

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology

Office Address:
100 N. Union Street
Suite 880
Montgomery, AL 36104

Meeting Location:
AUM's Office of Continuing Education
& Community Engagement
75 Technacenter Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

March 13, 2026

Members Present:

Kimberley S. Ackerson, Ph.D., ABPP – Psychologist Member (In Person)
Michael A. Carlton, Ph.D. – Psychologist Member (In Person)
Edwin W. Cook, III, Ph.D. – Psychologist Member (In Person)
Marilyn A. Cornish, Ph.D. – Psychologist Member (In Person)
Carmen Douglas, SHRM-SCP, SPHR – Public Member (In Person)
C. Jeffrey Terrell, Ph.D., ABPP – Psychologist Member – Vice Chair (In Person)
Dale Wisely, Ph.D. – Psychologist Member – Chair (In Person)

Others Present:

Joseph D. Ackerson, Ph.D. – Psychologist, Member of the Public (In Person)
Joeleen Cooper-Bhatia, Ph.D. – Psychologist, Member of the Public (In Person)
Susan N. Han – Legal Counsel (In Person)
Angela D. Ledbetter – Executive Assistant (In Person)
Kristine L. Lokken, Ph.D. – Psychologist, Member of the Public (In Person)
Lori H. Rall – Executive Director (In Person)
Susan R. Rathmell, Ph.D. – Psychologist, Member of the Public (In Person)
Vonceil C. Smith, Ph.D. – Psychologist, Member of the Public (In Person)
Ellen L. Spence, Ph.D. – Psychologist, AL Psychological Association Liaison (In Person)

Not Present:

Candice D. Lewis, M.S. – Psychological Technician Member

Opening by Wisely: The time is 9:00 a.m. We are gathered as provided in advance notice at the Board's website and the website of the Alabama Secretary of State. Access to this meeting is also available to the Public by Zoom teleconferencing.

As required by the Open Meetings Act, we have a lawful quorum of at least four (4) members and at least three members (3) are present in person, and sufficient prior notice of this meeting has been posted for the Public on both the Board's and the Secretary of State's websites, to include a link for Zoom meeting participation information at both websites because one (1) or more of our Members may participate remotely and for remote Public access. All unanimous votes will be announced aloud by the Chair, and non-unanimous votes will be held by Roll Call. Board Members with a close personal

or professional relationship to a subject of, or party to, an action are reminded to recuse themselves from participation in that part of the Meeting Agenda.

As a reminder of why the Board gathers, the BOARD's **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology seeks to promote and protect the public's health, welfare, and quality of life by licensing and regulating the practice of psychology and by promoting access to psychological services delivered in a safe, competent, and ethical manner.

Executive Director Rall proposed that two items be added to the meeting agenda. The first is an update on a previously reviewed applicant, Jorge Correa. The second is an update on a closed investigation, item number 32 under complaints against psychologists, which was previously resolved with a finding of no probable cause but has since had subsequent developments.

Motion by Cook to add the two items to the agenda as requested. Seconded by Terrell. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Review of Minutes from January 9, 2025. Motion by Cook to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Carlton. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF NEW APPLICANTS:

Psychologists

- 1) CLARK, Heather Lynn – EPPP & PSE Candidate (Cornish & Terrell) Specialization Clinical. Motion by Cornish to admit Dr. Clark to the EPPP & PSE. Seconded by Terrell. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2) KUSKO, Daniel Alexander – EPPP & PSE Candidate (Wisely & Ackerson) Specialization Clinical.

Douglas entered the meeting room and joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Han recommended that the Board move into Executive Session to protect the good name and character of an individual. Motion by Wisely for the Board to move into Executive Session to discuss the good name and character of an individual, at 9:09 a.m., for approximately 10 minutes, to return at 9:19 a.m. Seconded by Carlton. Motion passed unanimously.

Members of the public left the meeting room at 9:09 a.m.

Motion by Carlton for the Board to exit Executive Session and return to a regular meeting at 9:17 a.m. Seconded by Cook. Motion passed unanimously.

Members of the public returned to the meeting room at 9:17 a.m.

