



Board Members

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Linda Nishi-Strattner, Ph.D.
Psychologist, Tigard

Dave Ziegler, Ph.D.
Psychologist, Jasper

Janice Schermer
Public Member, Portland

Bryan Hagen, DNP
Public Member, Bend

Elizabeth Goy, Ph.D
Psychologist, Portland

Theresa Chan, Ph.D.
Psychologist, Hillsboro

Sofia Jasani, M.S.
Public Member, Portland

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LaReé Felton
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Connie Farrier
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Allison McGonagle
Compliance Specialist

Dan Vile
Investigator

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Julia Budlong
Program Assistant

Director's Update

Greetings! So much has happened since our last newsletter. Too much to mention in this writing, but, one noteworthy mention is that our country and the world is now starting to fast track the COVID-19 vaccine. Just over a year ago our state was faced with the COVID-19 pandemic emergency declaration by our Governor, and we have been dealing with changes that until then were unimaginable. Our Boards have just been trying to stay afloat and functional from the administrative perspective. I cannot even imagine trying to operate a mental health practice and overcoming all of the challenges that licensees must be faced with. I am thankful for our dedicated staff and our volunteer board members this past year and I heap praise upon everyone associated with keeping us functional here at MHRA. I continue to remain optimistic that someday we will return to normal.

I want to take a moment to recognize the COVID-19 workgroup at the Board of Psychology. This workgroup was formed the second half of 2020 and they meet on a regular basis to work on guidance and considerations for licensees with emphasis towards developing FAQs to be posted on our [COVID-19 Webpage](#). The workgroup was in uncharted territory as they began their task, and they spent considerable time researching the various topics as email questions poured in. I hope that licensees found and continue to find the FAQs and resources useful. The workgroup team consisted of a non-psychologist public Board member (**Janice Schermer**), two member psychologists (**Deborah Wise, Ph.D.**, and **Michael Fulop, Psy.D.**) and three OBOP Board members (**Elizabeth Goy, Ph.D.**, **Patricia Bjorkquist, Ph.D.**, and **Linda Nishi-Strattner, Ph.D.**).

Notwithstanding the public safety aspect of serving on this Board, one of the most meaningful benefits about serving is the lifetime bonds that are developed among and between the Board members and staff. It is always bittersweet when a board member reaches the end of their term. Sweet because a Board member can walk away knowing that they have served the public well and have benefitted the cause of their profession. Sad, because it's time to step down. I cannot think of anyone who has served with better distinction than **Dr. Patricia Bjorkquist, Ph.D.** Dr. Pat has faithfully served the BOP for 6 years and then some, taking part in some very difficult decisions. Pat's term ended on 6-30-2020, but she continued to serve until her replacement could be found. Not only did we form a lasting friendship with Pat, but she has been a mentor to everyone on the Board. Thank you Pat for your years of dedicated service!

I also want to thank our Assistant Attorney General **Warren Foote** for his many years of service as he heads into retirement beginning in April 2021. I knew I was in the midst of greatness from the moment that I met Warren. His wise legal counsel was a constant for over a decade and he never steered me wrong. Thank you Warren for a job well done, and con-

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Director's Update, Cont.

gratulation to reaching this milestone. I will look forward to receiving your fishing reports!

I am pleased to report two new Board of Psychology board members. **Theresa K. Chan, Ph.D.**, Psychologist and **Sofia Jasani, M.S.**, Public Member joined BOP in March 2021 and their biographies are included in this newsletter. Also included is a bio for our newer Psychologist Member, Elizabeth ("Betsy") Goy, Ph.D., who was appointed in July 2020 and is quickly getting up to speed.

Finally, we plan to launch our much awaited licensing database in April 2021, so, new applicants and current licensees who are up for renewal, please read the article in this newsletter, and be on the watch for our roll-out.

-Charles Hill, Executive Director, Mental Health Regulatory Agency

"Plans are nothing, but planning is everything" – Dwight D. Eisenhower Ψ

New Licensing System & Application Process Overview

Mental Health Regulatory Agency is pleased to announce the launch of a new licensing system. It will feature enhanced functionality for licensees, residents, and applicants who will have greater access to receive and provide information.

Licensee Portal

At long last, we will be offering online renewals and card payments! In the new Licensee Portal, licensees and residents will soon be able to:

- Renew your license;
- Update your contact information or name;
- View and download your license card (licensees and permits);
- Update your qualified person designation;
- Submit residency documents including proposed residency contracts, change requests, hours logs, and final evaluation reports;
- Request documents like license verifications and replacement wall certificates;
- Request to be placed on the [Supervisor Registry](#); and
- Pay fees and view receipts.

