

# CALIFORNIA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

M A Y 2 0 2 3 N E W S L E T T E R

VOL. 9 NO. 1



Board of Behavioral Sciences

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## BOARD CHAIR UPDATE



Max Disposti

On February 28, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation terminating the state's COVID-19 State of Emergency. The Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) would like to applaud all our registrants and licensees who have worked so hard to ensure that the mental health needs of Californians were met. This was not an easy task, especially with the increased need for services and having to pivot to a new virtual landscape.

A new legislative session has begun, and the bills introduced demonstrate that mental health in California is a topic of focus. The Board will continue its work this year to help ensure that Californians are able to access the highest quality mental health services.

The Board is sponsoring Assembly Bill 232 (Aguiar-Curry), which will help ensure continuity of care for out-of-state clients who are relocating to or traveling in California. Current law requires a mental health professional to hold a current and active California license or registration to provide therapy with a client who is physically located in California. If passed, this bill will allow an out-of-state licensee with a current, active, and unrestricted license in a profession equivalent to the Board's Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), or Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) professions to obtain a temporary practice allowance to see a travelling or relocating client for a period of 30 consecutive days in a calendar year.

It is important to be aware of the law changes that will become effective on July 1, 2023 as detailed on the next page. After that date, applicants for licensure and licensees are required to have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which must include law and ethics related to telehealth. Additionally, the content of certain required coursework for applicants has been amended. For example, human sexuality coursework will need to include the study of gender diversity and gender dysphoria.

There will also be many changes to the Board's continuing education requirements that will be effective July 1, 2023. The changes are intended to update, streamline, and provide clarity in the continuing education

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

**BOARD CHAIR UPDATE** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(CE) regulations, as well as strengthen consumer protection. These changes include, but are not limited to, updates or amendments to temporary continuing education waiver procedures, and earning continuing education credits for participating in an occupational analysis. Please refer to the informational materials on the Board's website that will assist you in navigating these changes.

During this year, we will continue discussing a variety of topics in our Telehealth and Licensing Committees, including workforce development, barriers to licensure, and telehealth delivery platforms. Please remember that, whether you are a consumer or a licensee, your engagement in policy development is invaluable. All Board and Committee meetings are held in public and online, and are greatly enhanced by your insight and input. We look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

Max Disposti  
Board Chair

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR LICENSEES AND REGISTRANTS**

### **LAW CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023**

#### **LICENSEE CONTINUING EDUCATION REGULATION CHANGES**

A number of new requirements pertaining to continuing education (CE) will affect licensees whose license expires after July 1, 2023, as well as licensees submitting a renewal application after July 1, 2023 (regardless of expiration date). There are also some changes that CE providers should be aware of. These changes are detailed in the Board's [Continuing Education Changes FAQs](#).

#### **ONE-TIME TELEHEALTH COURSEWORK REQUIRED FOR LICENSEES AND APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE**

This new law requires applicants for licensure and current licensees to complete three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, including law and ethics related to telehealth, as a one-time requirement. There is no age limit on this course. Licensees must certify at their first renewal after July 1, 2023 that this requirement has been met. Individuals submitting an application for licensure on or after July 1, 2023 must attach proof of completion to their application. See the [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1759 FAQs](#) for more information.

#### **CHANGES TO ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OR LICENSURE**

"Additional Coursework" refers to the coursework required to be submitted with certain types of registration or licensure applications. **There are no new courses required**, but the types of acceptable providers have changed (all courses must be taken from an acceptable CE provider). In addition, the Human Sexuality course must include the study of gender identity and gender dysphoria. These changes apply to courses taken on or after July 1, 2023. See the [Additional Coursework Changes FAQs](#) for details.

#### **REMINDERS**

#### **ASSOCIATES: NEW ANNUAL CE REQUIREMENT FOR RENEWAL EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023**

For more information on registrant CE requirements, see the [AB 1759 FAQs](#). Also see the Board's new [Registrant Continuing Education Brochure](#).

