



The State Bar of California

Draft Minutes

California Paraprofessional Program Working Group (CPPWG)

January 15, 2021

3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Time meeting commenced:	3:05 p.m.
Time meeting adjourned:	4:50 p.m.
Chair:	Hon. Ioana Petrou
Members present at roll call:	Sharon Bashan, Julia Brynerson, Julie Fellmeth, Steven Fleischman, Stephen Hamilton, Hon. Michael Harper, Amos Hartston, Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Dana McRae, Elizabeth Olvera, Nicole Robinson, Hon. David Rubin, Carolin Shining, Fariba Soroosh, Ira Spiro, Hon. Monica Wiley, Hon. Erica Yew
Members absent:	Claudia Torres-Ambriz
Also present:	Leah Wilson, Brady Dewar, Andrea Fitanides, Gregory Fortescue, Christopher McConkey
Committee Coordinator:	Linda Katz

Open Session

The chair welcomed everyone and called for public comment.

Call for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

I. MINUTES

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED, that the California Paraprofessional Program Working Group approves the minutes from the October 29, 2020, meeting.

Moved by McRae, seconded by Bashan.

Ayes (13): Bashan, Brynerson, Fellmeth, Fleischman, Hamilton, Hartston, Kirchmeyer, McRae, Olvera, Robinson, Shining, Soroosh, Yew.

Abstentions (5): Harper, Petrou, Rubin, Spiro, Wiley.

Absent (1): Torres-Ambriz.

Noes: None.

Motion carries.

RESOLVED, that the California Paraprofessional Program Working Group approves the minutes from the December 17, 2020, meeting.

Moved by McRae, seconded by Soroosh.

Ayes (15): Bashan, Brynson, Fellmeth, Fleischman, Hamilton, Harper, Hartston, Kirchmeyer, McRae, Olvera, Petrou, Robinson, Rubin, Soroosh, Yew.

Abstentions (3): Shining, Spiro, Wiley.

Absent (1): Torres-Ambriz.

Noes: None.

Motion carries.

II. BUSINESS

A. Updates and Recommendations from Subcommittees

- 1. Regulation:** The members of the Regulation Subcommittee provided an overview of their initial proposal for minimum continuing legal education and financial responsibility requirements for legal paraprofessionals, as outlined in the memorandum posted for the meeting. Working group members discussed how the requirements compare to those for attorneys and whether they should differ. The subcommittee agreed to consider feedback provided by the working group at today's meeting in their review of regulatory requirements prior to making further recommendations to the working group.

Proposed and preliminary draft rule language for the following topics was also discussed: informed consent; written agreement and mandatory disclosures; and, scope of practice and prohibited acts. Subcommittee members indicated that the draft language had been provided to the staff team that is developing proposed rules.

Members of the Regulation Subcommittee raised the question of whether fees charged by paraprofessionals should be limited by regulation, since one goal of the program is to offer an affordable alternative to attorney services. The working group discussed alternatives to regulating fees, such as informing consumers about their options, and agreed that this issue warrants further discussion.

Discipline: The members of the Discipline Subcommittee reviewed their preliminary proposal for a paraprofessional discipline system, as outlined in the subcommittee's memo to the working group. The subcommittee sought input from the working group regarding whether appeals of disciplinary decisions should be made by a Hearing Panel or the Paraprofessional Board. Members of the working group provided feedback on the proposed disciplinary model and suggested that the composition of the board might inform the decision regarding appellate hearings.

ADJOURN