The system generates automated emails to remind licensees of renewal deadlines, with information on how to renew through the Licensee Portal. The first email is sent 45 days prior to the due date, and a courtesy reminder is sent 30 days prior. If the licensee does not renew on time, the system sends an email notifying them that they can still renew within the grace period with the additional delinquent fee. **Please ensure that your email address is up to date so that you do not miss important reminders.** Renewing on time is the professional responsibility of the licensee, regardless of reminders from the Board. We recommend that you set calendar alerts to ensure you are on time. The Board cannot make exceptions when a person fails to renew within their grace period and lapses, then must reapply.

Applicant Portal

The application process will become much simpler with the new system. The days of paper applications and checks are over! The new process begins with the person applying online, using information found on the [Apply for a License Webpage](#). The applicant creates a login to the Applicant Portal, and the system guides them through the process step-by-step. The system explains which application type applies to the

New Licensing System & Application Process Overview, cont.

applicant's situation, and provides information about what information is needed to complete the process. Once the person submits their application, they receive an automated email that confirms their submission. The applicant can access the Applicant Portal anytime to see the status of their application, which is updated by MHRA staff as items arrive. The applicant has immediate access to a list of items that are needed to complete the application, which are marked as "received" or "approved" as they arrive to the Board office and/or are reviewed by Board staff. There are various documents that the Board requires in order to ensure that the person has met sufficient competency and character and fitness standards needed to protect the public. These items include exam verification, criminal background check, graduate transcript, professional references, and official verification of licensure, registration, or certification from other state regulatory boards. The system tailors the list of items required based on application type and information provided by the applicant. MHRA staff then reviews, updates, and verifies the accuracy of this list at initial application and as items arrive. Applicants should still keep in mind that all items must be received before the Board can proceed with review of the application, and that applications (including re-applications) are reviewed in the order in which they are completed. There can be no exceptions or special expeditions to these rules.

Once all of the required items are received, the application is reviewed and determined to be complete (and approved) or incomplete (items are missing or insufficient). This information is communicated to the applicant. On approval, the system generates an automated approval email to the applicant, which explains the next steps- exam(s) and sometimes experience, depending on the person's situation. Approved psychologist residents receive an email that explains the residency requirements and includes their residency number. Residents can access the Licensee Portal at any time to submit residency-related documents, including change requests, hours logs, and evaluation reports.

Sometimes the approval process takes longer because an applicant has disclosed on their application (or sometimes fails to disclose, and the Board discovers) a character and fitness issue such as a criminal history or a disciplinary action from another jurisdiction. These issues require a specific review in accordance with the Agency's Character & Fitness

Review Process, which may involve committee or full Board review. The applicant is notified of such review, but sometimes does not communicate this with their pending employer, supervisor, or other interested party. Because the Board cannot disclose Criminal Justice Information or confidential investigations with outside parties, there is often an appearance that the Board is being unreasonably slow to process the application. This is fortunately not very common, but does put Board staff in an awkward position when it does occur. We appreciate your patience and understanding in cases where there appears to be delay or lack of communication.

When the approved applicant is ready for licensure, after meeting the experience and examination requirements for licensure, then the file receives a final review for sufficiency. Board staff will issue the license through the system, which immediately sends an automated email to the new licensee that provides their license number, the expiration date, and a link to the [New Licensee Information Webpage](#), providing various helpful information on the requirements.

What Should I do now?

The system will launch very soon, and more information will follow via the Board's listserv. To ensure that you are ready for this change, please be sure that the Board has your current email address on record. You can make changes now using the [Change of Contact Information Form](#). The Board contact email address is what you will need to enter in order to initiate a profile and login to the Licensee Portal. Once the new system is launched, contact information changes will be made within the system. Information on the system, user instructions, and troubleshooting advice will be posted to our [New Licensing System](#) webpage.

The application and renewal processes are designed to be as user friendly as possible given the parameters of licensing. The system is structured to involve the applicant, resident, and licensee at every step of the process while still making it their responsibility to meet the licensure requirements. We hope that users find the new system simpler, more accessible, and more convenient. Despite the inevitable learning curve and kinks that must be worked out following any system implementation, we believe that the new licensing system is a vast improvement for both the user and MHRA staff. ♣

Welcome New Board Members!

The Board is pleased to announce three new Board Members, including two psychologist members and one public member.

