

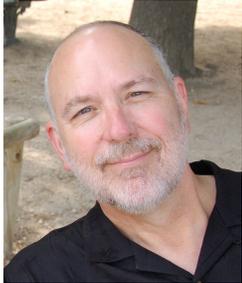


ABPPSP HOT SHEET



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ABPPSP President's Column



In 2005, we began our organized efforts to achieve APA recognition as a specialty, affiliation as an ABPP specialty board, and a seat on the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (CoS). Today, as I sit down to write my final column as the first president of the American Board of Police & Public Safety Psychology, I am dumbfounded by what 162 dedicated police and public safety psychologists have been able to accomplish in these past eight years.

As of now, our board has certified 60 new specialists, APA has formally recognized our specialty (see <http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/specialize/recognized.aspx>), and our specialty is now represented on the CoS (see <http://cospp.org/specialties/police-public-safety-psychology>). Simply said, we did it.

The leadership of the ABPPSP is in great hands. Incoming President Michael Cutler has the vision and knowledge to take us to the next stage of our development. In particular, our board has charged Michael with recruiting and selecting subject matter experts to aid in the development of benchmarks for evaluating specialty knowledge in the form of a written examination and to help develop an empirical and rational basis for such anchors. This effort is aimed at enhancing the reliability and validity of the ABPPSP examination and to increase fidelity in the examination process at all phases.

Determining the eligibility of specialist applicants, and examining the competence of specialist candidates, is the primary function of the ABPPSP, and our ability to focus on this mission above all others is facilitated by the collaboration of the "Big Five" police and public safety organizations (ABPPSP, AAPPSP, IACP-PPSS, SPCP, and APA-Division 18-PPSS) in establishing the Specialty Council of Police & Public Safety Psychology. Composed of representatives from each of the Big Five organizations, the Specialty Council will take over the key tasks of updating the Domains and Proficiencies document, meeting the 2020 deadline for petitioning for renewal of APA specialty recognition, representing our specialty on the CoS, preparing education and training guidelines (see discussion under Academy Update), and broadly representing our specialty within professional psychology.

Phil Trompetter, our founding National Chair of Examinations (NCE), has led a hardworking examination team that, for more than three years, has reviewed more than 100 applications and nearly as many practice samples. As Phil steps into the role of president-elect, he will mentor Jeni McCutcheon to replace him as NCE in June 2014.

Our board's role in examining specialists will expand in 2015 with the implementation of ABPP's new policy on Maintenance of Certification (MOC). Progress has been made on the MOC policy and once approved by the ABPP Board of Trustees it will become uniform policy for all specialty boards. The MOC review will be due every ten

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Column	1
New ABPP PPS Specialists	2
Oral Examination Coordinator's News	3
Academy Director News	4
Practice Sample Coordinator's News	4

Twelve Reasons to become Board Certified in Psychology with the American Board of Professional Psychology! Apply Today!

- ✓ Board certification in Psychology indicates specialty expertise which distinguishes you from other psychologists who work with patients with health issues.
- ✓ Board certification in Psychology distinguishes you on the job market!
- ✓ Uniformed psychologists with board certification who work at the Department of Defense or Public Health Service receive a monthly specialty pay bonus.
- ✓ Health care providers in other disciplines consider board certification as a minimum standard to document training and expertise for patient care.
- ✓ Board certification facilitates license mobility in most states.
- ✓ Many hospitals ask about board certification when applying for privileges.
- ✓ Some hospitals or medical centers require a board certification for approval of privileges, and others are moving towards this policy.
- ✓ Some academic and academic medical settings require board certification for promotion and tenure.
- ✓ Health insurance companies routinely ask about board certification when applying to be part of their networks.
- ✓ Consumers of health/mental health services will increasingly ask about board certification, and can identify board certified psychologists on line.
- ✓ Access ABPP online resources for networking and referrals.
- ✓ Join other leaders in Psychology to define excellence in our field!

Are you a licensed psychologist who provides health related services? Start your board certification in Psychology application process today by going to www.abpp.org for information and application materials. Or contact the ABPP office at 919-537-8031.



(cont'd) President's Column

years (no sooner than seven years after board certification) and applies to all specialists certified on or after January 1, 2015. Those certified prior to January 1, 2015 can opt in or out of the program, although it is our board's hope that 100% of our specialists will voluntarily opt-in. The Renewal of Certification Grid and Narrative is generic and will be the default template for all specialty boards for renewal of certification. Boards may modify the Grid and Narrative to meet specialty-specific requirements. Although administration of the MOC program is fundamentally a Board function, the AAPPSP will support this program through continuing education and training. Casey Stewart, as president-elect of the Academy, is hard at work developing online specialty CE courses.

At the start of this column, I referenced the 161 psychologists who joined me in our grand efforts over the past eight years. Who are these psychologists? 60 of them are we, who subjected ourselves and our professional work to the scrutiny of peers in order to see ABPP board certification become a reality. They include others who supported the effort through letter-writing campaigns, public postings, committee work, and financial donations. It includes the leaders of the Big Five organizations over the past eight years, without whom we could never have reached our goals.