#### **SUPERVISOR SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORTS WERE DUE JANUARY 1, 2023**

Haven't submitted your Supervisor Self-Assessment yet? A [Supervisor Self-Assessment Report](#) was required to be submitted by all active supervisors by January 1, 2023. This report is also required to be submitted by new supervisors within 60 days of commencing supervision. Please submit yours as soon as possible if you have not done so.

## 10 TIPS FOR A SMOOTHER LICENSING PROCESS

### 1. APPLY WITHIN 90 DAYS OF GRADUATING

In order to count supervised experience during the window of time between your degree award date and the issue date of your Associate registration, your Associate application must be received by the Board within 90 days of your qualifying degree award date. Please note that you are not permitted to work in a private practice or professional corporation until your Associate registration has been issued.

### 2. KEEP YOUR COMPLETED WORKPLACE LIVE SCAN FINGERPRINTING FORM

If you graduated on or after January 1, 2020, you may only count post-degree hours of experience gained under the “90-day rule” if your workplace required you to complete Live Scan fingerprinting prior to gaining hours with that employer, and you submit a copy of your completed “State of California Request for Live Scan Service” form when applying for licensure. For more information, see the [90-Day Rule FAQs](#).

### 3. SUBMIT A COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKET

Application deficiencies delay application processing. Carefully follow application instructions and use the checklist provided in the application packet. Keep a copy of everything for your records. For confirmation that the Board received your application, mail your application using a method that provides delivery confirmation.

### 4. CREATE A BREEZE ACCOUNT

BreEZe is the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) online service portal and provides the fastest and easiest way to change your address, apply for your initial law and ethics exam, and more (see page 4 for a complete list). You can sign up for a BreEZe account at [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov).

### 5. LEARN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL OF YOUR REGISTRATION

- You must take the Law and Ethics Exam for your registration type during your renewal cycle (unless you

have already passed it). Be sure to submit your exam application with the required fee early to avoid renewal delays.

- You must complete three hours of continuing education in law and ethics during each renewal cycle.
- You must pay a renewal fee.

### 6. RENEW YOUR REGISTRATION TIMELY

Once you are registered as an Associate, you must renew your registration every year and pay a renewal fee. If your registration expires, you will not be able to count hours gained during the period in which your registration lapsed. Remember that your registration is valid for six years and that you must apply for a subsequent registration number if you need to maintain a registration after six years. Be sure to allow for adequate processing time.

### 7. CAREFULLY READ THE EXAM CANDIDATE HANDBOOK

The Candidate Handbook for each exam contains important information that will help you to be prepared for your test day. It includes test center policies, such as identification requirements, requirements related to canceling or rescheduling an appointment, and what is allowed at the test center. In addition, it contains information about the exam itself, including the examination outline, the number of questions in the exam, and several sample questions. See the [Exams](#) tab of the Board’s website.

### 8. AVOID LOSING EXPERIENCE HOURS

There are a number of avoidable events that could result in losing your hard-earned experience hours. Don’t let this happen! Be sure to:

- Follow the [90-day rule](#).
- Read the FAQs for Associates and refer to it often (access at [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov)>Applicant>[License Type]>Forms/Pubs).
- Ensure that your supervisor meets all requirements.
- Ensure that you are employed as either a W-2 employee or a volunteer, and not as an independent contractor.

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## 10 TIPS FOR A SMOOTHER LICENSING PROCESS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- Ensure that a **Supervision Agreement** is completed within 60 days of commencing supervision with each supervisor.
- Ensure that your supervisor signs your experience log on a weekly basis.
- Ensure that you complete all hours of experience within the six (6)-year period immediately preceding submission of your Application for Licensure.
- After applying for licensure: It is still possible to lose hours after submitting your licensure application (even after it has been approved). You can avoid this by doing the following:
  - Clear any deficiencies in your Application for Licensure within one year of receiving a deficiency notice.
  - Take the Clinical exam within one year of approval of your Application for Licensure; and, if you don't pass the exam, make sure to take it within one year from your last attempt. If you don't test within these time frames, you will have to reapply for licensure, and the Board can only accept experience hours gained within the six years prior to receiving your new application.