Motion by Wisely to admit Dr. Kusko to the EPPP & PSE. Seconded by Ackerson. Cook abstained. The motion passed.

- 3) SHELBY, Grace Deniece – Licensure Candidate (Cook & Douglas) Specialization Clinical. Motion by Cook to issue a license (No. **2454**) to Dr. Grace Deniece Shelby. Seconded by Douglas. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) SPINELLI, Tawny Richelle – EPPP & PSE Candidate (Carlton & Terrell) Specialization Clinical. Motion by Carlton to admit Spinelli to the EPPP & PSE. Seconded by Terrell. Motion passed unanimously.

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED APPLICANTS:

Psychologists

- 1) CORREA, Jorge – Reviewed by Terrell & Cook, Specialization Clinical & Counseling. Application to sit for the EPPP & PSE tabled due to material inconsistencies; additional information was requested about education and training with a 14-day calendar response request. Applicant requested to formally withdraw the application on November 15, 2025. Board reviewed the withdrawal request on January 9, 2026, and voted to send notice to Dr. Correa of the Board’s decision to report the inconsistencies and irregularities identified in the application to the ASPPB, the National Practitioners Databank, and other entities as deemed appropriate, and requested that Rall and Han to continue to investigate the matter and pursue other appropriate remedies and report back to the Board, and, consistent with the applicant’s request for withdrawal, the Board closed the application file. Update provided to the Board.

Han recommended that the Board move into Executive Session to protect the good name and character of an individual. Motion by Cook for the Board to move into Executive Session to discuss the good name and character of an individual, at 9:27 a.m., for approximately 10 minutes, to return at 9:37 a.m. Seconded by Carlton. Motion passed unanimously.

Members of the public left the meeting room at 9:27 a.m.

Motion by Carlton for the Board to exit Executive Session and return to a regular meeting at 9:58 a.m. Seconded by Terrell. Motion passed unanimously.

Members of the public returned to the meeting room at 9:58 a.m.

Smith left the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

SCORE REVIEW:

Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), &/or the Professional Standards Exam (PSE), &/or Licenses Issued since the January 2026 Board Meeting.

Psychologists: Pass or fail for each candidate is based upon the ASPPB recommended passing score for psychologists, and it is 500. The passing score for the PSE is 80% (34 correct).

Psychological Technicians: The EPPP passing score for psychological technicians is 400. The passing score for the PSE is 80% (34 correct).

<i>NAME of Applicant / Licensee</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Application Level</i>	<i>EPPP Passed?</i>	<i>PSE Passed?</i>	<i>License Number</i>	<i>Date of Licensure</i>	<i>Area of Specialization</i>
KILGORE, Jenna Katelyn	Ph.D.	Psychologist	Yes	Yes	2450	01/21/2026	Clinical
COOK, Jeffrey Hampton	Ph.D.	Psychologist	Yes (Previously)	Yes	2451	01/23/2026	Clinical
DAVIS, Aja Dana Louise	Psy.D.	Psychologist	Yes	Yes	2452	01/30/2026	Clinical
SCHUCK, Kelly D.	Ph.D.	Psychologist	Yes	Yes	2453	2/27/2026	Counseling
McMAHAN-HARRIS, Kristina Brooke	Ph.D.	Psychologist	Yes	-	-	-	Clinical
McCALEB, Errica Danielle	Psy.D.	Psychologist	No; May Sit Again	-	-	-	Clinical & Counseling

COMPLAINTS:

Against Licensed Psychologists

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Old | 16) | 24-002 – On-going investigation | |
| 1) | 20-007 – On-going investigation | 17) | 24-003 – On-going investigation |
| 2) | 20-008 – On-going investigation | 18) | 24-007 – On-going investigation |
| 3) | 20-009 – On-going investigation | 19) | 24-008 – On-going investigation |
| 4) | 21-004 – On-going investigation | 20) | 24-011 – On-going investigation |
| 5) | 21-007 – On-going investigation | 21) | 24-013 – On-going investigation |
| 6) | 21-012 – On-going investigation | 22) | 24-014 – On-going investigation |
| 7) | 21-013 – On-going investigation | 23) | 24-015 – On-going investigation |
| 8) | 22-004 – On-going investigation | 24) | 24-016 – On-going investigation |
| 9) | 22-007 – On-going investigation | 25) | 25-001 – On-going investigation |
| 10) | 22-012 – On-going investigation | 26) | 25-002 – On-going investigation |
| 11) | 23-001 – On-going investigation | 27) | 25-003 – On-going investigation |
| 12) | 23-002 – On-going investigation | 28) | 25-004 – On-going investigation |
| 13) | 23-004 – On-going investigation | 29) | 25-005 – On-going investigation |
| 14) | 23-006 – On-going investigation | 30) | 25-006 – On-going investigation |
| 15) | 23-007 – On-going investigation | | |

