

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL  
JUNE 10, 2010  
MINUTES**

**DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1-888-808-6959  
PUBLIC CONFERENCE CODE\*: 4246812343#**

1 **Dr. Harry Reiff called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m. Those present**  
2 **for all or part of the meeting, included the following:**

3 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

4 Harry J. Reiff, Psy.D.  
5 Rafael Rivas-Vazquez, Psy.D.  
6

**STAFF PRESENT**

Allen Hall, Executive Director  
Anna L. Hart King, Program Operations Administrator  
Lisa N. Dillon, Regulatory Specialist II

7 **ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL**

8 Donna McNulty

9 **DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

10 **Tab 1.** Proposed Legislation: Delegation of Professional Responsibilities or Activities by  
11 Licensed Psychologists to Paraprofessionals

12 During the discussion, the subcommittee was addressed by the following individuals:

13 Dr. Russell Addeo, Licensed Psychologist  
14 Connie Galietti, J.D., Executive Director of the Florida Psychological Association (FPA)  
15 Dr. Valerie Masten Hoese, Licensed Psychologist  
16 Dr. Carolyn Stimel, Florida Psychological Association (FPA) Director of Professional Affairs  
17 Dr. Virgil Wittmer, Licensed Psychologist, Executive Director of Brooks Behavioral Medicine

18 The subcommittee discussed amending the current draft language, and agreed to present  
19 the following issues to the full Board for discussion during the July 2010 meeting:

20 - An alternative title as opposed to the term "psychological assistant" in light of statutory  
21 restrictions on protected terms;

22 - Inclusion of language about restrictions on using the term psychologist or holding oneself  
23 out to the public as a psychologist or independently providing psychological services;

24 - The use of position descriptions to further clarify the duties of the assistant;

25 - Clarification on the requirements of direct supervision available for emergency  
26 consultation, direction, and intervention;

27 - Specification on the amount of assistants a psychologist may employ at a given time, and  
28 the feasibility of a registry of such assistants.

1 During the conference call, the subcommittee amended the current draft language to read:

- 2 (1) Definition – As used in this section, “psychological assistant” means an individual  
3 with a bachelor’s or master’s degree in psychology, education, or a health related  
4 field, not otherwise licensed or certified by the State of Florida, who receives training  
5 and supervision in various duties related to the practice of psychology, by a  
6 psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 490 F.S. A psychological assistant  
7 assists with patient care, administrative, and managerial functions, and shall adhere  
8 to the same ethical, legal, and practice standards as does a psychologist.
- 9 (2) As used in this section “direct supervision” requires that the supervising psychologist  
10 shall be ~~on the premises and reasonably available~~ for emergency consultation,  
11 direction, intervention, and client management whenever a psychological assistant is  
12 performing any delegated duty listed in section (5)
- 13 (3) A psychological assistant who performs any of the duties specified in section (5)  
14 shall do so under the direct supervision of a psychologist licensed pursuant to  
15 Chapter 490 F.S.
- 16 (4) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 490 F.S. shall be responsible for all  
17 delegated acts performed by a psychological assistant under his or her direct  
18 supervision.
- 19 (5) (a) Obtaining History  
20 (b) Performing mental status examinations  
21 (c) Rendering diagnostic impression  
22 (d) Developing a treatment plan  
23 (e) Administering and scoring psychometric instruments  
24 (f ) Interpreting results from psychometric assessments  
25 (g) Creating written consultation or evaluation reports  
26 (h) Providing psychotherapeutic, health, behavioral, or crisis intervention services  
27 (i ) Providing Biofeedback or relaxation training  
28 (j ) Initiating involuntary examination pursuant to Chapter 394  
29 (k) Reporting child and elder abuse/neglect pursuant to Chapters 39 and 415  
30 respectively
- 31 (6) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 490 F.S. may not delegate diagnosis or  
32 treatment duties to a psychological assistant, unless that assistant is a psychology  
33 practicum student, psychology intern, or psychology resident.
- 34 (7) The board may establish by rule a training and supervision verification process as it  
35 deems necessary for a psychological assistant, and may by rule specify task further  
36 clarifying those duties listed in section (5).
- 37 (8) This section shall become effective on January 1, 2011.

38 **ADJOURNMENT**

39 The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.