But, in truth, our debt of gratitude extends to far more than 162 psychologists over eight years. It includes countless others, now passed or retired, whose early pioneering efforts made our specialty relevant and ripe for recognition. And it includes hundreds of other psychologists still working in and outside of law enforcement agencies everywhere whose obligations or inopportunities prohibit them from active engagement in these formal recognition efforts. Their work, too, is a foundation for these achievements.

To be perfectly candid, there were times over the past eight years that I feared what might happen to our efforts if any one of a handful of central organizers dropped out for any reason. I no longer have that fear. Today, our specialty is positioned with strong leadership, both senior and early career, in the Specialty Council, Board, and Academy, and we can be certain of our place in professional psychology for generations to come. With that, and with gratitude to my fellow Board members and specialty fellows, I offer the gavel to Michael Cuttler.

Five New ABPPSP Board Certified Specialists!

On October 18, 2013, five ABPP candidates successfully passed an oral examination in Philadelphia and achieved board certification. The examinations were held in conjunction with the IACP-PPSS (all ABPPSP oral examinations are linked to a conference to contain costs and to take advantage of specialty-specific continuing education opportunities).

Please welcome the following police and public safety psychologists as the newest ABPPSP specialists:

1. Ellen Scrivner, Ph.D., ABPP
2. Scott Allen, Ph.D., ABPP
3. Darlene Hoyt, Ph.D., ABPP
4. Elizabeth White, Ph.D., ABPP
5. John Warren, Ph.D., ABPP

These 5 specialists increase the total number of ABPPSP specialists to 60. There are currently 7 Practice Sample Review Panels in progress. 2 additional candidates have achieved an acceptable practice sample ballot and will be invited to sit for an oral examination in Chicago in May 2014 during the ABPP Summer Series.



Update of the ABPPSP Examination Manual

By NCE Phil Trompetter

The original ABPPSP Examination Manual has been revised many times since version #1. Our current version is #8 that went into effect on December 1, 2012. At the annual ABPPSP Board meeting on October 17, 2013, version #9 was approved. This version will be uploaded to the ABPPSP website around December 1, 2013, and all candidates who submit a practice sample after that date will be re-

quired to abide by version #9.

Version #9 includes several modifications from version #8 to prevent and minimize common practice sample errors submitted from ABPPSP candidates. Some of these changes include added emphasis on the importance and recency of specialty-specific continuing professional education. It removes the mentoring program. The importance of demon-

strating conversance in areas of PPSP which are not practiced by the candidate is highlighted. Required elements of the Science Base are clarified. The candidate is cautioned about the risk of submitting a grammatically or typographically sloppy practice sample.

Version 9 will be available to download after December 1, 2013.

Oral Examination Coordinator's Column by Dr. Gary Fischler

After a candidate's Practice Sample is judged to be acceptable, the Oral Examination (OE) is conducted as the final stage to board certification. The examination is divided into three parts, each conducted by a different examiner. The first examiner asks questions about the Professional Self-Study Statement (PSSS), the second about Ethical Reasoning, and the third about the candidate's Work Samples. The goal

of the OE is for the candidate to demonstrate their foundational and functional competencies. Candidates are examined to assess whether they possess the knowledge expected of someone who is competent in the areas of police and public safety in which they practice, and conversant in the areas of the specialty in which they do not.

On October 18, 2013, several candidates were examined in Philadelphia by six board certified examin-

ers: Jaime Brower, PsyD, ABPP; Dave Corey, PhD, ABPP; Linda Forsberg, PhD, ABPP; Herb Gupton, PhD, ABPP; Mark Kamena, PhD, ABPP; and John Nicoletti, PhD, ABPP.

OEs are now being planned for Chicago in conjunction with the ABPP Summer Series to be held May 14-17, 2014, and in Orlando in conjunction with the IACP Police Psychological Services Section Conference to be held October 25-27, 2014.

Academy Director of ABPPSP Column

By Drs. Michael Cuttler and Casey Stewart

Since our formal recognition as the 13th ABPP specialty two years ago, our Academy has been very busy. Here are some highlights of our activities:

Relationship between Academy (ABPPSP) and Specialty Board (ABPPSP)

In the past two years, ABPP's special task force on Board and Academy Relations has been focusing on the question of defining the nature of the relationship between Specialty Boards and Academies. Inasmuch as this work coincided temporally with our formal affiliation with ABPP in 2011, this issue necessarily became the first order of business for our nascent Academy. In the past year, we have been working closely with both CPPSA (Council of Presidents of Psychology Specialty Academies) as well as the ABPP special task force on Board and Academy Relations to address these issues.

