a discussion on the *NBI on the Proposed APA Ethnic Affiliation with the Association of Jewish Psychologists*.

This NBI was sent to BPA for comment and 3 BPA members were asked to review in the context of BPA’s mission to determine if commenting was within its scope. Those 3 BPA members reviewed and agreed that this was not directly related to the charge of BPA, therefore, BPA declined to comment. This will be conveyed to the movers.

This process worked efficiently and BPA recommends this process for similar scenarios moving forward.

When soliciting volunteers to review for relevance, the Chair did not mention the topic of the NBI to avoid bias. The first step that should be taken prior to offering comments on the content of an item is addressing the larger question: is this an item on which BPA should make any comments at all?



A subset of BPA members will then review the item, review BPA's role/mission, and determine if BPA should weigh in on the matter. At the initial time of review, the question is "Does the NBI fall under BPA's scope?".

BPA's role/mission, as copied from the [APA website](#):

The Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) will propose ways to enhance the profession of psychology, and fostering the application of psychological knowledge, theory, and approaches to promote public well-being, functioning, health, health care, and policy. Members of the Board of Professional Affairs are elected to represent the range of interests characteristic of the profession of psychology.

Dr. Prasad announced that Chair and Vice Chair elections will take place at the November meeting, and nominees will be asked to present for 90 seconds - 120 seconds.

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, Advisor, Elected and Appointed Leadership
*Connie Galietti, JD, Managing Director for State Engagement & State Advocacy



Aliza Epstein, Director, Elections & Volunteer Leadership

*Robert Walsh, Senior Director Administration and Governance, Education

Alan Nessman, JD, Senior Special Counsel, Legal and Regulatory Affairs

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

* = not present