## 9. EMAIL QUESTIONS

Emailing is the fastest and most efficient method to communicate with the Board. By emailing your question, Board staff can research and respond to your questions more thoroughly. This will also give you the advantage of being able to retain the response in writing. Email us via the **Contact Us** button on our website.

## 10. STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH BBS

It is important that you keep informed of possible changes to laws that may affect your license or your pathway to licensure. Sign up for our **email subscriber's list** to receive notifications of major updates. Better yet, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter for even more updates and information.

## 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. Services available include the ability to:

- Renew a license or registration instantly (up to 90 days in advance).
- Submit an address change (takes effect instantly).
- Add or change your email address.
- Request a replacement registration or license (allow two weeks for delivery).
- Verify a license and obtain proof of renewal status.
- Obtain a certification of licensure.
- Apply for your Law and Ethics Exam.
- Submit an application to change from Inactive to Active status.
- Pay with a major credit card in a secure environment.

Consumer complaints can also be filed on BreEZe.

Visit [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov).

## HELPFUL TIPS

If you are new to the Board's online services, there are tutorial videos available to help you (select "Help Tutorials" on [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov)). Tutorial videos include:

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

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



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

### GRANT AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS OPENING; NEW WORKFORCE DATA AVAILABLE

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.

### HEALTH WORKFORCE RESEARCH DATA CENTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

HCAI recently presented the California Legislature with the Health Workforce Research Data Center's (RDC) annual report for 2022. The report—the first publication since the RDC was established in 2021—collects the data necessary to provide comprehensive, timely, and accessible health workforce information to inform state policymakers and others. View the report on the [HCAI website](#).

HCAI is responsible for the collection, analysis, and distribution of information on the educational and employment trends for health care occupations across geographic areas. Key findings include workforce geographic maldistributions, increases in workforce exits, and areas of demographic underrepresentation. For a visualization of some of these data, see the [HCAI visualizations page](#).

### HCAI PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY TOOL

HCAI has developed an online eligibility tool for students, health care professionals, and organizations to quickly see what HCAI programs they may be eligible to apply for. To determine your eligibility, visit [Funding Eligibility](#).

### LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

HCAI plans to open the following program application cycles on May 1, 2023:

- [Allied Health Loan Repayment Program](#).
- [Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Education Program](#).

### SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CAPACITY EXPANSION

The Social Work Education Capacity Expansion (SWECE) program provides grants to educational institutions to develop new Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and/or Master of Social Work (MSW) programs, as well as expand MSW programs. The next application cycle will open on August 15, 2023 and closes on October 16, 2023. Learn [more](#).

### HEALTH PROFESSIONS PATHWAYS PROGRAM

The Health Professions Pathways Program (HPPP) is designed to recruit and support students from underrepresented regions and backgrounds to pursue health careers. HPPP is a competitive grant opportunity to award organizations that will develop and implement health professions pathways programs that can include pipeline programs, summer internships, and post-undergraduate fellowships.

The next HPPP application cycle will open on August 15, 2023 and closes on October 16, 2023. Learn [more](#).

### HEALTH CAREERS EXPLORATION PROGRAM

The Health Careers Exploration Program (HCEP, formerly Mini-Grants Program) is designed to strengthen educational and social foundations by providing direct and indirect program support for underrepresented and/or disadvantaged individuals interested in pursuing health care careers. HCEP awards up to \$25,000 to institutions to support conferences, workshops, or career exploration activities, exposing students to health careers.

The next HCEP application cycle will open on August 15, 2023 and closes on October 16, 2023. Learn [more](#).

## BECOME A SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT FOR THE BOARD!

### GIVE BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION AND HELP PROTECT CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS

The Board is recruiting Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for its examination and enforcement programs. In addition to receiving compensation, SMEs can earn up to six hours of CE credit upon completion of certain activities, which can be used to satisfy the Law and Ethics portion of a licensee's CE requirement.

