

**Minutes
Arkansas Psychology Board
101 East Capitol, Suite 415
Conference Call
January 12, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 am by Dr. Russell Dixon, who acted as Chair in the absence of Dr. Steve Shry.

Board Members present: Dr. Sabra Hassel, Mr. Larry Lawrence, Mr. Dwight Sowell, and Dr. Michael Wyrick.

Staff Members present: Ms. Amy Ford and Ms. Rebecca Wright.

Guests present: Ms. Elizabeth Glenn

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CURRENT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Lt. Cora Gentry from the Arkansas State Police addressed the Board at the December 17, 2004 meeting, stating that the current criminal background check does not report several criminal felonies and misdemeanors because they are not part of the statutory request. There are other criminal statutes that have been repealed, renumbered or are now listed as another offense that the current criminal check will not reveal.

Amy Ford, Assistant Attorney General, prepared a draft of § 17-97-312 of the Rules and Regulations with improvements and presented this draft to the Board. Discussion followed.

Mr. Dwight Sowell and Dr. Michael Wyrick objected to the language in the proposed statute that would permit the State Police to maintain fingerprints of applicants and licensees. Dr. Sabra Hassel stated she had no objection to the State Police keeping the fingerprints of applicants and licensees on file.

Mr. Sowell also stated that it could be time consuming to be notified of every violation of an applicant or licensee. Also, he objected to having background check updates on licensees due to time consumption and cost to the licensee.

Dr. Wyrick voiced a concern that the Board's background check process could be more inclusive than an employer's and could potentially adversely impact a Psychologist's employment if he/she lost his/her license.

Dr. Wyrick made a motion to endorse the draft without the State Police maintenance of fingerprints of applicants and licensees clause. Mr. Larry Lawrence seconded the motion. Dr. Russell Dixon called the question. Mr. Sowell voted against the motion. Dr. Sabra Hassel had to leave before the vote was taken, but she voted for the motion by proxy. Dr. Wyrick, Mr. Lawrence, and Dr. Dixon voted for the motion. The motion passed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the acting Chair adjourned the meeting.