In 2012, we articulated our Mission and Purpose and addressed the initial question of our structure and relationship with ABPP:

1. Promote board certification by the ABPP, particularly in the specialty of Police & Public Safety Psychology.
2. Disseminate information to consumers of our services, to the public, to the academic community, and to other professionals about the specialty.
3. Operate a comprehensive continuing education program in the specialty.
4. Provide a forum for the dissemination and exchange of scientific and scholarly specialty-specific information.
5. Provide a vehicle to advocate for public policy affecting the specialty.
6. Track, promote and communicate the training and continuing education opportunities available in the specialty.
7. Develop and maintain links with specialty-related and other professional organizations.
8. Recognize specialists who have made exceptional and outstanding contributions to the specialty.



This year we have further refined our operating status as a merged Academy, i.e. functionally co-existing within the specialty board rather than operating as an independent entity. As a merged entity, the Academy is not separately incorporated and our operations are currently broadly defined within the ABPPSP bylaws. However, we now intend to create specific and more detailed bylaws to define our operating protocols as well as our activities in the service of our mission (education and maintenance of competence of our specialists) that will function in conjunction with ABPPSP operations. In addition, although ABPP policy allows merged academies to collect dues from members in order to fund activities, our current policy is that all our board certified specialists will be afforded membership in the Academy and that there will be no additional dues or additional annual fees beyond the standard ABPP attestation fee.

The Academy generates the bulk of revenue necessary to support its operations through CE workshops, such as the programs presented in Chicago in April 2013 in partnership with the American Academy of Forensic Psychology. We plan to conduct similar programs in California in 2014 to help fill the need for continuing education sparked by the state's new regulations requiring specialty-specific CPE for psychologists conducting preemployment psychological evaluations of peace officer candidates. Revenue generated by these Academy activities is placed in an account that is kept as a separate line item in the ABPPSP budget and can be used to support Board activities consistent with the Academy's mission and purpose.

Adoption of an Education and Training Model— Our recent formal recognition as a specialty by APA's Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP), as well as our admission to the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (CoS), has focused our efforts on the establishment of education and training standards for the practice of Police and Public Safety Psychology. In this regard, the Academy is actively involved in several initiatives to support development of these guidelines under the auspices of the Specialty Council in Police & Public Safety Psychology (aka Council of Organizations in Police Psychology).

Core Knowledge Documents —The Academy is currently in the process of compiling a set of "Core Knowledge Documents" that identify, describe and summarize generally accepted contemporary theoretical, scientific, legal and practice perspectives within the different domains of practice in police and public safety psychology (i.e., assessment, intervention, operations, consultation). These documents are offered as basic reference documents representing the essential knowledge base and standards of practice required for basic specialty competence in the respective domains of practice. We anticipate the release of two of the core knowledge documents (Core Legal Knowledge and Core Assessment Knowledge) this year. The Operations and Consulting knowledge documents are being developed with a tentative release date of October 2014.

Practice Sample Coordinator's Column

By Drs. Jeni McCutcheon and Jocelyn Roland

As the Practice Sample Coordinators (PS-C), we would like to offer some suggestions to applicants and candidates (and board certified specialists who might advise applicants and candidates) to maximize the likelihood that your practice sample will meet the technical requirements as outlined in the Examination Manual (EM). This information is also intended to assist ABPPSP reviewers and oral examiners.

The technical requirements should be considered as important to follow as the directives in the EM for the content of your submission. It's easy to forget that these instructions must be followed, and in some cases failure to adhere to these matters alone could lead to significant problems and an unfavorable outcome for the candidate. The most common problems identified to date are basic grammatical, typographical and readability/legibility issues. While it is incumbent upon each candidate to submit their own work product, consider having a proofreader assist you with an extra set of eyes. We can all benefit from an objective reviewer for technical assistance.

Ensure that you have redacted ALL identifying information from relevant submitted Work Sample materials. Think of all the places a person's name can show up such as on computer-generated profiles, fax identifiers or client notes. If you include a letter from an agency as support for a FFDE Work Sample, do not just redact the agency name and leave the address. Search tools allow a reader to identify an agency from an address. Leaving a Human Resources Director's name on a memo is another way for a client's identity to be detected. Remember, we work with detectives, and have learned many of their tricks of the trade!

In both the Complex Relationships and Ethical Base sections, make sure you are presenting situations that meet the directives in the EM. An easily resolved ethics issue (e.g., a former therapy client wants you to do his FFDE — this is an easy "no,") is not addressing the request for a complex dilemma. Similarly, some candidates have said "I don't have ethical problems, I practice ethically." This will not work either. The inherent challenges and demands of this specialty commonly lead to taxing situations for myriad reasons, and it is your burden to show your panel how you handle them. Remember, a bad outcome does not necessarily mean the right course of action was not taken.

On a final note, assessment of competency in the field of PPSP is not just about what you did correctly. Many times it is what we did wrong, learned from, stumbled and fumbled over that has taught us the most. Sharing struggles and your adversities may be just as important as sharing your success. Share your thoughts, reasoning, struggles, knowledge base and skill set to your panel, regardless of situational outcome.

Good luck, and persevere!