A more diverse pool of SMEs critically affects the quality and defensibility of licensure exams and ensures equitable enforcement proceedings. The Board is seeking to increase its SME pool to ensure we are able to include experts from different specialty areas, practice settings, geographic locations, ethnic backgrounds and genders. The primary requirement for participating is that you possess a current California license in good standing as a LMFT, LCSW, LPCC, or Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP), and are practicing a minimum of 20 hours per week, including a minimum of 10 hours of face-to-face counseling per week (face-to-face includes videoconferencing).

Experts are compensated depending on the services rendered.

#### Exam Development SMEs

Exam SMEs participate in the development and review of the LCSW, LMFT, and LPCC California Law and Ethics Exam, the California Clinical LMFT Exam, and the LEP Exam. SME input ensures that the exams accurately assess whether candidates possess the minimally acceptable knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform tasks on the job safely and competently.

Workshops last from one to three days, and are normally conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Participants who travel 50 miles or more each way to workshops are reimbursed for travel expenses. Hotel and airfare are typically prepaid by the Board.

If you are interested, please email [bbsexamunit@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bbsexamunit@dca.ca.gov) and indicate "SME RECRUITMENT" in the subject line.



#### Enforcement Expert Consultant Program

The Board's Enforcement Unit is recruiting qualified LCSWs, LMFTs, LPCCs, LEPs, and Licensed Psychologists to serve as Expert Consultants. The Expert Consultant Program is the backbone of the Board's Enforcement Unit, and its effectiveness is vital for fulfilling the Board's legislative mandate to protect California consumers from unprofessional, incompetent, and otherwise dangerous practitioners.

An expert consultant is a Board licensee possessing technical and professional knowledge gained through advanced education and extensive work experience to form a definitive opinion regarding the standard of care for the profession. Board experts provide consultation to staff, review case materials, prepare written opinions, and—when necessary—testify at administrative hearings as an expert witness.

Psychologists licensed by the Board of Psychology perform psychological evaluations of the mental health of a licensee or an applicant for licensure. Psychologists interested in becoming an expert consultant must have an active practice, defined as at least 80 hours per month in direct patient care, clinical activity, psychometric testing, and/or teaching.

If you are interested in serving as an expert consultant, email the Enforcement Unit at [bbs.enforcementunit@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bbs.enforcementunit@dca.ca.gov) and indicate "EXPERT CONSULTANT RECRUITMENT" in the subject line.

## ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT CONSUMER PROTECTION? APPLY TO BE A BBS BOARD MEMBER!

Being a board member is a great opportunity to serve Californians and contribute to consumer protection. Some board members are licensed professionals themselves, while many others are public members. Board members help shape the direction of the mental health professions regulated by BBS with their collective decision-making. Board members provide oversight and policy direction, vote on disciplinary matters regarding professionals who violate state consumer protection laws, approve legislative and regulation proposals, and more.

Board members are expected to attend quarterly board meetings, occasional special board meetings, and if they accept a committee assignment, to also attend the committee meetings. Board members must also commit time to review meeting materials and attend training. Travel

## HELP PROTECT CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS



### SERVE ON A STATE BOARD

expenses are reimbursed and members receive a per diem for their hours of service. Hotel and airfare are typically prepaid by BBS.

The governor appoints many board members, but the Legislature makes appointments as well. Apply at [www.gov.ca.gov/appointments](http://www.gov.ca.gov/appointments).

To learn more about the Board, see [www.bbs.ca.gov/about](http://www.bbs.ca.gov/about).

## 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 Twitter. Scan, click on a graphic, or go to [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov) to connect!



EMAIL  
SUBSCRIBERS  
LIST



## IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS WITH THE BOARD

The Board strongly encourages all licensees, associates, and individuals in the exam process to ensure that their current email address is on file with the Board. The email address you provide will not be disclosed to the public.

This is important for everyone, but especially registrants working on passing an exam. This is because candidates are notified of approval to test via email. Without an email address on file, they will not receive notification of how to register for and schedule the exam.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The email address you provide when creating a BreEZe account is not automatically uploaded into your record. Even if you have created a BreEZe account, your email address may not be accessible to Board staff.

