



CANADIAN REGISTER OF HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology received its Letters Patent and Articles of Incorporation from the federal Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in January, 1985. The Register resulted from several years of intensive collaborative effort by the Council of Provincial Associations of Psychology (CPAP). The Register was created in response to a perceived need for the identification of psychologists who meet basic criteria for the provision of health services.

CPAP served as the vehicle through which the provincial fraternal associations and regulatory bodies and CPA negotiated the structure of the Register and the criteria for listing. In June, 1984, the final proposal was ratified by the associations and/or regulatory bodies of Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan, as well as by CPA. The British Columbia Psychological Association and the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology abstained while the Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia opposed the creation of the Register. The participating bodies then appointed the initial members of the Register's Board of Directors, designated as the Council of the Register. The Council quickly established a Steering Committee. Serving on the Council are: Heili Strawbridge (Nfld.), Sol Feldstein (PEI), Terez Retfalvi and Aristide Doucet (NB), Jocelyn Taillon and Michel Sabourin (PQ), Barbara Wand and Pierre Ritchie (Ont.), Gary Hawryluk (Man.), Tim Greenough (Sask.), Michael King (AB) and Andrew Langford (NWT). Elected as Executive

members were Pierre Ritchie (President), Michel Sabourin (Vice President), Gary Hawryluk (Treasurer), Barbara Wand (Secretary) with Michael King and Terez Retfalvi as Members-at-Large. The Council has also appointed Dr. Gilles Boulais as Executive Director who will serve on a part-time basis at the Register's office in Ottawa.

The CRHSPP will not duplicate any current function of provincial regulatory bodies. Careful attention was given to underscoring their exclusive role in regulating the practice of psychology. Dr. Ritchie, CRHSPP President emphasized that the Register intends to build on the spirit of cooperation developed between the participating fraternal associations and regulatory bodies in the course of establishing the Register.

A primary criterion for eligibility to be listed in the Register is provincial certification/licensure/registration except for psychologists in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon where no regulatory body yet exists. Dr. Boulais indicated that an invitation to apply as well as an application form will be mailed to some 7,000 psychologists across Canada in mid to late April. The criteria and guidelines for listing will be included with the mailing.

The grandparent provision, which will last for fifteen years, respects the diverse levels of entry to the profession among the various provinces and territories and makes provisions for psychologists working in the non-regulated jurisdictions.

Any psychologist in Canada interested in the Register who has not received an application form and instructions in the

mail by the end of May, 1985, could contact the Register at the following address:

Dr. Gilles Boulais,
Executive Director
Canadian Register of Health Service
Providers in Psychology
190 Lisgar St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0C4

The application fee, or the "credential review" fee, will be \$50.00 until August 1, 1985. After that the fee will be \$75.00. Once an applicant has been accepted for listing, he or she will be billed \$50.00 for listing.

(Adapted from a statement prepared by CRHSP.)

INCORPORATION OF A PRACTICE

While several articles have been published in the Bulletin on the topic of incorporation, questions still arise. Below are some questions frequently asked.

Question:

What section of the Psychologists Registration Act prevents a psychologist from incorporating his or her practice?

Answer:

It is not the Psychologists Registration Act but rather the Business Corporations Act (R.S.O. 1980: Ch. 54) that governs the incorporation of a practice. Section 3(3) of the Business Corporations Act states:

"Where the practice of a profession is governed by an Act, a corporation may be incorporated to practise the profession only if such Act expressly permits the practice of such profession by a corporation and subject to the provisions of such Act."

The Psychologists Registration Act does not expressly permit the incorporation of a practice. Thus, a psychologist may not incorporate his or her practice of psychology.

Question:

Do the amendments to the Business Corporations Act change anything?

Answer:

In 1983, the Business Corporations Act was amended and no longer requires incorporators to set out the objects of incorporations. Instead, when incorporating a company, it is necessary only to list what a corporation cannot do.

Prior to July, 1983, when incorporating a company, the incorporators had to set out the aims of the corporation. For example, a person would include in the objects of incorporation statements such as:

To manufacture, buy, sell, import, export, and otherwise deal in and with goods, wares and merchandise of all kinds.

