Models for Mobility: Psychology

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Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)

- Association of all the psychology licensing boards in the US and Canada (64 members)
- Owns, creates, and maintains the EPPP
- Provides services to licensing boards, applicants for licensure and licensed psychologists including an on-line universal licensure application (PLUS), various mobility programs (CPQ, IPC), and a strategy for the interjurisdictional practice of telepsychology
History of Mobility

• “….most people agree there should be a high degree of uniformity among states to provide for easy mobility of qualified psychologists and for certification and/or licensure under reciprocity provisions; the impetus for development of common procedures should come from examining boards.”

• Conference on State Examination Procedures
  Chicago, Illinois
  November 19-20, 1959
Uniformity & Mobility

Since its creation in the early 1960s, ASPPB has attempted to foster greater consistency in licensure requirements across jurisdictions in the U.S. and Canada.

- Creation of the EPPP
- Adoption of the Uniform Pass Point on EPPP
- ASPPB Model Licensing Act
- Disciplinary Data System (DDS)
“Unless psychologists, through the American Psychological Association and through the American Association of State Psychology Boards, strive toward certain kinds of uniformity, psychologists will see their practices limited to a single state.”

Efforts to Achieve Consistency

In the 1990’s ASPPB took specific steps toward the goal of consistency:

- 1990 - ASPPB Mobility Committee formed
- 1992 - North American Reciprocity Agreement was established
- 1994 - ASPPB establishes the ASPPB Agreement of Reciprocity (AOR)
- 1998 - Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) approved and offered
Agreement of Reciprocity (AOR)

• ASPPB Agreement of Reciprocity – facilitates professional mobility via a jurisdiction – to-jurisdiction understanding that results in accepting each others’ licensees in a shortened application process

• Current jurisdictions in the agreement:
  ▫ Arkansas
  ▫ Manitoba
  ▫ Missouri
  ▫ Nebraska
  ▫ Oklahoma
  ▫ Ontario
  ▫ Texas
Good, Bad and Ugly of the AOR

- Was a step toward mobility
- Required all jurisdictions to make statute changes to match the requirements of the agreement
- Any changes to a jurisdiction’s licensure requirements that were required to participate in the agreement meant the jurisdiction had to withdraw
Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (CPQ)

- The ASPPB Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) documents that the individual holding the certificate has met specific requirements in licensure, education, examination and training, has five years professional work experience and has never had disciplinary actions taken against his or her license.
- Psychology licensing boards that accept the CPQ have agreed to accept the CPQ holder's educational preparation, supervised experience and examination performance for licensure through the addition of a Licensure by Endorsement option in the application process.
- The CPQ reduces the amount of time and documentation that an individual has to provide at the time they are applying for licensure.
First CPQ Map (1998)
Current CPQ Map (2014)
Good, Bad and Ugly of the CPQ

- Speeds up licensure; good jurisdictional acceptance
- Only applies to those licensed for 5 years
- Hard to explain the difference between CPQ holders vs. members of ASPPB
ASPPB Credentials Bank (CB)

- The ASPPB Credentials Bank (CB) is a way for individuals to electronically store and maintain vital professional documents. The CB functions as the base of the ASPPB Mobility Program and provides applicants with a head start on future program applications.
- ASPPB recently made the CB free for psychology graduate students, post doc trainees, and those not yet licensed.
- ASPPB is working towards all states accepting documents out of the CB as primary source verified documents towards licensure application.
Good, Bad and Ugly of the CB

- Free for students
- Not all jurisdictions will accept materials from the CB
- Getting the profession to recognize the need before it's too late
Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC)

- The IPC grants temporary authority to practice based on notification to the licensing board of intention to practice temporarily, and verification of one’s qualifications for such practice by ASPPB.
- The IPC allows for provision of temporary psychological services in jurisdictions that accept the IPC for at least 30 work days per year without obtaining full licensure in that jurisdiction.
- The IPC also establishes a CB record, reduces the EPPP Score Transfer service fee and expedites application for the Certificate of Professional Qualification.

