



STATE OF ARIZONA  
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS  
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DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
Governor

TOBI ZAVALA  
Executive Director

January 11, 2021

Dear AZBBHE Licensee,

Happy 2021! Board staff sincerely hope that you and your family have remained safe and healthy through these challenging times. The new year brings anticipation and hope for positive changes, and this year more than most.

The Board would like to highlight several significant changes related to the Board and licensure. Please watch the Board's website for the most up to date information regarding these changes including:

- **New rules effective January 3, 2021** – The new rules in their entirety can be viewed online [HERE](#), and they are attached to the email as a .pdf that can be saved or printed for future reference. Changes of note include:
  - Expanding the options for non-independent licensees to obtain clinical supervision from behavioral health professionals outside their discipline. *See A.A.C. R4-6-504, 604, 706*
  - Modifying the curriculum requirements for licensure for substance abuse counseling. *See A.A.C. R4-6-701*
  - Permanently eliminating the license issuance fee. *See A.A.C. R4-6-215*
  - Clarifying the process of applying for an independent licensure by exam for licensees who earned their non-independent license through an endorsement process. *See A.A.C. R4-6-501, 502, 601 and 602*
  - Updating the clinical supervision session documentation requirements. *See A.A.C. R4-6-212*
  - Modifying the progress note requirements for telepractice. *See A.A.C. R4-6-1106*
  - Naming the Board approved tutorials to clarify that the tutorial required for renewal of licensure and initial license by endorsement is different from the tutorial required to meet the clinical supervision education requirements. *See A.A.C. R4-6-214, 304 and 802*
- **Updated forms and applications including:**
  - Removing the notary requirement from the Verification of Supervised Work Experience and Verification of Clinical Supervision forms.
  - Converting more forms to online submittible forms (*found by discipline on [the Applying for Licensure](#) tab*) including:
    - Verification of Supervised Work Experience
    - Verification of Clinical Supervision
    - Clinical Supervisor Exemption Request
  - Removing the requirement for the applicant to submit a self-query from the National Practitioner Data Bank. The Board will perform a query on all applicants to meet this requirement.
  - Developing a CEU Tracker that can be used for logging continuing education prior to beginning the renewal process and then easily attached to the online renewal application form. **NOTE:** *It is imperative to download and save the CEU tracker to your device and then enter your data to avoid losing information.*

- **Improved the Clinical Supervisor registry including:**
  - Updated daily
  - Searchable by last name, city and discipline
  - Linked to licensing information for Board licensees
  - Non-compliant periods are no longer displayed, only periods of compliance
  
- **Pursuant to A.A.C. R4-6-101(23), the direct client definition:** *“means the performance of therapeutic or clinical functions related to the applicant’s professional practice level of psychotherapy that includes diagnosis, assessment and treatment and that may include psychoeducation for mental, emotional and behavioral disorders based primarily on verbal or nonverbal communications and intervention with, and in the presence of, one or more clients”* has been interpreted by the Board ([see October 9, 2020 meeting minutes](#)) to include videoconference therapy in addition to the client and clinician being in the same room.

The Board has been made aware that pre-screening is now available for the COVID-19 vaccine. Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-12(3)(a), “mental health and substance use providers” are considered as performing essential functions, and as such may be eligible for the vaccine.

For questions regarding these changes, please review the Board’s website, email the Board at [information@azbbhe.us](mailto:information@azbbhe.us), or call (602) 542-1882.

We wish you and your loved ones a safe and healthy year.

Sincerely,



Tobi Zavala  
Executive Director