

Timeline of Events

August 15, 2018---A petition was submitted to the NC Psychology Board (NCPB) for a rule change: "This is a petition to conduct rulemaking to amend Section 21 N.C.A.C. 54 .2008(h) to eliminate career-long supervision of master's-level psychologists ("LPAs") so that LPAs can hold an independent and unrestricted license after three (3) years." The six petitioners include five NC Association of Professional Psychologists (NCAPP) officers, board members, and board consultant.

September 12, 2018—Executive Director Sally Cameron emails the Executive Committee a link to NCAPP's website, which contains a copy of the petition. President Tonya Armstrong reaches out to Roxanne Pearson, Chair of the LPA Task Force, to invite input from the LPA Task Force.

October 5, 2018—Tonya Armstrong and Roxanne Pearson discuss by phone the status of the LPA Task Force. In light of the upcoming Executive Director transition and low involvement of Task Force members, both agree to wait until the New Year to engage the members of the LPA Task Force.

October 11, 2018—Sally Cameron sends a copy of the petition to Annette Perot, selected in early September 2018 to serve as a liaison between NCPA and NCPB.

November 5, 2018—Janet Heuring, President of NCAPP, emails Tonya Armstrong seeking to connect NCAPP leadership with NCPA leadership.

November 12, 2018—Janet Heuring meets with Tonya Armstrong and requests support from NCPA for the petition. Tonya indicates that the timeframe of filing the petition has precluded the ability of the two organizations to take a collaborative approach and defers to the decision of the NCPB at their upcoming meeting.

November 15, 2018—The petition is reviewed during the NCPB meeting. Annette Perot reported "Psychology Board's decision is to reject the petition 'as is' until such a time as the Board is able to consider the implications that such a change would have on other rules and how that can be addressed. They will invite input from NCPA, NCAPP, and the public. Plan is to form a subcommittee to work on this and to bring a proposal to the Board by its May meeting."

November 16, 2018—Annette Perot briefs the NCPA Board on the discussion of the petition at the NCPB meeting. Tonya Armstrong asked Roxanne Pearson for the LPA Task Force to continue discussion with NCPA about their thoughts on the Petition.

January 18, 2019—At the Board meeting of NCPA, we begin identifying members of an NCPA subcommittee. The following persons comprise the subcommittee: Tonya Armstrong, Annette Perot, Kelly O'Laughlin, Dana Truman-Schram, Erica Wise, Elliot Silverstein, and Martha Turner-Quest, newly hired Executive Director.

January 29, 2019—Tonya Armstrong emails Roxanne Pearson to request that the LPA Task Force convene to provide recommendations to NCPA regarding the petition.

February 6, 2019—Roxanne Pearson emails members of the LPA Task Force to share a copy of the petition. Respondents are generally in favor of the petition, citing a desire to end perpetual

supervision. Also, there is some discussion about possible title changes if these changes were to take effect.

February 7, 2019—Annette Perot attends the open portion of the NCPB meeting and reports that NCPB proposed a plan for moving forward with a rule change that would allow for independent, unrestricted licensure of LPAs. Further, NCPB indicated that they would be sending information about this early next week to both NCPA and NCAPP for review and to have an opportunity to share feedback/comments/suggestions.

February 12, February 25, and March 7, 2019—The LPA subcommittee convenes to discuss several issues, including the history of NCPA and NCAPP's deliberations dating back to the early 2000's; advantages and disadvantages of recognizing a pathway to independent practice for LPAs; the legality of the rule change itself; APA's recommendation to study accreditation issues around master's level psychology programs; regulation of such programs; the need for clarification of scope of practice between LPs and LPAs; review of how other states have handled master's-level psychology issues; minimum licensing exam score requirements; the amount and duration of clinical supervision required for LPAs transitioning to independent practice; possible title changes for independent LPAs; and protecting the integrity of psychology. The subcommittee reviewed several documents, including the *Report of the BEA Task Force to Develop a Blueprint for APA Accreditation of Master's Programs in Health Service Psychology*; Buckman, Nordal, & DeMers (2018) "Regulatory and Licensure Issues Derived from the Summit on Master's Training in Psychological Practice;" and two very thorough spreadsheets compiled by Annette Perot and Dana Truman-Schram, respectively, comparing data across other states with master's-level practitioners in psychology.