# OF CURRENTLY PARTICPATING JURISDICTIONS: 5
Good, Bad and Ugly of the IPC

- Part of the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)
- Currently few jurisdictions recognizing
- Getting jurisdictions to recognize the need for consistent requirements regarding temporary practice
The Psychology Licensure Application Process

• Different application required for each jurisdiction
  ▫ Variations in the information gathered
  ▫ Variations in the level of verification of application information

• Different licensure requirements

• Lack of consistency across the jurisdictions
New Development on the Path to Licensure

- The Psychology Licensure Universal System, or “PLUS”, is an online system designed to allow individuals to apply for licensure, certification or registration in any state, province, or territory in the United States or Canada currently participating in the PLUS program.
PLUS Development

• An ASPPB Task Force collected licensing applications from all member boards
• Categorized all of the relevant data fields; collapsed similar content areas into new fields
• Created the Universal Application Form
• Created an online application system based on the Universal Application Form
• Continuous Feedback
How PLUS Works

• The applicant contacts the licensing board directly
• Licensing board provides ASPPB with contact information for eligible applicants
• The applicant will be contacted by ASPPB to begin the PLUS application process online
• Once all information is gathered and primary sourced verified, a complete packet of information is sent to the licensing board
Current PLUS Status

- Currently being used in 9 jurisdictions
  - Georgia
  - Mississippi
  - Nevada
  - New Hampshire
  - New Mexico
  - North Dakota
  - Oklahoma
  - Manitoba
  - Texas
PLUS Status Continued

- There are 6 more ready to implement
  - Arizona
  - Louisiana
  - North Carolina
  - Ohio
  - Ontario
  - Washington
Telepsychology

- Telepsychology: Provision of psychological services using telecommunications technologies. Includes telephone, other mobile devices, interactive videoconferencing, e-mail, chat, text, etc.
- Can include both text and audio/video
- May augment in-person services or stand alone
Guideline Development

• Multi-organizational task force created practice guidelines
• Twelve principles for interjurisdictional telepsychology practice
Issues to be Addressed Regarding Telepsychology Practice

- Two main issues:
  - Where does practice take place?
  - How should interjurisdictional telepsychology complaints be handled?
Where does Practice Take Place?

• Location of client vs. location of practitioner

• If practice takes place where the client is:
  ▫ Little or no regulatory authority where psychologist is not licensed
  ▫ No record of practitioners providing services within the state

• For the purpose of regulating telepsychology, ASPPB recommends that the practice of psychology takes place where the practitioner is located
How should Interjurisdictional Telepsychology Complaints be Handled?

- This was the main discussion point for telepsychology practice across state lines.
- Addressing this issue became the focus of options offered regarding the regulation of telepsychology.
- To address this, we have to address the differences in practicing telepsychology across states.
Best Option

- Licensed in home jurisdiction and “certified”
  - Offers the client and board assurance that the psychologist has met basic requirements of telepsychology standards
  - Boards are knowledgeable of who is practicing in their jurisdiction which means oversight to protect their public/citizens can then occur
  - Offers a simple approach for psychologists, making them more likely to comply with telepsychology requirements and reduce the need to obtain multiple licenses
Certification (E.Passport)

• The E. Passport documents that the individual holding the certificate has met specific requirements in licensure, education, training and has never had disciplinary actions taken against his or her license.

• The E.Passport will require that psychologists obtain specific training and have knowledge of telepsychology issues, as well as maintaining continuing competence of technological and practice issues.
Challenges to this option

- Additional costs and time to the psychologist
- Still does not address legal issues related to adjudication processes
- Jurisdictions are not legally required to cooperate with one another
What is an Interstate Compact?

- An agreement between states to enact legislation & enter into a contract
- Simple, versatile and proven tool
- Effective means to address common problems
- Responds to national priorities with one voice
- Retains collective state sovereignty over issues belonging to the states
Regulation of Interjurisdictional Telepsychology via Compact

- Address variations in laws among jurisdictions
- Address disciplinary processes across jurisdiction lines
- Address inconsistencies in licensure requirements for telepsychology
Components of the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)

- Establishes where practice of psychology originates (Home State)
- Creates the E.Passport and utilizes the IPC
- Provides a consistent mechanism to regulate temporary face-to-face practice and telepsychology
- Psychologist must have no disciplinary history
- Compact States will share licensure and disciplinary information
- Creates a “Commission” to enforce the compact
PSYPACT and NEVADA

- The PSYPACT has been introduced into the Nevada 2015 legislative session
What is Down the Road.....

- Create education materials for jurisdictions
- Work with jurisdictions and other stakeholders to promote the compact
- Promote the compact for 2016 legislative sessions
Questions

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions/comments at:

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