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 31) | 25-007 – On-going investigation | <u>New</u> | |
| 32) | 25-008 – No Probable Cause, Update | 1) | 26-002 – On-going investigation |
| 33) | 25-009 – On-going investigation | 2) | 26-003 – On-going investigation |
| 34) | 25-010 – On-going investigation | | |
| 35) | 26-001 - On-going investigation | | |

Investigation Committee meetings are held, and will continue to be held, between regularly scheduled meetings of the Board; Committee meetings will take place via electronic means.

Han recommended that, pursuant to Ala. Code §36-25A-7(a)(3), an Executive Session is applicable to the upcoming discussion. The purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss with the Board Attorney the legal ramifications of and legal options for current pending litigation in Case No 25-008 and does not constitute a waiver of the attorney-client privilege.

Cook moved that the Board enter Executive Session pursuant to Ala. Code §36-25A-7(a)(3) of the Alabama Open Meetings Act for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding Case No 25-008, as counsel recommended. Seconded by Terrell. The motion passed unanimously. The time is 10:03 a.m., and the Board anticipates the Executive Session will last for approximately 20 minutes, to return around 10:25 a.m.

Members of the public left the meeting room at 10:03 a.m.

Motion by Terrell for the Board to exit Executive Session and return to a regular meeting at 10:40 a.m. Seconded by Douglas. The motion passed unanimously.

Members of the public returned to the meeting room at 10:40 a.m.

The Board took a break from 10:40 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact – **Act Number 2025-2027**, codified as Article 6 School Psychologist Interstate Licensure, Ala. Code §34-26-100 to 34-26-112. Update by Han and Rall.

Han recommended that the Board move into Executive Session in anticipation of potential legal action the Board may have to take related to the compact. Motion by Cook for the Board to move into Executive Session to discuss the matter, at 11:15 a.m., for approximately 20 minutes, to return at 11:35 a.m. Seconded by Carlton. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Carlton for the Board to exit Executive Session and return to a regular meeting at 12:26 p.m. Seconded by Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

Members of the public returned to the meeting room at 12:26 p.m.

Cooper-Bhatia joined the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

Rall noted that, pursuant to the statute, the Board is the appointing authority and is therefore responsible for designating delegates.

Motion by Terrell that, in compliance with the law, the Board appoint Lori Rall as Commissioner and Dale Wisely as Alternate. Seconded by Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Professional Standards Exam (PSE) Automation. Discussion of ongoing project. Cook provided an update on the analysis of exam data.

Lokken and Rathmell joined the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