Dr. Elizabeth Goy attended graduate school at Northern Illinois University, completing her Ph.D. in psychology in 1999. She pursued Internship (Geropsychology track) and Postdoctoral training (Geropsychology emphasis) at the VA Portland Health Care System (VAPORHCS), and was hired at VAPORHCS as a research psychologist/project director at the completion of her training. Dr. Goy was awarded a VA Health Services Research & Development Career Development Award in 2006, completed in 2011 and resulting in four publications on the end of life needs of people with Parkinson Disease. She joined the staff of the VA in 2004, serving a joint appointment as OHSU Associate Professor of Psychiatry. She was Training Director for the VAPORHCS Internship and Psychology Fellowship (Residency) Programs and was the lead supervisor of the VA Postdoctoral Fellowship in Palliative Care Psychology. Her clinical practice is focused on mental health and wellness interventions for older adults and patients with chronic or life-limiting illness. Her research interests include psychiatric and psychological aspects of end-of-life care, with an emphasis on neurological disorders. Her research includes: documenting the prevalence of mental disorders in hospice patients at the end of life; treatment strategies for depression in hospice and palliative care patients; identification of early predictors of dementia in Parkinson's Disease; family and patient experiences with and views on dying in Oregon; documenting the end-of-life trajectory for patients with Parkinson's Disease, and examining mental health and neuropsychological correlates of psychogenic seizure disorders in Veterans. In 2016, Dr. Goy was appointed to an American Psychological Association (APA) Working Group on Palliative Care and End of Life Issues; she served as Chair. This group produced two APA Resolutions on End of Life Care and Physician Aid in Dying that were unanimously adopted by the general APA council in August, 2017. Since retiring in 2018 from VAPORHCS, Dr. Goy has maintained a small private practice in Geropsychology and Palliative Care. She also performs cello professionally in Pacific Northwest regional orchestras and ensembles. Ethical issues and a focus on equity and multiculturalism have been at the center of Dr. Goy's career activities in research, training, and clinical practice. "The chance to bring my commitment to ethical practice into the domain of public protection on the Board of Psychology is a really gratifying way to give back to my profession and serve the citizens of Oregon."

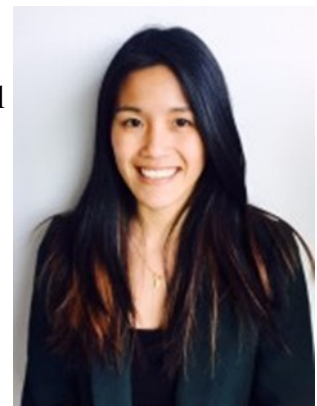


Dr. Theresa Chan [She|Her] is a counseling psychologist and social justice advocate, who is committed to promoting meaningful and inclusive spaces for communities that have been historically marginalized. She has experience in community and university settings, working with diverse individuals in areas of identity development, acculturation, first-generation college students, family/relational dynamics, clinical training and cultural competencies, and increasing access to mental health resources.

Theresa received her PhD in Counseling Psychology from Auburn University

and currently holds a position at Pacific University. With her intersecting identities and psychologist perspective, the Oregon Board of Psychology

will provide Theresa with a platform to contribute her experience and knowledge as an early career psychologist to improve the practice of psychology to be more equitable and inclusive for the changing demographics and needs of Oregon communities. The-



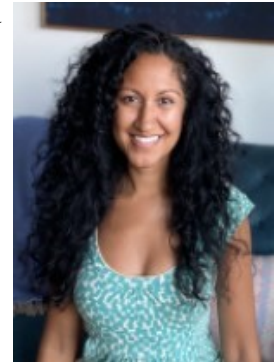
COVID-19 Workgroup and Resources

The Board's COVID-19 Workgroup continues to develop and post new FAQs on the [COVID-19 Webpage](#). This is an excellent resource for questions about considerations for telehealth, returning to in-person practice, informed consent, waiver of liability and other ethical and legal issues. It contains helpful links to external guidelines and resources as well. We encourage licensees to visit the webpage regularly for new and updated information.

New Member Bios, cont.

resa hopes to create social change at both the individual and systemic level, as well as empower folx to share connections, community, and collective strength.

Sofia Jasani, MS, NCC, LPC Intern, Public Member (she/her/hers) is the founding President of the Oregon Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development. Sofia graduated from Portland State University in 2020 with a master's in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling. She is a therapist in private practice at Making Meaning Counseling & Consulting, LLC and an adjunct instructor in PSU's department of Counselor Education.



As secretary of the Oregon Counseling Association, Sofia hosted the first annual Counselors of Color Reception in 2018 and created a scholarship fund called "A Seat at the Table" to make leadership and professional development accessible to graduate students and emerging clinicians of color. She represented the Western region on the American Counseling Association Anti-Racism Taskforce in 2020.

