

November 12, 2024

Fellow Kentuckians,

Since I spoke with you in September, several positive developments have impacted our Board and its functioning. I will review these and hope you find this informative. Feel free to email me any questions you might have. First, we are not feeling any hindrance from KRS 319, as presently written. Some of the current regulations need revision. We have made that highest priority for our new counsel.

Our two new Board Specialists have begun to assume their respective duties and are increasingly handling their areas of concern with real competence. It is a pleasure for me as Chair to see how readily these individuals have assumed their roles with us. Ms. Maupin and Ms. Provence are both doing an excellent job in their work. Speaking broadly, Ms. Maupin is dealing with Credentials and Supervision while Ms. Provence is dealing with Complaints and Examinations. Other less demanding tasks also come their ways. They both support us, the Board members in various meetings that occur regularly as committees meet to address their tasks.

I must again offer thanks and appreciation to DPL staff Jamar Carter and also Chelsea Moye who kept us going as we awaited the hiring of the Board Specialists. Mr. Carter handled most all functions for us with the exception of Examinations which fell to Ms. Moye. They did a magnificent job considering that they also managed other tasks that were in their job descriptions.

I have been assisting the Credentials Committee which remains short-staffed. The Committee has done a stellar job. Two members have done the bulk of the work for several months. At the close of business for at least 4 months now, every application received has been processed. Most are approved. A few are deferred owing to missing information. Occasionally an application is denied owing to deficits in training or other serious issues. Considering the data, 90+ percent of our applicants move through the process in the month when their credentials are considered. Of those that are deferred, the vast majority are approved easily the next month if the needed items are provided.

The Board Committees that also do a significant amount of work on their own time include Supervision, Continuing Education, Examinations and Regulations. There is also an ad-hoc Committee working on issuing an RFP for a consultant to work with us on considering ways to modernize or improve our functioning. This will no doubt lead to suggestions with significant costs associated, leading to a need for consideration of increased fees for our licenses and services. As I mentioned in my Sept. chat with the LOIC, online application processes would be a top priority for us. The cost is high though.

I cannot omit mention of our finalization of the contract with Mark A. Brengelman, Esq. as Counsel for KBEP. Mr. Brengelman brings 14 years of previous experience as KBEP Counsel. He has already been helpful in beginning to clear out complaints. Prior counsel left lots of loose ends. Working with the Complaints Screening Committee and the Board's independent Investigators, we should bring resolution to some matters of concern and continue to prioritize public protection which is the legal purpose of this Board.

Our last step to optimal functioning is having all 9 board positions filled. Ms. Lisa Bond, M.S., of Lexington, was appointed to fill an empty seat for a master's level clinician. Per the provisions of our law and regulations, KPA has conducted the election to fill the remaining position, which is for a doctoral clinician. We look forward to having enough board members to not feel overwhelmed as often.

To summarize, the Board has undertaken collection of data to review our productivity. We have gained new staff and contractual personnel and look to have our last board position filled soon. As always, if anyone has a constituent experiencing difficulty with the board, please have them contact me via my KBEP email: eva.markham@ky.gov. I do my best to investigate and help bring some sense of resolution to these situation. Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, either at my email, above, or by phone at 502-262-1457

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Chairperson,

KY Board of Examiners of Psychology