

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

S U M M E R 2 0 2 5 N E W S L E T T E R

VOL. 11 NO. 2



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BOARD CHAIR UPDATE



Chris Jones

As we move into summer, I'm pleased to share several key developments at the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) aimed at improving transparency, accessibility, and engagement for our licensees, applicants, and stakeholders.

We've recently updated the Associate FAQs on our website, including the addition of new questions to better address common inquiries. The Associate FAQs can be found on the Board's [website](#) under the "Associates" section of the FAQs page. We encourage you to review the Updates/FAQs sections of the website regularly for the latest information, and join the Board's [email subscriber's list](#) and/or [Facebook page](#).

To further support applicants through the licensure process, the Board has produced a series of educational videos over the past year. These videos address topics such as supervision requirements, the 90-day rule, and guidance for applicants with prior convictions or disciplinary actions. We invite you to explore the full collection by visiting our [BBS Video Guides](#) page.

The Board is also embarking on a holistic review of the in-state and out-of-state education requirements for licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC) applicants. This initiative will be led by our Workforce Development Committee and will examine:

- Current course timing, length, and content requirements.
- The potential for standardizing education requirements across applicant types, while still retaining the unique characteristics of each profession.
- Options for approving educational programs.

Our goal is to create a more equitable and consistent framework that simplifies the application process and reduces confusion for candidates across different educational backgrounds.

I'm excited to announce the formation of a new special committee: the Outreach and Education Committee. This committee will focus on enhancing consumer education, increasing our outreach to diverse populations, building stronger connections with academic institutions, and encouraging broader participation in Board meetings.

We look forward to continued collaboration with all of you as we carry out these initiatives in service of the public and behavioral health community.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate Wendy Strack, public member, on her election as Board chair, and Nick Boyd, LPCC member, on his election as vice chair. Both will begin their new roles on July 1, 2025. Congratulations, Wendy and Nick!

Chris Jones, Board Chair

THE BOARD'S MISSION IS TO PROTECT AND SERVE
CALIFORNIANS BY SETTING, COMMUNICATING, AND ENFORCING STANDARDS
FOR SAFE AND COMPETENT MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE.

STAY AUDIT-READY: DON'T LET CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS CATCH YOU OFF GUARD

Continuing education (CE) is not only a requirement for renewal—it's essential for ensuring that mental health professionals remain current with evolving best practices, legal and ethical standards, and emerging treatment modalities. Yet, recent data reveals a concerning trend.

AUDITS HAVE RESUMED—AND THE FAILURE RATE IS HIGH

Following a pause during the pandemic, the Board resumed routine continuing education (CE) audits on March 12, 2024. Since then, 190 audits have been conducted, and 118 individuals failed to demonstrate full compliance—a **failure rate of 62%**.

This statistic underscores the need for greater awareness and diligence when it comes to meeting CE requirements. **Failing an audit can result in a Board citation and fine.** Don't let this happen! Below are some tips for ensuring you meet the CE requirements for every renewal.

MOST COMMON REASONS FOR CE AUDIT FAILURES

Most audit failures stem from avoidable issues, including:

- Courses not provided by **Board-accepted CE providers**.
- Not completing the **required hours**, which includes the subject of **law and ethics, within the renewal period*** and **before submission** of the renewal application.
- For first-time license renewals, not completing any **specific coursework required** for the license type.
- Failing to retain **proof of completion for the one-time CE course requirements**, such as the Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention or Provision of Mental Health Services via Telehealth (if not already submitted with a license application).

HOW TO STAY IN COMPLIANCE

To help ensure you're always audit-ready:

- **Know your requirements:** Review the CE requirements for your license or registration type on the Board's [website](#).

- **Choose acceptable providers:** CE courses must be taken from BBS-accepted providers, which you can find on the Board's [website](#).
- **Complete all CE hours within your renewal period*:** Courses taken outside of your renewal period will not count.
- **Maintain records as required:** Maintain documentation of CE completion (consider keeping multiple backups) for at least two years from the date of renewal for which the courses were completed. You may want to ask your CE provider how long they retain records in case of lost CE certificates.
- **Plan and track your CE:** Have a plan for completion, set calendar reminders and maintain a log of hours completed.
- **Double-check:** Make sure courses cover the required content areas.