- 3) Alabama Psychological Association (aPA) – 2026 Mid-Winter Conference: *Lead the Change, Elevate Psychology, Your Voice – Your Impact – Your Future*, January 29th & 30th, 2026, at the Conference Center at Troy State, Montgomery, in Montgomery. Rall presented on Friday, January 30th at Noon. Comments by aPA leadership, Lokken and Rathmell.
- 4) Alabama Legislative Session, 2026 – Update on pre-filed legislation:
 - a. HB46 – Relating to abortion. Pending in the house of origin. Update by Rall.
 - b. HB100 – Relating to background checks and establishing the Alabama Rap Back Program. HB100 held over, substituted with SB118 – Engrossed in the Senate, placed on the calendar in the House. Update by Rall.
- 5) ASPPB Integrated Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP)[®] – Update on Process, Costs, and Future Implementations. Update by Rall.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) PSYPACT Fourth Quarter 2025 Compliance Report. Review. Rall reports the Board is compliant in all areas.
- 2) Quarterly Statistics Report F.Y. 2026 – First Quarter Actuals. Review. Rall provided update; Cook requested a 5-year analysis.
- 3) Alabama Legislative Session, 2026 – SB227, Office of Occupational and Professional Licensing Established within the Alabama Department of Workforce, powers and duties of Secretary of Workforce and executive director specified; Sunset Committee to consider transfer of office in recommendation for modification. Bill Engrossed in the Senate, pending in the County and Municipal Government Committee in the House. Discussion. The Board will provide past talking points to House Committee Leadership.
- 4) Website Accessibility Assessment, due to be completed by April 24, 2026. Ledbetter attended OIT meeting on March 11, 2026, addressing (1) DOJ Ruling – responsibilities and exceptions; (2) Website Accessibility – OIT-maintained website, while OIT will assist with web accessibility, the agency is responsible for documents within the website; and (3) Document Accessibility – documents that must be accessible, best practices and suggestions, available toolsets to assist with remediation. Assigned to Ledbetter and Rall; project ongoing.
- 5) ASPPB 40th Mid-Year Meeting, Charlotte, NC, April 16th–19th, 2026: *Guardians of the*

Future: Regulating Psychology – Call to Attend. Ledbetter, Han, and Rall registered. Ledbetter is serving on the Meeting Planning Committee; Registration Fee waived by ASPPB. Rall is BARC Chair; Registration Fee waived and one night of hotel stay paid for by ASPPB. Ledbetter is presenting in Session 6: *Table Talk: Potential Uses of AI in Regulation* on Saturday, April 18.

The Board took a break from 1:20 p.m. to 1:33 p.m.

- 6) Planning Session – Alabama Psychological Association (aPA) leadership and members invited.
- Cooper-Bhatia requested that the Board reconsider the current six-month waiting period for retaking a previously failed exam, noting that prospective applicants from Auburn University’s Psychology Program view the requirement as excessive and a barrier to licensure. Rall advised that the waiting period is established by statute and would require legislative action to be changed. Wisely requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the Board’s next meeting.
 - Wellness Committee – The Board Chair and Vice-Chair will review potential candidates to fill current vacancies on the Wellness Committee. Ledbetter and Rall will distribute a call for interest to Alabama licensees.
 - Rall suggested to have the former Wellness Committee Chair speak about the program at the aPA Annual Conference this year. aPA leadership, Lokken and Rathmell, were agreeable.
 - Continuing Education – 1) Discussed potentially granting continuing education credit for aPA Membership – Han will review the applicable law; 2) Discussed the possibility of waiving CE requirements for Senior Psychologists, noting that continued learning remains valuable at all stages of professional practice. This topic will be carried forward for further discussion at a future Board meeting.

Terrell left the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

- Master’s-level Licensure – The Board and aPA members engaged in discussion and agreed to continue consideration of this topic in collaboration with aPA leadership at a future Board meeting.

Douglas left the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

- There was discussion regarding potential legislative amendments to authorize grants and gifts in support of licensure scholarships, student loan repayment, and incentives for practice in Alabama.
- There was discussion regarding the potential for compensating Board members for meeting attendance should the statute be amended in the future. The Board will evaluate current compensation models used by physicians, nurses, and homebuilders boards, and others, that provide reimbursement to their members.

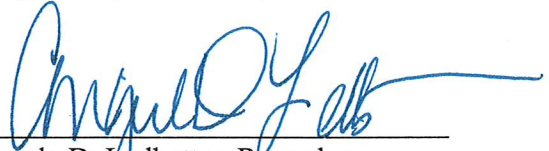
- The Board discussed plans to build out additional office space to accommodate new staff during the upcoming lease term, with associated costs to be incorporated into a renewed and renegotiated lease through RSA. The Board agreed to move forward with this effort.

Conclusion of Meeting & Adjournment

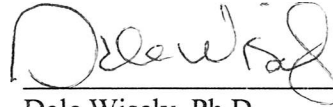
Motion by Carlton to adjourn the meeting at 3:09 p.m. Seconded by Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING: May 8, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,



Angela D. Ledbetter, Recorder
Executive Assistant



Dale Wisely, Ph.D.
Chair