### HOW TO ADD OR UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

You can easily add or update your email by accessing the "Change of Address Application" located within the drop-down menu under "Manage Your License" on BreEZe. See [BreEZe Helpful Hints](#) for further details.

### EMAIL ADDRESS REQUIRED EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022

Effective July 1, 2022, a new law requires all licensees, registrants, and applicants who have an email address to provide it to the Board. The Board must be notified of any changes to your email address within 30 calendar days of the change.

## STAFF PROFILE: TONY BEASLEY, LMFT EVALUATOR



### TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER JOURNEY SO FAR.

My name is Tony Beasley and I am from Sacramento. I graduated from the University of Minnesota and shortly after landed a position with BBS. I have been with BBS for almost four years now and gained a strong foundation as a state employee and built positive relationships with many of my co-workers.

### HOW DID YOU BECOME A PART OF BBS?

I was looking for state jobs online one day and saw the job posting for this position. I read the duty statement and job description and found myself very interested. I applied online the same day and was contacted for an interview soon after.

### WHAT IS YOUR POSITION AT BBS AND WHAT DOES A DAY AT THE OFFICE LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

My position with BBS is currently an LMFT evaluator. A typical day in the office for me is arriving on time every day and politely greet my co-workers while heading to my workstation. Once at my workstation, I evaluate applications in date order received to completion. While evaluating applications throughout the day, every two hours, I take time to review and answer inbound mail, emails, and voicemails.

### WHAT ARE THE MOST INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THE WORK THAT YOU DO FOR BBS?

The most interesting aspect is being able to communicate in depth with applicants about their applications and build bonds with my co-workers and managers. The Licensing Unit is very close with each other, creating a positive and healthy environment to work in at BBS.

### WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU WISH MORE PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT BBS?

I wish people knew how genuine and motivated the managers and evaluators are here at BBS.

### WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

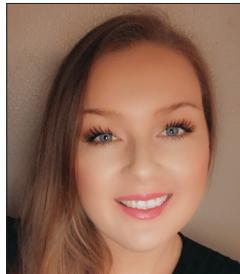
The person who inspires me to give it my all every day is my son. Becoming a father and knowing that I must set an example to guide him on becoming the best version of himself someday is what motivates me to never be too complacent in life and always give your best effort in anything you do.

### WHAT IS ONE FUN FACT ABOUT YOU THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW?

One fun fact about me is I love to attend sporting events and car shows outside of work.

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**STAFF PROFILE** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**STAFF PROFILE: BRANDY PSOMAS, ENFORCEMENT ANALYST IN THE CRIMINAL CONVICTION UNIT****TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER JOURNEY SO FAR.**

I have been working for the state for about five years (mostly in human resources) and continuously strive to gain more knowledge in each position that I have held while honing in on my natural interests. That has

led me back here to BBS and working in enforcement. The BBS mission is “to protect and serve Californians by setting, communicating, and enforcing standards for safe and competent mental health practice” in which I fully intend to do my best.

**HOW DID YOU BECOME A PART OF BBS?**

I was hired as an Associate MFT Evaluator in March 2021 and I really enjoyed the work as well as the people I worked with. That being said, I've chosen to make this my second home and continue my career journey here.

**WHAT IS YOUR POSITION AT BBS AND WHAT DOES A DAY AT THE OFFICE LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?**

I have been promoted to an enforcement analyst. A day in the office is great because I have face-to-face connection with staff and build rapport while gathering necessary documents I may need for working at home.

**WHAT ARE THE MOST INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THE WORK THAT YOU DO FOR BBS?**

I am very new to my position, but there are many interesting aspects in working in enforcement. We are able to assist applicants who may have had a rough past become licensed so that they are able to help others who may be heading in the same direction they did. With their experience, they chose to learn and grow from their actions which, to me, is admirable.

**WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU WISH MORE PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT BBS?**

How awesome and dedicated the people that work here are and how hard we strive on achieving the goals of our mission.

**WHAT INSPIRES YOU?**

Positivity and laughter really inspire me to be a better version of myself each day. Feeling positive and making others feel good has always been a huge part of my life.

**WHAT IS ONE FUN FACT ABOUT YOU THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW?**

I have seven sisters. I am in the middle. It was wild growing up, but I loved it!

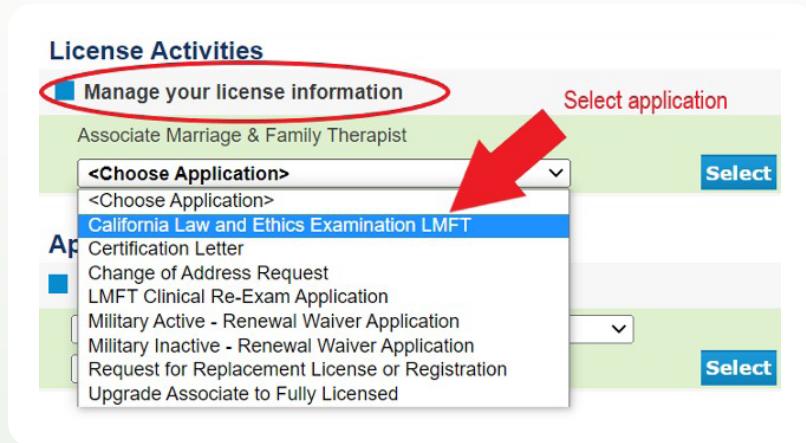


## ARE YOU AN ASSOCIATE APPLYING FOR YOUR INITIAL CALIFORNIA LAW AND ETHICS EXAM?

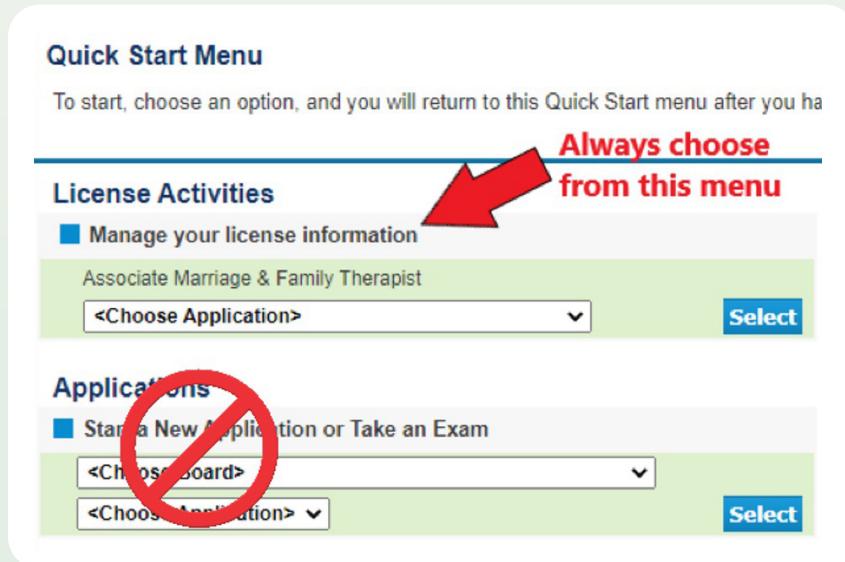
### PLEASE SEE THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION BELOW ON HOW TO CORRECTLY REGISTER ONLINE

After linking your Associate registration to your BreEZe account, you can apply to take your initial California Law and Ethics Examination.

1. See [BreEZe Helpful Hints](#) for information on how to link your Associate registration.
2. In your BreEZe account under **Manage Your License Information** (as shown below), click the drop-down menu to see available applications.
3. Select “California Law and Ethics Examination.” If you have an Associate number, you should **always** select applications under **Manage Your License Information**.