Temporary CE waivers: If you are a licensee with a physical or mental disability or medical condition that meets certain criteria or are the primary caregiver for an immediate family member with a physical or mental disability or medical condition, you may qualify for a temporary CE waiver. You must apply for the waiver at least 60 days prior to your license expiration date. See the Board's [website](#) for more information (*navigate to Mandatory Coursework > Exceptions from CE Requirements*). Waivers are not available for registrants.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Audits are not intended to be punitive—they're part of the Board's role in upholding the integrity and quality of the mental health professions. By taking proactive steps, you can avoid audit failure and continue providing competent care to Californians who rely on your expertise. By doing so, you support your professional growth, protect the public, and uphold the standards of the professions.

* A "renewal period" is the two years immediately preceding your license's expiration date or the one year immediately preceding your registration's expiration date.

BOARD ELECTS NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

At its May meeting, the Board elected new leadership for the coming year. Wendy Strack, a public member since January 2020, was voted in as Chair. Wendy brings a wealth of experience to the role, having served as vice chair over the past year and currently leading the Board's Workforce Development Committee. She has also previously chaired the Policy and Advocacy and Licensing Committees.

Joining her in leadership is Nicholas Boyd, LPCC, who was elected vice chair. Nick has been a valued member of the Board since June 2023 and brings new ideas and a forward-looking approach to the position.

We're excited for the year ahead and look forward to furthering the Board's mission under their leadership. Congratulations, Wendy and Nick!



Wendy Strack



Nicholas Boyd

BOARD RELEASES SUNSET REVIEW REPORT

Every four years, California's state licensing boards undergo a process called sunset review, conducted by the Legislature. This process ensures boards remain effective, accountable, and aligned with their public protection missions.

As part of the review, each board submits a detailed report on its performance, including licensing, enforcement, staffing, and fiscal operations. The Legislature then holds public hearings to evaluate the board's effectiveness, consider stakeholder input, and identify any needed improvements.

The Board has released its Sunset Review Report, available on the Board's **website** and recently had its sunset review hearing, where Board leadership responded to questions from the Legislature.

Based on the review, lawmakers will vote on whether to continue the board's authority through legislation (via Senate Bill 775) or propose reforms or new requirements. The sunset review is a vital tool for promoting transparency and public trust in California's regulatory system, and the Board looks forward to progressing through that important process.



STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH BBS!

Are you an applicant, registrant, licensee or consumer who would like increased access to BBS activities and updates? Join our email subscriber's list! You can also follow the Board on Facebook and X. Scan, click on a graphic or go to www.bbs.ca.gov to connect!



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AVOIDING CLIENT DISCLOSURE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Reprinted with permission from the [American Counseling Association \(ACA\)](#)

To many people, social media is the best thing since the abacus, transforming the way we live and do business. It offers us a world of knowledge with the stroke of a few keys and the briefest of pauses.

Of course, social media can be both a tool and a crutch that leads to sloppy habits. With the advent of clinician-centered discussion groups on Facebook and other online and social media sites that cater solely to clinical professionals, clinicians are posting an increasing amount of client-related information, sometimes going beyond what the *ACA Code of Ethics* and relevant laws allow. These clinicians are potentially leaving their clients vulnerable, while leaving themselves and their employers open to ethical complaints and legal suits.

The discussions that were once the domain of individual or group supervision now can be found on any number of social media platforms designed for counselors. Some of these posts come from clinicians from large programs, while others originate with those who are in private or small group practices. Perhaps this shows a lack of experience and knowledge combined with little to no supervision or oversight. I haven't been able to find a comprehensive study that helps shed light on this topic.

