



Board of Behavioral Sciences

Memo

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To: Committee Members

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From: Rosanne Helms
Legislative Manager

Subject: Discussion of the Definition of a Supervisee

Currently, the Board's practice acts reference the term "supervisee" but do not define it. In most instances, a definition is likely not needed, because in the context in which it is used in the Board's practice acts, it can reasonably be inferred to mean an individual required by the Board to be under supervision. *(Note: an individual may be required to be under supervision for numerous reasons, for example: they are an associate and gaining hours toward licensure, they are working in a non-exempt setting and therefore registration and supervision are required in order to provide clinical services, they are working under the 90-day rule, they are an MFT trainee counting hours toward licensure.)*

However, there are two instances where the above may not apply, and the intended definition becomes unclear:

1. Definition of Direct Supervisor Contact (BPC §§[4980.43.2\(b\)](#), [4996.23.1\(b\)](#), [4999.46.2\(b\)](#)):

These subsections define individual supervision, triadic supervision, and group supervision for purposes of "direct supervisor contact," which is required when gaining supervised experience hours toward licensure. The definition for each includes one supervisor and a specified number of "supervisees."

The term "supervisees" in the context of the Board's practice act refers to individuals required by the Board's practice acts to be under supervision. However, when limiting supervisees per supervisor to a particular number, a question arises.

Group supervision is defined as consisting of one supervisor and no more than eight "supervisees". However, the law does not address whether individuals receiving supervision who are not required by the Board to be under supervision count as members of the group toward the 8 "supervisee" limit. For example, a licensee or pre-licensed psychologist may be participating in group clinical supervision for various reasons, but these individuals do not fit the implied definition of a "supervisee" because they are not required by the Board to be under supervision, as

the Board defines it. However, they are taking a spot in the supervision group, which was likely limited to 8 in order to ensure each group supervisee gets proper attention from the supervisor.

Possible Solutions

- Suggestion #1: Add a paragraph to this subdivision of law that states “For purposes of this subdivision, “supervisee” refers to any participant in supervision of clinical mental health services, as described in section 4980.43.1, with a supervisor.” OR
- Suggestion #2: Instead of defining individual, triadic, and group supervision as consisting of one supervisor and a specified number of supervisees, define them as one supervisor and a specified number of individuals or participants.

2. Limitation on Number of Supervisees per Supervisor (BPC §§[4980.43.4\(c\)](#), [4996.23.3\(c\)](#), [4999.46.4\(c\)](#))

These subsections require that supervisors of supervisees in non-exempt settings have no more than 6 individual or triadic supervisees at any one time. (In exempt settings, there is no limit on the number of supervisees per individual or triadic supervisor.) The subsection goes on to state that supervisees may be associate marriage and family therapists, associate clinical social workers, or associate professional clinical counselors, or any combination of these.

The reason for the limitation on number of supervisees is to ensure that a supervisor can dedicate enough time to properly supervise each one. However, stating that this only includes associates leaves out other potential types of supervisees, such as trainees, those under the 90 day rule, or those seeking a license with the Board of Psychology. The Committee may wish to discuss whether or not other individuals should be included in the 6 supervisee per supervisor limit.

Recommendation

Conduct an open discussion about the use of the term “supervisee” in the subdivisions of statute discussed above.