



ASPPB

Association of State and
Provincial Psychology Boards

Supporting member jurisdictions in fulfilling their responsibility of public protection.

April 5, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As we all continue to navigate the COVID-19 situation, I wanted to reach out and provide an update on recent questions and concerns raised by the Education and Training communities, and how ASPPB is responding.

First, ASPPB's Board liaison to the Education and Training community, Michelle Paul, and Director of Educational Affairs, Jackie Horn, are constantly monitoring and keeping the ASPPB Board of Directors apprised of these issues. As many of you may already know, ASPPB has been updating its website twice daily with news from jurisdictions about accommodations each is making so that needed training and supervision continue and important psychological services aren't interrupted. You can follow that information here: <https://www.asppb.net/page/covid19>.

Additionally, in canvassing our Education and Training listservs, one of the things we've noticed is a general conflation regarding regulatory accommodations that have been made for already licensed psychologists versus for those in the training pipeline. For example, at the regulatory level—in service of the public interest during the COVID-19 crisis, and as the result of the signing of Executive Orders across many jurisdictions—typical restrictions on interjurisdictional telepsychology have been loosened for already licensed or registered psychologists in the U.S. and Canada.

As far as the training that occurs *within* doctoral programs and internships, jurisdictions have told us that they leave the responsibility of adequate training up to the educational programs themselves. If a program qualifies as appropriate for licensure within a jurisdiction, then the jurisdiction typically accepts what the program deems as meeting their training requirements. Although not every jurisdiction requires APA or CPA accreditation for licensure, all jurisdictions (except for New York, which also requires approval by their State Education Department) accept APA or CPA accreditation as meeting their educational requirements.

Further, most of the variability and individual review of licensee applications among jurisdictions comes during the review of supervised experience needed for licensure which isn't under the purview of APA or CPA accreditation. Here, such issues as to whether or not people can be seen using tele- means, whether supervision can take place using tele- means, or

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whether people in training can leave a particular jurisdiction and still see people by tele- means, are being decided daily. We'll try to answer those questions as they come up and update the ASPPB website accordingly. As with all aspects of the coronavirus crisis, we ask for your patience given that such information is changing rapidly, and licensing boards must respond first to jurisdictional demands. If, however, you haven't been able to get an answer to your questions by contacting a jurisdiction directly, or if a particular jurisdiction's information isn't on the ASPPB website, please do contact us at asppb@asppb.org with your specific questions and we'll attempt to obtain their answers.

Finally, there have been some questions about the regulatory perspective on how to manage training during this time. We want to express our appreciation for the Education and Training community's recommendations as to how best to accomplish that as the coronavirus crisis persists. Many of those suggestions have been posted on the APPIC website and on each training council's website. In general, the regulatory community's perspective on any recommendation is that it—especially in a time of crisis—maintain the same standard in training, supervision, and service equal to a time without crisis. It is only then we can all be assured that the best care reaches those who are now most in need of it.

ASPPB is committed to helping the Education and Training community as best we can during this challenging time and want to be helpful on all matters pertaining to psychology regulation and licensure. As we all exchange vital knowledge and information, it is perhaps worth noting again here that while ASPPB speaks from a regulatory perspective and represents the regulatory community in everything it does, each regulatory board and college that make up ASPPB's membership can, and do, interpret and act on that guidance in various ways. In other words, as we formulate guidance for members, we cannot guarantee how a particular jurisdiction might apply that guidance within their state or province. Therefore, in addition to visiting the ASPPB site regularly for the latest developments, we encourage you to contact your state's or province's board directly. Contact information for each can be found on the ASPPB site.

Please feel free to send this email to all your training programs and to any people connected to training in psychology. And, thank you as always for your ongoing commitment to training the next generation of psychologists.

Regards,



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President, Board of Directors
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