To develop, market, and sell psychological test materials and textbooks.

Since a corporation could only engage in those activities as listed, the objects tended to be stated in very broad terms.

Following enactment of the amendments to the Business Corporations Act (post July, 1983), it was no longer necessary to list the objects. Instead, the incorporators are now required to list the restrictions. That is, it is only necessary to list those activities in which a corporation may not engage. In keeping with the restrictions placed by the Business Corporations Act on the incorporation of a professional's practice the Board, at its meeting on January 18, 1985, decided that psychologists incorporating a management

company should include the following statement in the Articles of Incorporation:

The corporation shall not engage in the practice of psychology.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING

On July 4th, and 5th, 1983, a tribunal of the Ontario Board of Examiners in Psychology heard evidence on a charge of professional misconduct against Dr. Donald Amoroso.

Dr. Amoroso had worked for Student and Family Services in Kitchener on a part-time basis as a consultant and its only psychologist. He reviewed assessments and reports done by the staff of the firm, signed bills sent to clients of the firm, and signed forms for clients who were covered for the services of a psychologist under extended health care plans.

Evidence presented in the hearing established that, in the case of a 12 year old boy referred to Student and Family Services, Dr. Amoroso had not seen the boy or his parents in a professional capacity and was not in a position to establish the validity of the presenting problem, either as indicated in the contract signed by the child's parents or as conveyed by the staff of Student and Family Services. He had not supervised the selection of tests administered to the child, some of which, according to expert testimony, were inappropriate for use with a child of that age and certain others were redundant.

Dr. Amoroso had failed to provide adequate supervision in that the report sent to the boy's school was not easily understood by the parents or by the school personnel who were the intended receivers, was worded in a manner likely to cause excessive concern to the parents, and contained recommendations that were either inadequate or inappropriate.

Dr. Amoroso had not contacted the school to ensure that appropriate recommendations contained in the report were followed through in the child's best interests.

Although Dr. Amoroso had testified that the child's behaviour problems should have been addressed through family therapy, he had not ensured that any recommendation respecting family therapy was contained in the final report. Furthermore, he had not personally interacted with the family on the matter.

Evidence introduced and testimony given by Dr. Amoroso indicated that he did not have a degree in clinical psychology, and that he lacked the pattern of courses or practica, as well as a formal internship, normally expected of practitioners in clinical psychology. Furthermore, he had not as a practitioner assessed a child in this boy's age group.

Evidence was introduced that Dr. Amoroso had signed blank forms and bills which when submitted to an insurer would secure coverage for sums paid by clients who held extended health care plans. While the tribunal did not doubt Dr. Amoroso's sincerity in affirming that he at no time knew of or endorsed fraud to secure insurance coverage for services provided, it was found that the signature of Dr. Amoroso made it possible for Student and Family Services to secure monies for the services provided to this child from companies providing coverage for psychological services.

The tribunal also found that it was not an unusual practice for Dr. Amoroso to sign blank billing forms by Student and Family Services. This allowed bills with an exaggerated number of hours entered later by Student and Family Services to be submitted to insurance companies.

The tribunal found Dr. Amoroso guilty of professional misconduct in failing to adequately supervise and direct the services rendered by Student and Family Ser-

VICES, in failing to limit his practice to his demonstrated field of training and experience, in failing to ensure that the child received acceptable psychological services, and in participating in a scheme to secure insurance coverage for services provided by Student and Family Services of Kitchener.

The penalty awarded Dr. Amoroso was the suspension of his certificate for six months following which he was, for a period of two years, to inform the Board and receive approval for all professional activities which were not part of his duties as a professor.

Dr. Amoroso appealed the decision of the tribunal. The appeal was heard in Divisional Court on February 18, 1985 and was dismissed.

The Board endorsed the decision of the tribunal that members of the profession should be alerted to the issues that led to this hearing; in particular, the importance of practising in areas consistent with the psychologist's training and experience, and the necessity of taking appropriate steps to ensure that the services provided by non-psychologists under a psychologist's supervision meet the needs of the client.

