



**Liaison Report from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) 58th
Annual Meeting of Delegates
October 17-21, 2018, Salt Lake City, UT
Submitted by Bhupin Butaney, PhD**

Dr. Bhupin Butaney, NCSPP Secretary/Treasurer, attended the ASPPB 58th Annual Meeting of Delegates between October 17-21, 2018 in Salt Lake City, UT as NCSPP's liaison to ASPPB. A liaison report, prepared by President, Dr. Megan O'Banion, was provided to attendees in the ASPPB meeting agenda book. An oral summary of this report was also presented by Dr. Bhupin Butaney at the ASPPB Board of Directors Open Meeting held the day prior to the commencement of the Annual meeting.

Prior to the Open Meeting with the Board of Directors, a letter on behalf of the NCSPP Executive Committee was provide to the Board of Directors that outlined NCSPP's viewpoint, including concerns raised by our membership and captured in our survey of membership in September 2018 regarding the Enhanced EPPP. This letter is included as a separate document to go along with this report. The central points articulated in this letter to ASPPB were communicated orally by Dr. Bhupin Butaney to the ASPPB Board of Directors at the Open Meeting.

Annual Meeting

The theme of the 58th Annual meeting was *The Global Practice of Psychology: Impact on Regulation and Credentialing*. The meeting agenda included various topics over the course of four days, including: *The Competency Movement; Current Opportunities for Mobility; The Enhanced EPPP; and Assessing International Credentials*.

Dr. Mariann Burnetti-Atwell, ASPPB's new CEO, who started in this role August 2018, was formally introduced to ASPPB members. Current ASPPB President, Dr. Sharon Lightfoot, presented her vision for ASPPB over the coming year. The focus of ASPPB will be on increasing mobility for psychologists across state and international borders.

The central theme at the current meeting centered on addressing competency standards at an international level. Speakers presenting encompassed international experts and regulatory representatives from other countries. The main argument put forth was the view that there are underlying commonalities among different countries on what should be considered the competent practice of psychology as well as fundamental agreement on the ethics of practice. One element not found universally, however, was the concept of cultural humility, which is an understanding and respect for the fact that other cultures can have different views and standards based on culturally unique circumstances. This would be a necessary element for international standards across countries.

Enhanced EPPP/EPPP Part 2

Despite the conference theme being global practice, the most significant topic that pervaded much of the Annual Meeting involved updates and discussion regarding the Enhanced EPPP. ASPPB held a Townhall format discussion with the intention of creating a collaborative approach to the discussion and a tone that "ASPPB" wants to "listen" to its jurisdiction members. The Townhall meeting began

with updates (see below), followed by discussion among Jurisdiction members. Both comments of support and concern for the Enhanced EPPP were communicated. Most notable states strongly opposed to or concerned about the Enhanced EPPP were Louisiana, Minnesota, and Washington. One of the more passionately expressed concerns centered around the perception that some jurisdictions had regarding how they were told about the Exam, *here it is whether you like it or not and you have no choice*. This led states like Washington to begin a process in the past few months to look at other vendors who might fulfil their state exam needs. By the end of the Townhall meeting and a meeting the following day on “the nuts and bolts” of the exam, much of the concerns, anxiety, tension, and mistrust initially palpable appeared to be quelled to what might be considered a cautious openness to the Exam.

Key Announcements Regarding Enhanced EPPP to respond to concerns expressed by Jurisdiction (and other stakeholder groups):

- The Enhanced EPPP is on scheduled to be launched on January 1, 2020 for early adopters.
- State jurisdictions will have the option to choose to be an early adopter (between January 2020 through December 2021). Several states expressed their wish to be an early adopter at the Townhall meeting.
- Early adopter states will have a reduced fee for the exam (\$300).
- The fee for all test takers has been reduced permanently to \$450 (basically for those taking the exam after December 31, 2021 when the early adopter program expires).
- Those test takers who choose to be a beta tester will pay only \$100 to take the exam.
- The decision on whether Part 2 will be mandatory after December 31, 2021 will be made as we move closer to the end of the early adopter period. This way, jurisdictions can speak to each other about actual feedback from early adopter jurisdictions and test takers who took the exam. This will also allow further discussion between ASPPB and Jurisdictions before a decision is made.

Updates regarding the development of the actual Enhanced EPPP Exam:

- Four item writer workshops have taken place so far with hundreds of items already written.
- Half the exam will be scenario based, where questions will build on complicated cases.
- Some questions will include video to capture more real life, skills-based questions.
- The goal has been to develop a measure in a multiple response, multiple item format, using point and click opportunities (e.g., click where to find the appropriate score on an scoring protocol).
- Areas for item development have been guided by a Job Task Analysis that was done a couple of years ago capturing what job tasks psychologists actually do in practice. A review for 2015-2017 ethics violations across state jurisdictions have also been analyzed with data from actual scenarios provided to item writers for development of Ethics questions.
- A process is in place to examine items for cultural/diversity bias. When item analysis is done on items, any items showing diversity bias will be sent to an established cultural bias

committee who will look at each of these items to determine whether they are suitable or not for inclusion.

One issue that was not addressed at the current ASPPB meeting was the impact on portability of licensure by ASPPB's decision to allow states the choice to be an early adopter of the Enhanced EPPP. Feedback and potential direction for solutions was provided to Board members to consider. This is a issue that ASPPB will be deliberating on and addressing in the near future.

PLUS (Psychology Licensure Universal System)

ASPPB has worked to establish agreement on common parameters for credentialing psychologists across state jurisdictions through programs such as PLUS (Psychology Licensure Universal System). ASPBB has engaged in dialog with other international licensing organizations, including the two largest international licensing boards, to develop an International Declaration of Care, which would establish agreement on an international set of competencies that distinguishes psychology from other professions. The goal of these efforts is to facilitate and aid jurisdictions in evaluate credentials of psychologists from other countries and facilitate mobility of American and Canadian psychologists across borders.

PSYPACT—The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)

PSYPACT is designed to regulate tele-psychology practice across state boundaries and/or temporary in-person practice for up to 30 days annually. The PSYPACT will come into effect on the date on which it is enacted into law in the seventh compact state. Six states have enacted PSYPACT into law. Illinois, as the seventh state, has passed the compact into law but it will not go into effect until 2020. Therefore, PSYPACT cannot be ratified until 2020 unless another state passes the compact. A few other states have bills under consideration and there is some optimism that one state may be successful in 2019. ASPBB is also working with Dept. of Defense and the VA to join the compact.

ASPPB will be having its Midyear meeting in 2019 between April 8-14 in Santa Fe, NM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Liaison to ASPPB