Whatever the cause, accusations that a client's privacy has been violated can lead to charges of malpractice (and other charges) being filed against the clinician and his or her employer. Comprehensive training followed by regular refreshers could do much to reduce this type of liability.

A PROBLEM SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF THE INTERNET

Since the advent of the internet and online bulletin boards (the precursors to Listservs, social media and online groups), there have been issues trying to balance new technology with privacy. About a decade ago, I briefly ran an online group for clinical professionals that was designed so that we could discuss general issues and concerns related to the counseling profession. Sometimes the discussion turned to challenging client cases. Several people, including David Kaplan, chief professional officer of the American Counseling Association, raised questions about this issue. A good-hearted, if sometimes heated, debate took place on these threads, and some very differing opinions were presented. It ultimately did little, however, to change the content of the postings. Within months, I was no longer affiliated with the online discussion group, in large part because of concerns I had about potential ethical violations.

I recently contacted David Kaplan again (he is still in the same role with ACA) to get his opinion on this topic. He agreed that it has been a long-standing issue and that, for both ethical and legal reasons, client information should never be posted on social media. To me, the most powerful thing he said was, "The key for me is the statement at the end [of the ACA Connect site rules and etiquette page]: 'Please ensure that you phrase your post in a manner that does not describe an actual client.'"

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Rather than listing several pages of links to ethical codes, state and federal laws, and the like, I will share the applicable rules and etiquette section from **ACA Connect**, ACA's online communities that encourage discussion between counseling professionals.

"Do not present aspects of a case even if the client's name is not given. Posts that give details about a specific client will be removed. Due to the potential violation of both the *ACA Code of Ethics*, state and/or federal law, case consultation is not allowed on ACA Connect. It is not permissible to present aspects of a case on a counseling listserv or online forum even if the client's name is not given. Information shared by a client and clinical impressions must be afforded the same level of confidentiality as the name of the client. Describing a client's presenting problem, diagnosis, or clinical treatment approach through listservs or online forums – even if the client's name is not given – is a violation of confidentiality. It is perfectly fine to discuss issues (e.g., asking, 'Does anyone have any resources on eating disorders in male wrestlers?' or, 'Does anyone have a referral to a specialist in PTSD in the Boston area?'), but please ensure that you phrase your post in a manner that does not describe an actual client."

Owners, overseers, monitors and associated workers of online professional sites, Listservs, groups on social media and other platforms, be they volunteer or paid, could benefit greatly by posting rules that are similar to those above. The enforcement of those rules would prove invaluable.

EXAMPLES OF VIOLATIONS

What follows are some examples of posts that, although they are well-meaning, could potentially lead to ethics or legal charges. (These examples are inspired by actual posts but are not being shared verbatim because I do want not to spread liability or bring possible embarrassment to the original posters; this article is about education, not shaming or embarrassing my fellow clinicians who work hard daily to assist those in their care.)

- "Hi all. I'm looking to make a referral for marriage counseling for a couple that has been married for 14 years. There have been multiple affairs by the stay-at-home husband while his wife was working in the insurance industry. She works till 6 p.m., so evening sessions are a must. They are in the Springfield area and have XYZ insurance."
- "I have a client who is 14 years old, has a history of cutting and has recently regressed after her parents told her and her twin brother that they are divorcing. She had also disclosed that she feels she may be bisexual. Any resources that may assist me in treating her would be greatly appreciated."
- "OK, so I have this client I'll call 'Will.' I've worked with him for several years in my private practice in Newport News. He's a retired steamfitter and the father of three young adults — two male and one female. Recently, the daughter called me to tell me that she noticed that some of her underwear is missing and suspects that he may have taken them and is possibly wearing them. She doesn't want to talk to him about this but wants me to explore this in my next session with him. Any suggestions as to how I should approach this with him?"
- "Hi all. I'm looking to increase my referral list and am looking for clinicians in the Springfield area who have evening session times and take XYZ insurance. Experience with familial issues would be a plus."
- "I'm looking for resources for working with teens who cut and also for sexuality related issues. Thanks!"
- In my opinion, the third example is beyond paraphrasing. It shows the need for good supervision even when in private practice. The information provided would make it easy to identify this family, even in a city that has a large shipyard.

