

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

MINUTES

(Draft)

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL  
DECEMBER 17, 2010

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

1 Dr. Harry Reiff called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 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 Tab 1. Proposed Legislation: Delegation of Professional Responsibilities or  
10 Activities by Licensed Psychologists to Paraprofessionals

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

12 Dr. Russell Addeo, Licensed Psychologist  
13 Dr. Valerie Masten Hoese, Licensed Psychologist  
14 Dr. Gordon Horn, Licensed Psychologist  
15 Dr. Carolyn Stimel, Florida Psychological Association (FPA) Director of Professional Affairs  
16 Dr. Virgil Wittmer, Licensed Psychologist, Executive Director of Brooks Behavioral Medicine

17 During the conference call, the subcommittee and participants discussed proposed draft  
18 language provided by Dr. Harry Reiff, resulting in the following revisions to the proposed  
19 legislative draft language:

20 **490.xxx**

21 (1) Definition. – As used in this section, “psychological assistant” means an individual not  
22 otherwise licensed or certified by the state of Florida, possessing a bachelor or masters  
23 degree in psychology, education or a health related field, who receives training and  
24 supervision in various duties related to the practice of psychology by a psychologist  
25 licensed pursuant to FS 490. A psychological assistant assists with patient care,  
26 administrative, and managerial functions, and shall adhere to the same ethical, legal,  
27 and practice standards as does a psychologist.

28 (2) As used in this section “direct supervision” requires that the supervising psychologist  
29 shall sufficiently monitor and be reasonably available whenever a psychological  
30 assistant is performing any delegated duty listed in section (6).

- 1 (3) A psychologist licensed pursuant to FS 490 shall directly supervise and be responsible  
2 for all delegated acts performed by a psychological assistant under her or his direct  
3 supervision.
- 4 (4) The supervising psychologist shall be available for emergency consultation and direction  
5 of a psychological assistant, and for patient intervention and management.
- 6 (5) Before delegating duties to a psychological assistant, other than administrative and  
7 managerial functions (note: do these kinds of functions need to be specified ?), the  
8 supervising psychologist must first complete a diagnostic interview, or shall first review  
9 existing diagnostic records, of the service recipient in order to determine the  
10 appropriateness of such delegation.
- 11 (6) Delegated duties include:  
12 (a) gathering history and behavioral data, as long as such data does not involve clinical  
13 judgments or clinical inferences  
14 (b) administering and scoring those psychometric assessments selected by a  
15 psychologist  
16 (c) implementing cognitive skill training as designed or prescribed by a psychologist  
17 (d) implementing behavioral programs as designed or prescribed by a psychologist  
18 (e) implementing biofeedback programs or relaxation training as designed or prescribed  
19 by a psychologist
- 20 (7) A psychologist licensed pursuant to FS 490 may not delegate diagnostic determinations  
21 or treatment interventions to a psychological assistant, unless that psychological  
22 assistant is also a psychology practicum student, psychology intern, or psychology  
23 resident.
- 24 (8) A psychological assistant shall not hold herself or himself out to the public as a  
25 psychologist, or as independently providing psychological services.
- 26 (9) The Board shall establish by rule as it deems necessary a training and supervision  
27 verification process for a psychological assistant, and shall establish by rule as it deems  
28 necessary additional tasks clarifying, or adding to, the delegated duties listed in section  
29 (6).
- 30 (10) This section shall become effective on January 1, 20XX.

31 The subcommittee will report on the outcome of the conference call to the full Board during  
32 the January 2011 meeting. The committee plans to continue the discussion, in regard,  
33 additional duties which can be performed by psychological assistants, as well as the  
34 appropriateness of delegating psychotherapy

### 35 **ADJOURNMENT**

36 The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.