



# Letter Regarding MLP Special Meeting Results

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Greetings, MPA Members and Psychology Licensees,

As you know, the Michigan Psychological Association (MPA) has been on a journey to become the big-tent organization that advocates for professional psychology at all training levels and the mental health needs of the public. You have likely seen, and hopefully participated in, our recent efforts to better define our advocacy positions regarding Michigan's current two-tier system for psychology licensees. Our quest to be a more inclusive organization has achieved some important milestones toward this goal in the past three years. In November 2019, the Board of Directors and membership voted to approve the addition of Master's level members to MPA with full voting rights and the same privileges and responsibilities as Doctoral level members. In January 2020, the inaugural Master's Committee was established, and the Master's Committee chair became a full voting member of the Board.

Since establishing the Master's Committee, MPA has worked to define our position regarding the two-tier licensure system, has grappled with the issue of career-long supervision, and has worked to determine what we think are the overlapping and unique scopes of practice of Master's and Doctoral Psychologists. As you can imagine, it has not been an easy or direct path and attempting to discuss this complex issue as part of regular Board meetings was insufficient.

As such, the MPA Board decided to host a special meeting in an effort to clarify and advance our positions regarding Master's Limited Psychologists' scope of practice, requirement for career-long supervision, and titling. We felt it was critical to understand how our members felt about these issues. Also, knowing many Michigan Master's level psychology providers choose not to be part of our organization, we also felt it prudent to hear from psychology licensees and trainees who are not MPA members.

We developed two ways for you to give input: a comment form that was available for about four weeks in August and September and an in-person public comment forum on September 30, 2022 in front of the Board during a special meeting called to discuss Advocacy for MLPs. We centered the open comment form on four key issues, which we intended to vote on during the special meeting:

1. Independent practice for MLPs in the area of psychotherapy
2. Independent practice of psychological assessment
3. Master's program accreditation
4. Attainment of post-degree competencies



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I will save a full review of what we heard for the MPA Newsletter, but I want to comment briefly on both what we learned on the open comment form and in-person at the special Board meeting. We had over 583 responses on the open comment form. About 25% of MPA's 903 members responded.

During the open comment period at the special meeting on September 30, 2022, we heard from mostly MLPs (15) and a few LPs (6). Most MLPs implored the board to help advocate for the removal of the career-long supervision requirement for MLPs, especially for psychotherapy. They cited that the requirement for career-long supervision creates barriers to insurance paneling, leaves them ineligible for many mental health jobs, and reduces opportunities for specialty certifications (e.g., EMDR), thereby reducing the total psychology mental health workforce in Michigan.

The Board discussed this issue in an Executive (closed) Session at the special meeting. Deliberations and discussion during Executive Session cannot be disclosed and are held in the strictest of confidences. However, all Board voting must occur outside of Executive Session to be transparent to the public. As such, the board voted on two motions in public after the Executive Session concluded.

First, the Board voted and approved a motion to reconsider the above four proposals at a later date. Then, the board voted and approved the following motion: MPA supports a direct pathway for the independent practice for MLPs in the Practice of Psychology in the State of Michigan, pending clarification of specific training requirements and scope of practice parameters; this includes defining academic and supervision expectations, along with the removal of lifelong supervision.

As the current President of MPA, throughout this process, I've learned a considerable amount about the current views of LPs, MLPs, psychology trainees, and the Board of Directors regarding moving toward consensus on MPA's positions when it comes to advocacy around the issues that MLPs are facing which limit their ability to practice similarly to other Master's-prepared mental health providers. We have



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additional work to do to define our positions and develop a strategy around them. The Executive Committee and I are committed to working with our Master's Committee to define our next steps as we continue to move this issue forward. Specifically, the Master's Committee plans to put forth additional proposals to the Board at the November 2022 meeting, which will help determine the pace and plan for moving forward with MLP Advocacy initiatives. We will keep you updated on our progress.

I am grateful for your participation in this endeavor and for clarifying for the MPA Board of Directors where you stand on these issues. We take your feedback seriously and will continue to discuss it and use it to inform our own opinions over the coming months. As always, please contact me ([President@MichiganPsychologicalAssociation.org](mailto:President@MichiganPsychologicalAssociation.org)) with any questions or concerns.

In gratitude, as we move forward together,

Brittany Barber Garcia, PhD, LP

MPA President

Rachel Hagerty, MA, MLP

MPA Master's Committee Chair