Sofia received the Human Rights Award from the Oregon Counseling Association in 2020; Distinguished Graduate Student Award from Portland State University in 2020; the Emerging Graduate Student Leader Award from the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development in 2020; and was named a National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellow in 2019.

Sofia is the proud daughter of Muslim immigrants and is a first-generation college student. Her mission is to center the voices of Black, Indigenous, POC, Disabled, Queer, Trans, and Affectionally Diverse communities within the counseling profession and co-create a world in which ALL people can find "a counselor who looks like me." Ψ

Workforce Diversity & Supply

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) recently issued a News Release regarding its reports on the diversity and supply of Oregon's licensed health care workforce. The reports are based on data collected via the Health Care Workforce Reporting Program, which all licensees must complete at renewal, through January 2020. OHA noted the following key insights:

- ◆ The report on the diversity of the workforce shows that the racial/ethnic diversity of the health care workforce does not match the diversity of the Oregon population, with Hispanic/Latinx, African American/Black, and American Indian/Alaska Native providers underrepresented in most licensed health care professions.
- ◆ The racial and ethnic makeup of many occupations is changing, and most occupations appear to be becoming gradually more diverse over time but still lag behind the diversity of the state.
- ◆ The overrepresentation of white providers is especially pronounced among behavioral health providers, where people of color comprise 13% of licensed behavioral health providers (compared with 24% in the population).
- ◆ Twenty percent of Oregon's health care professionals reported speaking languages other than English; however, only 11.3% report advanced proficiency or being a native speaker of another language and only 9.4% report using a language other than English with patients. Spanish is the most reported language spoken other than English. While 10.0% of the workforce reports speaking Spanish, only 4.2% report advanced proficiency or being a native speaker of Spanish and 6.8% of the workforce reports using Spanish with patients.

Workforce Diversity & Supply, cont.

- ◆ Growth in direct patient care FTE was greatest for counselors and therapists, physician assistants, clinical social work associates, licensed dietitians and nurse practitioners. Clinical nurse specialists and non-clinical social workers lost the most direct patient care FTE on average over time.
- ◆ There are shortages of certain health care professions across physical, behavioral and oral health, some of which can be particularly acute in rural areas. This is especially true for behavioral health professionals, who are concentrated in Multnomah and neighboring counties and relatively underrepresented throughout the rest of the state.

The 2020 data related to Mental Health Regulatory Agency boards- specific to psychologists and counselors & therapists- can be found on the [MHRA Website](#). This information includes practitioner FTE by county, race and ethnicity, age, and practice characteristics. Ψ

Administrative Rulemaking

On January 14, 2021, the Board filed a Permanent Administrative Order for the following rule amendment:

Online Oregon Jurisprudence Exam.

Amend OAR 858-010-0030: This amendment allowed the Board to move the jurisprudence exam from an in-person to an online format. It also clarified the requirements and reorganized.

On March 23, 2021, the Board filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the following proposed rule adoption:

Compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders during a Governor declared emergency.

Adopt OAR 858-020-0115: This new rule sets forth that failure to comply with any applicable provision of a Governor's Executive Order, including failure to comply with Oregon Health Authority guidance, constitutes unprofessional conduct. Violations are subject to Board sanction.

This rule is being adopted at the direction of the Governor's Office. It is needed to ensure compliance of Executive Orders that help keep Oregonians healthy and safe during a declared emergency.

The agency requests public comment on whether the options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business. Please email your comments to laree.felton@oregon.gov or mail them to the Board's office at 3218 Pringle Road SE, Ste. 130, Salem, OR 97302. All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 2021.

Note: On November 20, 2020, the Board filed a Temporary Administrative Order that temporarily adopted OAR 858-020-0015, effective until May 18, 2021. The Board determined that there was a need to extend this provision beyond the May expiration date, which is not possible to accomplish via another temporary rulemaking. Therefore, the Board proposes this permanent rule adoption.

On March 23, 2021, the Board filed a Permanent Administrative Order for the following rule amendment:

Board Member Compensation.

Amend OAR 858-010-0005: This amendment increases the daily per diem that Board members receive, effective April 1, 2021.