**TO AVOID DELAYS, DO NOT SELECT APPLICATIONS FROM THE “START A NEW APPLICATION” OR “TAKE AN EXAM” SECTION.**



It is also important to make sure that your email address is current in the BreEZe system. Notification of eligibility to take the exam will be sent to your email address. You can easily add or update your email by accessing the “Change of Address Application” located within the drop-down menu under “Manage Your License Information.” See [BreEZe Helpful Hints](#) for further details.

For exam-related questions or issues, email the Exam Unit at [BBSEExamUnit@dca.ca.gov](mailto:BBSEExamUnit@dca.ca.gov).

## EXPLANATION OF DISCIPLINARY TERMS AND ACTIONS

**Accusation**—Formal statement of charges against the registrant/licensee.

**Statement of Issues**—Formal statement of reasons why an application for registration/license should be denied.

**Effective Date**—The date the disciplinary decision goes into effect.

**Revoked**—The registration/license is canceled, voided, rescinded. The right to practice is terminated.

**Revoked, Stayed, Probation**—“Stayed” means the revocation is postponed. Professional practice may continue so long as the registrant/licensee complies with specific probationary terms and conditions. Violation of probation may result in the revocation that was postponed.

**Suspension**—The registrant/licensee is prohibited from practicing for a specific period of time.

**License Surrender**—To resolve a disciplinary action, the registrant/licensee has given up his or her registration/license—subject to acceptance by the Board. The right to practice is terminated.

## ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

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

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS October 1, 2022–February 1, 2023		
Name	License Number	Fine Amount
Tod Michael Leonard	LMFT 93422	\$1,500
Jennifer Wangkai Vang	LMFT 44282	\$1,500
Sandra J. Cox	LMFT 24856	\$1,500
LaJuannah Demetrice Hills	Unlicensed	\$5,000
Paige D. Vazquez	Unlicensed	\$5,000

## FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS OCTOBER 2022–JANUARY 2023

**Alexander E. Archer**

ASW 110998

Loma Linda

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: October 13, 2022

**Melissa Lorraine Bailey**

AMFT 135211

Visalia

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: October 13, 2022

**Robb Anthony Benitez**

ASW 89804

Chino Hills

**USE/UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: November 3, 2022

**Christina Toren Bercovici**

LMFT 20467

Seaside

**SEXUAL RELATIONS/MISCONDUCT WITH CLIENT**

Action: License revoked

Effective: October 13, 2022

**Erin K. Bogdanski**

LMFT 122104

Emeryville

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PROBATION PROGRAM**

Action: License revoked  
Effective: October 13, 2022

**Shawn Christopher Boykin**

ASW 110997

Gardena

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: October 13, 2022

**Isaac Carreon**

LMFT 48464

Riverside

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PROBATION PROGRAM**

Action: License revoked  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**Veronica Christiana Cleary**

LMFT 97745

Marina Del Rey

**DUAL RELATIONSHIP/FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION**

Action: License revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of four (4) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: October 13, 2022

**Erin Therese Gantt**

ASW 80363

Chico

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**

Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**Maatisak Amenhetep Gipson**

LCSW 19290

Sacramento

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**

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

Effective: October 13, 2022

**Roberto Hernandez, Jr.**

AMFT 105958/APCC 5021

Greenfield

**SEXUAL RELATIONS/MISCONDUCT WITH CLIENT**

Action: Registrations revoked  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**Jessica Hinojosa**

LMFT 121817

Anaheim

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**

Action: License revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12**Katherine Ann Lambeth**

ASW 93682  
Oaha, NE  
**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**  
Action: Registration surrendered  
Effective: October 13, 2022

**Elizabeth Marie Marks**

AMFT 116812  
Emeryville  
**USE/OFFER OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE WITH CLIENT**  
Action: Registration revoked  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**Ira Arthell Neighbors**

LCSW 12020  
San Bernardino  
**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**  
Action: License revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**Priscilla Ann Rios**

AMFT 136984  
Studio City  
**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**  
Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**Africa Renee Rojas Rivera**

