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**LSSPs UNSUNG HEROS**

By Catherine Bernell Estrada, Public Member  
Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

For the past six years, I have served as a public member on this Board. During my Board tenure, my eyes have gradually opened to the realities of the mental health system in Texas as well as to the challenges our licensees face.

I take a cautious sigh, as another school year is about to begin. A certain trepidation always follows me from August to May, as one too many school shootings are splashed across CNN.

Increasingly, my respect for licensed specialists in school psychology (LSSPs) has grown. Put simply, LSSPs have a hard job. From my perspective they walk a tight rope between our rules, TEA rules, and special education laws. They navigate through school district personnel who really do not understand the nature of what they do and perhaps more difficult they work not just with mentally ill children but also with their families. Their workloads seem daunting.

We all know that Texas ranks consistently 49th out of 50 states in mental health services. We all know mental health services for adults and those living in rural areas are dire. We all know that the real crisis in mental health is our children.

I have always found LSSPs to be compassionate, humble, highly trained, dedicated, and for the most part unnoticed. To all of our LSSPs, I wish to personally thank you for providing crucial services to the children of our state.

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**Fee Increases Beginning October 2007**

The 80th Texas Legislature mandated a 2% increase for all classified state employees beginning September 2007 and an additional 2% increase in September 2008. The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is obligated to collect additional revenue to cover the increased funding to this agency, specifically to fund the salary increase for classified state employees who work for the Board.

Therefore, beginning October 1, 2007, the Board has raised all renewal fees by \$2 per year and all application for licensure fees by \$5.

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## **Amended Rule: 465.17 Therapy and Counseling**

Important amended to rules not included in July 2007 Rulebook.

### **465.17 Therapy and Counseling.**

#### **(a) Imbalances of Power.**

(1) Licensees who engage in therapy or counseling recognize the actual or perceived power or undue influence they hold over current and former patients and clients.

(2) Licensees are presumed to have power and influence over former therapy or counseling patients or clients.

(3) Licensees do not engage in sexual relationships with, employ, enter into business with or otherwise exploit any former patient or client over whom they have actual or perceived power or undue influence created through a therapeutic relationship.

#### **(b) Treatment plans.**

(1) Licensees create specific written treatment plans that include, at a minimum, agreed upon goals of the treatment, the techniques to be used, and the tentative duration of the treatment for any therapy or counseling that they provide.

(2) Licensees explain the treatment plan to all recipients of the therapy or counseling before commencing the services.

(3) Licensees alter and document the alteration in the treatment plan when clinically indicated.

(4) Licensees confer with and obtain consent from the patient, or client or other recipient(s) of services ~~recipient(s)~~ concerning significant alterations in the treatment plan in accordance with Board rule 465.11(a)(2) ~~465.11(b)~~.

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## **Disciplinary Actions: February/May/August 2007 Board Meetings**

### **Timothy O. Blanchard, M.A., Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (Corpus Christi)**

Complaint: Respondent advertised neuropsychological services in a web site, a flyer and a telephone directory, offering services beyond the scope of the LSSP license and prior to licensure as an LPA, and stated that he was a diplomate of an organization which is not a refereed board as required by Board rule.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$250.00 and required to complete three additional hours of continuing education in ethics. He was also required to correct all advertising listings

### **Kathryn A. Crawford, M.S., Licensed Psychological Associate, Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (Lampasas)**

Complaint: Respondent provided supervision to a person who performed duties of an LSSP intern in public schools without being enrolled in an institution of higher learning, and who was not an applicant for licensure.

Sanction: Respondent was reprimanded and must pay \$500.00 administrative penalty.

**Sherry Crowell, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Abilene)**

Complaint: Respondent failed to provide Complainant copies of records pertaining to Complainant's minor child, after Complainant made a written request.

Sanction: Respondent was reprimanded; must complete three (3) hours of additional continuing education in record keeping; must pay \$300.00 administrative penalty.

**Jack G. Ferrell, Jr., Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (San Antonio)**

Complaint: Respondent failed to comply with a Board order, failed to renew his license in timely manner, and practiced at a time when his license was delinquent.

Sanction: Respondent's license was suspended with suspension probated for twelve months on the condition that Respondent engage a practice monitor for monthly monitoring of administrative professionalism and compliance with all Board rules. Respondent must pay \$500.00 administrative penalty.

**Pamela Horton, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Georgetown)**

Complaint: Respondent failed to provide Complainant copies of records pertaining to Complainant's minor child, after Complainant made a written request, in a case pending in Family Court; Respondent requested a subpoena from the father.

Sanction: Respondent received administrative sanction; must complete three (3) hours of additional continuing education in ethics; must pay \$250.00 administrative costs.

**Malcolm M. Housson, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Dallas)**

Complaint: In two cases where Respondent performed psycho-educational evaluations of children, he failed to obtain sufficient written informed consent for treatment and failed to document treatment plans; and in one of the cases, Respondent failed to inquire as to whether a Complainant was being treated by another therapist at a time when such services were being received.

Sanction: Respondent was reprimanded; must complete twenty (20) hours of additional continuing education in ethics and cognitive/behavioral therapy; must pay \$5,000.00 administrative penalty; must meet with a Board-approved practice monitor for a compliance

review.

**Michael R. LaValle, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Dallas)**

Complaint: Respondent failed to provide Complainant copies of Complainant's mental health records within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a written request.

Sanction: Respondent received administrative sanction; must complete sixteen (16) hours of additional continuing education in record keeping and ethics; must pay \$3,000.00 administrative penalty.

**Jana Reddin Long, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Frisco)**

Complaint: Respondent engaged an LPC intern to perform services reserved to licensed psychologists, specifically, the administration of a projective test.

Sanction: Respondent received an administrative sanction; must complete three (3) hours of additional continuing education in ethics and supervision; must pay \$1,000.00 administrative penalty.

**Madeleine R. Reichert, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (San Antonio)**

Complaint: Respondent performed a psychological service to the Complainant's daughter at a private pre-school without written informed consent.

Sanction: Respondent's license was reprimanded. Respondent must take and pass the Jurisprudence Examination, complete six hours of continuing education in ethics, including topics relating to informed consent, and shall pay \$500.00 administrative penalty.

**Keith F. Revel, Ed.D., Licensed Psychologist (San Antonio)**

Complaint: Records of approximately 180 of Respondent's patients were recovered from a dumpster; also, Respondent failed to report a legal action to the Board and failed to cooperate with a Board investigation.

Sanction: Respondent's license was suspended pending satisfactory evidence that Respondent is physically and mentally fit to practice and payment of administrative penalty of \$1,000.00.

**Heather M. Robbins, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Dallas)**

Complaint: Respondent's marketing web site contained misleading text, offering joint services from "Psychologists Heather and James Robbins" although at the time James Robbins was not licensed by any entity.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$2,000.00 and required to complete three additional hours of continuing education in ethics. She was also required to correct the web site.

**T. Kevin Roberts, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (Houston)**

Complaint: Respondent failed to timely complete continuing education for a second time.

Sanction: Respondent was assessed an administrative penalty of \$250.00.

**Jimmie C. Whitley, Ed.D., Licensed Psychologist and Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP), (The Woodlands)**

Complaint: Respondent engaged in an improper social relationship with a former patient.

Sanction: Respondent was reprimanded; must complete six (6) hours of additional continuing education in ethics; must pay \$2,000.00 administrative penalty.

**Loretta Zayas-Revai, M.S., Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (Pearland)**

Complaint: Respondent failed to report legal action (arrest) within thirty days as required by Rule 469.11.

Sanction: Respondent must pay \$250.00 administrative penalty.