Please visit our [Administrative Rulemaking Webpage](#) for more information. Ψ

Recent Disciplines

During the period of time from December 1, 2020, to March 26, 2021, the Board took the following actions:

Andrew P. Weitzman, Psy.D. (Licensee), **STIPULATED ORDER**, effective January 29, 2021. Licensee met with Patient A, an adult female with a history of schizoaffective disorder at the Oregon State Hospital in her secured residential unit. During the course of the clinical encounter, which began in a private consultation room, Patient A expressed frustration and anger. Licensee walked out of the room into a public hallway and walked away. Patient A followed Licensee into a public hallway and Licensee resumed his clinical engagement with Patient A in the hallway. Patient A was tearful and upset. Licensee continued the engagement with Patient A for approximately forty minutes in the hallway as multiple people were passing by, before ending it. As the engagement continued, Licensee did not return with Patient A to the consultation room where Patient A would have had privacy. Licensee violated ORS 675.070(2)(d)(A) and ES 4.01 Maintaining Confidentiality. Licensee was reprimanded, ordered to practice under supervision for a minimum of six months and ordered to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty.

Gretchen E. Scheidel, Ph.D. (Licensee), **STIPULATED ORDER**, effective March 16, 2021. Licensee and her partner had a casual social friendship with another adult couple, neither of whom was a patient of Licensee. A partner from that couple (Patient A) was anticipating a birthday. As a gesture of friendship, Licensee offered to provide a professional service at no charge by performing a neuropsychological evaluation for Patient A, which Patient A accepted. Licensee met with Patient A for intake, performed psychological testing, and completed a multi-page evaluation report. Licensee's written evaluation report presents detailed information in regard to Patient A's medical and mental health history, mental status and behavioral observations, test results, and a list of mental health diagnoses with a detailed explanation that addresses her findings with the diagnostic criteria with treatment recommendations. Licensee violated ORS 675.070(2)(d)(A), 675.070(2)(h), ES3.05 Multiple Relationships and ES 3.06 Conflict of Interest. Licensee was reprimanded, ordered complete four hours of continuing education, write a 1500 word paper of reflection and ordered to pay a \$2,000 civil penalty.

Nancy Blum AKA Nancy Bloom (Respondent), **DEFAULT ORDER**, effective March 16, 2021. Respondent is not licensed by the Board to practice psychology in the State of Oregon, and does not hold a license in any health care profession in the State of Oregon. The Board found that Respondent engaged in the unlicensed practice of psychology in Oregon by providing outpatient mental health services through her own website. Respondent violated ORS 675.020(1)(a) and (b), and was ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$5,000. **Ψ**

Reminder! Please make sure to update your email address if it changes so that you continue to receive correspondence. Notify us right away- but not more than 30 days- of any change in your contact information.

Please use our [Contact Information Change Form](#)

Ψ

OBOP News is the official newsletter of the Oregon Board of Psychology and is edited by board staff. Please visit our website at Oregon.gov/psychology, email, or contact us with any comments or suggestions.

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E-mail: psychology.board@oregon.gov **Ψ**

Reminders

Contact Information Changes. Please remember to keep your information up-to-date, especially your email address. This is required by rule and is particularly important with the upcoming new licensing system, which will send renewal reminders only via email. For now, please use our [Contact Information Change Form](#).

Qualified Person Designation. This is a very important legal requirement. Please remember that all licensees must keep the Board apprised of your designated Qualified Person (“QP”) who will intercede for client welfare and make necessary referrals in the case of your death or incapacity. All new licensees are asked to submit their QP designation form within 60 days of initial licensure. Current licensees are reminded that your QP must be an Oregon active or semi-active licensed psychologist. If your QP’s status changes, e.g. they retire, relocate, or make a change to inactive status, or if your QP is no longer able to serve in this role, then you will need to designate a new QP by sending an updated form to the Board’s office.

Another crucial step is making the necessary arrangements for maintenance of and access to your client records for your QP. This includes creating and maintaining an updated professional will (or similar document), and ensuring that specified arrangements are in place for your QP to effectively carry out their function. There are some helpful guidelines posted on the [Board website](#), courtesy of the Oregon Psychological Association. Ψ

Upcoming Events

April 2021

4/15: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
4/16: Education Committee Meeting

May 2021

5/14: Board Meeting
5/21: Education Committee Meeting
5/31: Office Closed for Memorial Day

June 2021

6/17: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
6/18: Education Protection Committee Meeting

July 2021

7/5: Office Closed for Independence Day
7/9: Board Meeting
7/16: Education Committee Meeting

August 2021

8/19: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
8/20: Education Committee Meeting
9/10: Board Meeting
9/17: Education Committee Meeting

September 2021

9/6: Office Closed for Labor Day

October 2021

10/15: Education Committee Meeting
10/21: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting

November 2021

11/11: Office Closed for Veterans Day
11/12 Board Meeting
11/13: Board’s Strategic Planning Session
11/19: Education Committee Meeting
11/25-11/26: Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December 2021

12/16: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
12/17: Education Committee Meeting
12/24: Office Closed for Christmas Day

**Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled each month.*