WAYS TO AVOID A VIOLATION

SOCIAL MEDIA IS NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR SUPERVISION

In an increasingly connected world, it is important to remember that social media cannot replace the ethical requirement for supervision and it should not be treated as such. Joining these online/social media discussion sites for clinicians can make us feel more connected and less isolated professionally. They can help build a referral base and can help us to plan social events, but they are simply unsuitable for case consults.

Many of us employ a "we are all on the same team" mindset, and that can do much to help our profession. At the same time, we need to remember that seeking advice on these online/social media websites will never be the equal of calling the clinician in the office next to you and doing a case consult. Our clients are counting on us to keep their lives private; our ethics code and laws related to our profession are here to ensure that we do just that.

If you are in a small practice, be it group or individual, for-profit or nonprofit, be sure to have a solid source for clinical supervision and consultation that falls well within industry standards. This not only helps protect our clients, but also protects us against potential legal and ethical violations.

Dr. Warren Corson III

"Doc" Warren Corson III is a counselor, educator, writer and the founder, developer, and clinical and executive director of Community Counseling Centers of Central CT Inc.



INFORMATION AND UPDATES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND INFORMATION

The Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) improves health care access and works to promote a culturally competent and diverse health care workforce by providing scholarships, loan repayments, and grants to students, graduates, and institutions providing direct patient care in areas of unmet need. HCAI also collects, analyzes, and publishes data about California's health professional training, as well as identifies health care shortage areas in the state. Information about HCAI's programs related to behavioral health are provided below.

ALLIED HEALTH CARE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

The **Allied Healthcare Loan Repayment Program (AHLRP)**: AHLRP aims to increase the number of appropriately trained allied health care professionals in California, including mental health professionals, and encourages those professionals to provide direct client care in County Medical Services Program (CMSP)-designated counties in California. Eligible applicants may receive loan repayment grant awards of up to \$16,000 in exchange for a 12-month service obligation practicing and providing direct patient care at one or more CMSP-contracted provider sites in any of the 35 CMSP-designated counties. **The AHLRP application cycle closes on June 30, 2025.**

MEDI-CAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

HCAI is working closely with the California Department of Health Care Services and other partners to support workforce training, recruitment and retention of behavioral health care practitioners who serve Medi-Cal members and/or uninsured communities. HCAI's goal is to expand the number of qualified licensed and non-licensed practitioners serving those who are living with or at risk for behavioral health conditions. Read more on the **HCAI BH-CONNECT** page.

The **Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Student Loan Repayment Program (MBH-SLRP)** is intended to reduce educational debt for behavioral health professionals who commit to serving Medi-Cal members and underserved communities. Eligible behavioral health practitioners can receive up to \$240,000 in loan repayment with commitment to a multiyear service obligation. **The MBH-SLRP application cycle opens on July 1, 2025, and closes on August 15, 2025.**

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CERTIFIED WELLNESS COACH PROGRAM

HCAI is celebrating the certification of 2,000 wellness coaches! The wellness coach role is a new, certified position designed to increase our state's overall capacity to support the growing behavioral health needs of our youth. It is designed to help build a larger and more diverse and representative behavioral health workforce in California that has the training and supervision needed to engage directly with young people where they live, study and work.

Wellness coaches offer non-clinical services that support youth behavioral health and well-being, such as wellness promotion and education, screening, care coordination, individual and group support, and crisis referral. The model supplements and supports existing behavioral health roles, fill gaps in the current behavioral health workforce, and creates a larger and more diverse workforce with whom youth can connect. The wellness coach role is part of a broader initiative called the **Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative**. HCAI is responsible for developing the wellness coach role and is the certifying entity.

The Certification website and information on certification requirements are available at <https://cawellnesscoach.org/>.