CERTIFICATION BY THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

A psychologist forwarded to the Board a copy of a letter he had received from the Better Business Bureau. The letter was accompanied by an application form inviting "drugless practitioners" to apply to the Better Business Bureau for certification.

The matter was discussed by the Board at its meeting on January 18, 1985. It was decided that it would be inappropriate for psychologists to apply for certification by the Better Business Bureau since the term, drugless practitioner, may be used only by those registered pursuant to the Drugless Practitioner's Act (R.S.O. 1980, Chapter I27).

REVISIONS TO THE STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

At its meeting of February 22, 1985, the members of the Board made minor revisions to the Standards of Professional Conduct.

The word "members" was removed from Principle 4.2 of the Standards. It now reads:

4.2 All public statements, announcements of services, advertising, and promotional activities dealing with the facilities and services of a psychologist must conform to the requirements of the section dealing with public statements in the code of ethics endorsed by the Ontario Board of Examiners in Psychology.

In response to concerns expressed by psychologists, a new Principle was discussed and added to the Standards. The new standard 7.3.1 states:

7.3.1 A psychologist employed in an interdisciplinary setting where a common filing system is used will exercise appropriate care when placing information in a common file in order to ensure that his/her reports and recommendations are not misunderstood by members of other disciplines. In particular, working notes, test scores, personal information on clients or others not directly related to the presenting problem, or other provisional comments and questions that might, if misunderstood, be harmful to a client, will not be entered in a common file.

The heading for Section 1 of Appendix A to the Standards of Professional Conduct was amended so that the heading will include the word "letterhead". It now reads:

1. Professional Cards/Letterhead

Section 1(e) of Appendix C to the Standards of Professional Conduct was amended to be consistent with Section 1(d). Section 1(e) now reads:

- (e) particulars of each contact by the psychologist or ordered by him, and the results of each such contact.

NEW TEMPORARY REGISTRANTS SINCE JANUARY, 1985

Frederick Bellemare	Carole Parrott
Joan Brewster	Jeffrey Phillips
Calvin Brown	Witold Poplawski
Clarissa Bush	Edward Rawana
Gerald Cavallaro	Scott Sellick
Wendy Chan	Ian Shields
Phyllis Chee	Fred Staples
Katherine Clarke	Shiela Stober
Aurelie Collings	Samuel Thomas
Darlene Elliott-Faust	Harvey Thornburg
Jill Goldberg-Reitman	Tom Tombaugh
Ricardo Harris	Harold Vinnes
Jean Ju	Sylvia Voelker
Karen Katchen	John Voss
Krystyna Kinowski	I. Wieckowska
Brooks Masterton	Larry Williams
Vincent Murphy	Beverly Wolfus
Kenneth Palmer	Rosemary Young

NOTICE OF DEATH

The Board announces with regret the deaths of the following psychologists:

Katheline Egener
Morris Schnore
Leo Schulte-Gieske
Virve Sedal

NEW LOCATION FOR BOARD OFFICE

As announced in January's Bulletin the Board is moving its offices, but not until late June. We expect no disruption in communication as our telephone number will remain the same, (416) 961-8817, and mail will be forwarded. For your records, please note that from June 27, 1985 we expect to be located at:

**101 Davenport Rd.
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 3P1**

This is a short bus ride, or five-minute walk, north from the Bay Street subway station on the Bloor line.

We will occupy part of the ground floor of the new building being constructed for the Ontario College of Nurses. Designed by Parkin Partnership, the plans for the building received an award of excellence from the periodical, The Canadian Architect. This three-story office building is arranged around a sky-lit atrium and promises to provide agreeable working space for the Board.

The Council has also appointed Dr. Gilles Boulet as Executive Director who will serve on a part-time basis at the Registrar's office in Ottawa.

The OBEPSPP will not duplicate any current function of provincial regulatory bodies. Careful attention was given to underscoring their exclusive role in regulating the practice of psychology. Dr. Ritchie, OBEPSPP President emphasized that the Registrar intends to build on the spirit of cooperation developed between the participating fraternal associations and regulatory bodies in the course of establishing the Registrar.

bulletin Ontario Board
of Examiners in
Psychology



The OBEPS Bulletin is a publication of the Ontario Board of Examiners in Psychology.

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