ASW 90380  
Lakewood  
**INTENTIONALLY OR RECKLESSLY CAUSING EMOTIONAL HARM TO CLIENT/ CRIMINAL CONVICTION**  
Action: Registration surrendered  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**Kelsey Lee Santos**

ASW 89404  
Rocklin  
**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**  
Action: Registration revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**Albert Terry Shepley**

LMFT 87943  
Newport Beach  
**USE/OFFER OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE WITH CLIENT**  
Action: License surrendered  
Effective: October 13, 2022

**Jimmie Terangi Simpson II**

LMFT 136990  
Costa Mesa  
**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**  
Action: License revoked, revocation stayed, and placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with terms and conditions.  
Effective: January 5, 2023

**Shaylja Supreya Singh**

AMFT 101876  
Castro Valley  
**CRIMINAL CHARGES/CONVICTIONS**  
Action: Registration surrendered  
Effective: January 5, 2023

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



**FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

**Armando Soto Jr.**

LCSW 87970

Los Angeles

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/  
CONVICTIONS**

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

Effective: January 5, 2023

**Elizabeth Elaine Stamps**

AMFT 109909

Anderson

**CRIMINAL CHARGES/  
CONVICTIONS**

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

Effective: January 5, 2023

**Beverly Denise Thomas Marsh**

LMFT 91502

Riverside

**INTENTIONALLY OR RECKLESSLY  
CAUSING EMOTIONAL HARM  
TO CLIENT ACTION: LICENSE  
SURRENDERED**

Effective: January 5, 2023

**Alexandra N. Walsh**

LMFT 122488/APCC 3857

Pasadena

Attempting to Secure a License by Deceit and/or Misrepresentation

Action: License and registration surrendered.

Effective: January 5, 2023



## THANK YOU TO OUR BBS STAFF MEMBERS!

The Board is fortunate to have many long-term staff members, all of whom are integral to the Board's functioning. We would like to recognize and thank each and every person listed below for their hard work and dedication to BBS, consumers, licensees, and applicants.

<b>30 OR MORE YEARS WITH THE BOARD</b>
CHRISTY BERGER
<b>25 OR MORE YEARS WITH THE BOARD</b>
MARY COTO
<b>20 OR MORE YEARS WITH THE BOARD</b>
CHRISTINA KITAMURA
<b>15 OR MORE YEARS WITH THE BOARD</b>
MICHELLE EERNISSE-VILLANUEVA
DAWN HERRERA
RACQUEL PENA
<b>10 OR MORE YEARS WITH THE BOARD</b>
GENA BEAVER
CYNTHI BURNETT

<b>ANN GLASSMOYER</b>
ROSANNE HELMS
DAVID JONES
MARC MASON
STEVE SODERGREN
ELLEN VIEGAS
<b>5 OR MORE YEARS WITH THE BOARD</b>
SASHA ADDISON
ANDREA BERTRAM-MUELLER
AMANDA CANTRELL
LISA CIGELSKA
KIMBERLY COVINGTON
MICHELLE DIAS
VALARIE ENLOE
ROBERT ESQUIVEL
SAMUEL HALL

JOHN HICKS
PORTIA HILLMAN
ANNIE HU
YEE LEE
LEE LYLES
KAITLIN MARTIN
MARLON MCMANUS
CARL PERALTA
MARGARET SEE
JULIE WEDDLE
CRAIG ZIMMERMAN





Board of Behavioral Sciences

CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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



## 2023 UPCOMING MEETING DATES

### Board Meetings

May 4–5

June 15\*

August 17–18

September 21\*

November 16–17

\* Disciplinary hearing dates only.  
These dates may be canceled  
if the Board does not receive  
any petition requests.

### Policy and Advocacy Committee

July 21

October 13

### Telehealth Committee

June 8

September 7

### Licensing Committee

July 21

October 13

### EVENTS TO REMEMBER

#### MAY

Mental Health Awareness Month

#### MAY 10

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

#### JULY

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Please visit the Board's 2023 [Board and Committee Meetings webpage](#) or sign up for the [email subscriber's list](#) for updates.

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