OTHER HCAI FUNDING PROGRAMS AND ELIGIBILITY

HCAI offers a variety of grant, scholarship, and loan repayment programs for students, health care professionals and organizations. The application cycles open and close at different times of the year. Stay updated by signing up for **HCAI's email subscriber's list**. HCAI provides an online tool to help determine eligibility for HCAI programs, available at **Funding Eligibility**.

CALIFORNIA HEALTH WORKFORCE DASHBOARDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA PRODUCTS

The California Health Workforce Research Data Center serves as the state's central source of health workforce data. The Research Data Center is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and distributing information on the supply, demand, demographic, educational, and employment trends of health care professionals and their distribution throughout the state. To view, visit HCAI's **Health Workforce Data** page.



GET TO KNOW BBS STAFF MEMBERS



CHRISTY BERGER Regulatory Manager, Celebrates 35 Years at BBS!

Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career journey so far:

I was born and raised in Sacramento, and my mother and grandmother both worked for the state. My mom encouraged me

right after graduating high school to apply since I had taken some courses that provided me with relevant skills. I had different ideas at the time like many young people do—it seemed kind of boring. I took some college courses, worked a variety of jobs, and then gave birth to my son. Seeking more stability, I realized state service may be a good path for me, even if it didn't seem very exciting!

How did you become a part of BBS?

I was hired by the Board of Psychology in 1989 as a seasonal clerk. It was a tiny office with only 6 of us, and there were no cubicles, just desks. This allowed me to listen and learn a great deal, even though my job was very basic. I was later hired by BBS as a receptionist in May 1990—hard to believe that was 35 years ago!

It was a very different workplace back then. For example, there was no automated phone system or voicemail, so I juggled four busy phone lines. We didn't have email, a website, or even computers except for a terminal that connected to our licensee database. I continued taking college courses and working hard, which led to several promotions within BBS, ultimately gaining the knowledge that has been invaluable in my current position.

What is your position at BBS and what does a day at the office look like for you?

I'm the regulatory manager at BBS, which means I am responsible for the many steps the Board is required to follow to make changes to our regulations. This process

involves collaborating with staff, attorneys, Board members and stakeholders to fine-tune proposals, always keeping the best interests of the public, our current licensees, and future licensees in mind. Although the detailed steps of the regulation process aren't always "fun," I enjoy working with the Board, committees, and stakeholders to make meaningful changes. I also produce and edit many of our publications, including our newsletter. I really enjoy this aspect of my work because I love to write, and I find great satisfaction when I figure out how to communicate complex information in a digestible way, which often isn't easy!

What are the most interesting aspects of the work that you do for BBS?

I've always had an interest in mental health, which I attribute to the fact that both of my parents had serious challenges, which of course led to my own challenges (like it does for so many). I am deeply grateful for the highly skilled LCSW who made a huge difference in my life through therapy. While I'll always face some challenges, I'm now able to live a full and happy life. This experience gave me a deeper appreciation for the mental health professionals who are making a real difference in people's lives.

Throughout my time at the Board, I've worked in a variety of roles. One of my favorite positions was working in the Exam Unit, where I had the opportunity to interact with licensees who participated in exam development workshops and providing the oral exams. It was inspiring to meet so many great people—if you are one of them, hello and I hope you're doing well!

Currently, one of the most interesting projects I'm involved in is working with the Workforce Development Committee to identify potential barriers to licensure and how we can best address them. It's exciting to see the thoughtful work being done to improve access to licensure, which is critical to meet the growing demand for diverse, skilled professionals and ensuring that talent and potential aren't lost due to outdated or burdensome requirements.

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What is one thing that you wish more people knew about BBS?

We have a dedicated and hardworking staff, and I couldn't ask for better colleagues. Steve Sodergren, our executive officer, and Marlon McManus, our assistant executive officer, are both kind and thoughtful human beings who ensure that everyone feels seen and heard. Thanks to their leadership, BBS is a great place to work!

Who or what inspires you?