February 14, 2019—Martha Turner-Quest forwards from Dan Collins, Executive Director of the NCPB, a summary of the proposed rule changes.

February 27, 2019—Martha Turner-Quest consults with Dan Collins regarding the rules change procedure. Dan writes "The subcommittee will review the changes and will determine whether or not to recommend to the Board any changes to the draft proposed rules. The subcommittee will report to the Board regarding comments received from NCPA and NCAPP and its recommendation at its next meeting and the plan at this point is that the Board to finalize the proposed rule changes. Once the Board adopts the final proposed rule changes, the rule changes will move forward in the state-mandated rule change process which will include a 60-day public comment period and a public hearing on the proposed changes. After that period, the Board will review comments and then adopt the final version of the rules which are then sent to the Rules Review Commission for their review and approval."

March 6, 2019— Tonya Armstrong emailed Roxanne Pearson to ask how the LPA Task Force was progressing and told Roxanne Pearson that the NCPA subcommittee had met twice virtually and that her original thought was that the LPA Task Force would provide a summary to the NCPB independent of the LPA Subcommittee. Tonya Armstrong invited Roxanne Pearson to call in to the next LPA Subcommittee meeting to be held on the following evening. Roxanne Pearson accepted the invitation and expressed that she would like to minimize confusion that might occur by having the LPA Task Force and the NCPA subcommittee working independently of one another as that could result in divergent opinions from the NCPA subcommittee and the LPA Task Force.

March 8, 2019—Tonya Armstrong speaks with Janet Heuring about the reflections of the NCPA subcommittee and indicates that she will share the final recommendations of the NCPA Board once available.

March 15, 2019—The NCPA subcommittee shares its findings with the NCPA Board, including the diversity of opinions on the many issues discussed across the three meetings. After much discussion, the NCPA Board decides to recommend that the petitioners withdraw their petition so that we may collaboratively discuss a time-based proposal for developing a path toward independent practice. It was decided at the Board Meeting that the LPA Task Force and the NCPA subcommittee would work together on a joint statement to the NCPB.

March 20, 2019--Discussion of statement begins as a joint effort between the NCPA subcommittee and the LPA Task Force. Despite much effort, there is a lack of consensus between the LPA Task Force and the NCPA subcommittee.

March 25, 2019—After further collaboration of the NCPA subcommittee around the proposal, Martha Turner-Quest submits the document to Dan Collins. We request a withdrawal of the petition in order to more collaboratively achieve the best outcomes for LPAs across the state, including the development of “a process acceptable to both groups including a path toward independent practice.”

March 25, 2019—Tonya Armstrong reaches out to Janet Heuring to share NCPA’s recommendations. Janet responds by indicating that she will share our proposal with NCAPP’s leadership and will follow up with their response.

March 28, 2019—Tonya Armstrong shares with the NCPA subcommittee a letter written by Ed Gaskin (NCAPP’s attorney) to Sondra Panico, Counsel to the NCPB (and copied to the NCPA President), in which he asserts that the NCPB does have the statutory authority to adopt the proposed rule changes and urges them to do so.

April 19, 2019—The Executive Committee meets and agrees that in light of Attorney Gaskin’s assertions regarding the NCPB’s statutory authority, it would be wise to seek legal consultation. Elliot Silverstein agrees to reach out to Steve Shaber.

May 1, 2019—Janet Heuring Larsen emails NCAPP’s official response to NCPA’s recommendations, indicating that NCAPP declines a collaborative meeting with NCPA, noting their disappointment in NCPA’s “opposition to ending career-long supervision.”

May 8, 2019—President-Elect Elliot Silverstein consults with Attorney Steve Shaber. Attorney Shaber spoke with Sondra Panico who stated she agreed with NCPB’s interpretation that the Board has the authority to do make the proposed rule changes. Further, Attorney Panico acknowledged a difference of interpretation regarding the parameters of LPA supervision. Attorney Shaber agrees to work on revisions of NCPA’s letter to NCPB, particularly our erroneous reference to NCAPP as the petitioner.

May 10, 2019—The NCPB decides at their Board meeting that the proposed rule changes will be sent to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for a technical review.

June 11, 2019— Martha Turner-Quest submits the revised and expanded response to the NC Psychology Board.