I'm inspired by people who volunteer in their community, whether it be helping people or animals. I personally volunteer with a wildlife rescue, which provides care to

injured, sick and orphaned wildlife and returns them to their habitat. Wildlife rescues are important since there are so many human-caused impacts that these animals face, such as rodenticides, pesticides, fishing gear entanglements, and habitat loss. I'm always trying to spread the word about the importance of preventing these harms whenever possible (and making people aware that wildlife rescues exist throughout the state).

What is one fun fact about you that few people know?

A few years ago, after a significant health scare, I decided there was no time like the present to pursue my passions, so I joined an a cappella chorus, which is so much fun!

FRIENDSHIP LINE CALIFORNIA

HELPING OLDER ADULTS STAY CONNECTED

Friendship Line California is a free crisis intervention hotline and warmline for non-emergency emotional support calls for adults ages 60 and older, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers. Support is available in English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Korean.

Institute on Aging's (IOA) staff and volunteers, in partnership with the California Department of Aging, respond to more than 11,000 inbound and outbound calls per month. The Friendship Line is a signature program of IOA's Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and Grief-Related Services, and is accredited by the American Association of Suicidology. Operating as a warm line rather than a hotline, the Friendship Line is unique in its dual functionality: it allows seniors to call for immediate emotional support while also enabling proactive outreach to individuals identified as at risk.

The IOA's website states, "IOA's Friendship Line is more than a phone call—it is a lifeline that provides hope, connection, and emotional support to seniors who might otherwise feel forgotten. Backed by scientific evidence and decades of success, the program stands as a model for addressing loneliness and enhancing mental health among older adults. As society grapples with the growing epidemic of loneliness, the Friendship Line offers a proven solution that binds us to life, one conversation at a time."



Toll-Free in California: **888.670.1360**

For volunteer or intern opportunities, contact Aleks Bartlett at abartlett@ioaging.org.

This program serving the community is funded by the California Department of Aging and the city of San Francisco's Department of Disability and Aging Services.



WORDS THAT HEALED: HOW THERAPISTS HELP DISMANTLE SHAME

We wanted to share a social media post by Kaileen McMickle, licensed professional counselor (LPC) in Wisconsin, owner/founder of Inner Ascent Counseling LLC, specializing in working with women who carry shame. She asked, **“Share something your therapist said or did that made their shame melt away”**—and the thousands of responses were powerful.

As therapists, it's easy to underestimate the lasting impact of a single moment of attunement, validation, or gentle honesty. These comments are a reminder of how meaningful your work can be, and how small acts of empathy often become life-changing experiences for your clients.

We hope you find this collection both heartwarming and inspiring—and maybe even see a bit of your own work reflected in it. Some of these may not resonate at all, but we hope that there is a phrase or two that appeals to you.

1. *I said, “I’m sorry I keep going on and on about this.” She said, “It’s my honor to be a safe person for you to speak with.”*
2. *You don’t have to stay in a war zone just to prove you can survive.*
3. *You are an adult. You’re not in trouble any more.*

4. *It’s okay to grieve the life you were promised but did not receive.*
5. *Survival has taught you habits that peace no longer requires.*
6. *All of the versions of you before this moment helped you to survive. Love them, thank them, and acknowledge them! But tell them: they can ride in the car with you, but they can’t drive the car any more.*
7. *I called to cancel a therapy session I was bullied into attending with my ex. His therapist told me he was proud of me for backing out as he also believed it was not in my best interest. After 15 years of DV, to hear that was the most validating thing.*
8. *I’m working on not being as chronic of a people pleaser and my therapist said “You’re a people too. When is it your turn?”*
9. *Bad moms don’t worry about being a bad mom.*
10. *You’re the thinker not the thought.*

Watch our forthcoming newsletters for more!

NEW VIDEO: AN UPDATE FOR SCHOOLS

The Board recently released a [video](#) providing an update to schools, which includes some key initiatives we have recently launched. These initiatives include a comprehensive review of the educational requirements for LMFT and LPCC applicants by the Workforce Development Committee, and creation of an Outreach and Education Committee, which aims to increase engagement with schools and other stakeholders. The video also addresses questions the Board receives from schools about the registration process and provides important information about resources available to schools and their students.



ONLINE IS EASIER AND FASTER!

A Variety of Online Services Available Via BreEZe

For faster service, manage your registration and license online! BreEZe provides services for applicants, registrants, and licensees that can save you weeks of processing time compared to paper applications. BreEZe allows payment via major credit card in a secure environment. Services available include the ability to:

- Subscribe to license notifications.
- Apply for an associate registration. Coming Soon!
- Request a name change.
- Submit an address change (takes effect instantly).
- Add or change your email address.
- Verify a license and obtain proof of renewal status.
- Obtain a certification of licensure.
- Renew a license or registration instantly (up to 90 days in advance).
- Submit an application to change from inactive to active status.
- Request a replacement registration or license (allow two weeks for delivery).
- Apply for your initial Law and Ethics Exam.
- Apply for initial license issuance

Consumer complaints can also be filed on BreEZe. Visit www.BreEZe.ca.gov.

HELPFUL TIPS AND TUTORIAL VIDEOS

If you are new to the Board's online services, helpful tips are available online:

BreEZe Helpful Hints

BreEZe Help Tutorial Videos, including:

- How to register for BreEZe.
- What to do if you forgot your password or user ID.
- How to submit a renewal.
- How to update your information.
- How to make a payment.
- How to search for a license.
- How to subscribe to license notifications.

If you need additional assistance using BreEZe, technical support can be reached at (855) 227-9633.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS





ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Citation and Fine—An administrative action used for minor violations. Citations and fines are public information but are not considered disciplinary action.

CITATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS—UNLICENSED PRACTICE November 1, 2024–March 31, 2025		
Name	License Number	Fine Amount
Jane E. Jackson	UNLICENSED	\$5,000
Kenneth Joseph Rudnicki	UNLICENSED	\$5,000





FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS NOVEMBER 1, 2024–MARCH 31, 2025

Select the individual's name for a link to more information.

Susan Ali Abdel-Haq

LMFT 112989

Thousand Oaks

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: License revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.

Effective: March 6, 2025

Julie Stewart Andersen

LMFT 32644

Long Beach

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Action: License surrendered

Effective: March 6, 2025

Mayra Nidia Angeles Hernandez

AMFT 151357

Wilmington

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration surrendered

Effective: March 6, 2025

Anne Elysabethe Barkett

ASW 99481

Santa Barbara

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration surrendered

Effective: March 6, 2025

India Gladys Bradley

AMFT 132005

East Palo Alto

CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.

Effective: December 19, 2024

Tammy K. Bradshaw

LMFT 85569

Redlands

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: License surrendered

Effective: March 6, 2025

Steven Michael Butler

LMFT 46224

Lakeport

FAILED TO COMPLY WITH PROBATION TERMS/CONDITIONS

Action: License revoked

Effective: December 19, 2024

Kristi A. Creed

ASW 107331

Oakhurst

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.

Effective: March 6, 2025

Alyssa Emily Dahlberg

AMFT 120533

San Diego

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with terms and conditions.

Effective: March 6, 2025

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FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS NOVEMBER 1, 2024–MARCH 31, 2025

Judy De Leon

LMFT 41569

San Jose

FAILED TO COMPLY WITH PROBATION TERMS/CONDITIONS

Action: License revoked

Effective: November 8, 2024

Teresa Ann Ethridge

AMFT 153683

Hemet

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of two (2) years with terms and conditions.

Effective: March 6, 2025

Anthony Andrew Ferguson

ASW 129030

Los Angeles

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with terms and conditions.

Effective: March 6, 2025

Renita Yvette Gant-Shaffer

ASW 86616

Los Angeles

FAILED TO COMPLY WITH PROBATION TERMS/CONDITIONS

Action: Registration revoked

Effective: March 6, 2025

Thomas Andrew Gonda

LMFT 50715

Oakland

DISCIPLINE BY ANOTHER STATE/AGENCY

Action: Public Reproval

Effective: March 6, 2025

Lindsey Katherine Hawkins

AMFT 144729

Gilroy

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration surrendered

Effective: March 6, 2025

Christiana Dominique Henson

AMFT 152150

Sacramento

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.

Effective: December 19, 2024

Tracy Lynn Hill

LMFT 115288

Santa Barbara

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Action: License surrendered

Effective: December 19, 2024

Olivia Kjellander Hook

LMFT 96002

Tucson, AZ

DISCIPLINE BY ANOTHER STATE/AGENCY

Action: License surrendered

Effective: March 6, 2025

Wilbur Wardel Hurley

AMFT 150867

San Diego

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration surrendered

Effective: March 6, 2025

Laina Marie Knott

LEP 3330

Huntington Beach

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: License revoked

Effective: December 19, 2024

Mary Frances McDonough

AMFT 143708

San Diego

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration surrendered

Effective: March 6, 2025

Erin Aileen Nagle

APCC 9230

Escondido

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.

Effective: December 19, 2024

Gregory Harris Donsky Oremland

APCC 18880

Portola Valley

CRIMINAL CHARGES/ CONVICTIONS

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.

Effective: March 6, 2025

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS NOVEMBER 1, 2024–MARCH 31, 2025**Jovanda Rae Patterson**

ASW 128177

Tulare

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/
CONVICTIONS**

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of eighteen (18) months with terms and conditions. Effective: January 16, 2025

Ann M. Rhee

LMFT 45434

Concord

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Action: License revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of seven (7) years with terms and conditions. Effective: December 19, 2024

Jonathan Todd Schwartz

AMFT 153684

Woodland Hills

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/
CONVICTIONS**

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions. Effective: March 6, 2025

Jessica M. Sevier

LCSW 81652

Riverside

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/
CONVICTIONS**

Action: License revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of four (4) years with terms and conditions. Effective: December 19, 2024

Monnie Shawn Smith

LMFT 89717

Santa Cruz

**FAILED TO COMPLY WITH
PROBATION TERMS/CONDITIONS**

Action: Probation extended by three (3) years, with additional terms and conditions. Effective: December 19, 2024

Sylvia Maria Soriano

LCSW 90197

Baldwin Park

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/
CONVICTIONS**

Action: License surrendered Effective: March 6, 2025

Kirk Calvin Stanczyk

APCC 18233

Burlingame

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/
CONVICTIONS**

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions. Effective: December 19, 2024

Christina Gloria Strine

LCSW 127823

Campbell

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/
CONVICTIONS**

Action: License revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions. Effective: December 19, 2024

Millicent Lauren-Celeste Sykes

APCC 10465

San Diego

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/
CONVICTIONS**

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions. Effective: December 19, 2024

Chaka Khan Denise Theus

LCSW 76678

Palmdale

**FAILED TO COMPLY WITH
PROBATION TERMS/CONDITIONS**

Action: Probation extended by one (1) year. Effective: March 6, 2025

Laura Julie Allyn Tomlinson

LCSW 28337

Long Beach

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/
CONVICTIONS**

Action: License surrendered Effective: March 6, 2025

Lilian D. Truong

AMFT 151356

Seal Beach

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/
CONVICTIONS**

Action: Registration surrendered Effective: March 6, 2025



Board of Behavioral Sciences

CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

1625 North Market Blvd., Suite S-200
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 574-7830



UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Board Meetings

August 21–22

November 20–21

Outreach and Education Committee

September 12

Policy and Advocacy Committee

July 31

October 24

Workforce Development Committee

July 31

October 24

EVENTS TO REMEMBER

JULY

National Minority Mental Health
Month

SEPTEMBER

Suicide Prevention Month

SEPTEMBER 25

National Psychotherapy Day

Please visit the Board's **Board and Committee Meetings** webpage
or sign up for the **email subscriber's list** for updates.

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