



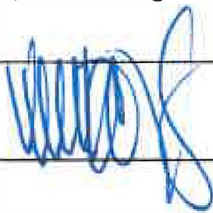
## INFORMATION NOTICE 20-01

**Date** January 30, 2020

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**To** Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) staff, Contract Agencies, and Fee-for-Service providers

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**From** Veronica Kelley, DSW, LCSW, Director 

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**Subject** Suicide Prevention Training Requirements

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**Purpose** The purpose of this information notice (IN) is to ensure DBH workforce, including Contract Agencies and Fee-for-Service providers, are informed of the new Suicide Prevention Training requirements for Board of Psychology (BOP) and Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) applicants and licensees.

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**Background** This IN is in response to the enactment of California Assembly Bills (AB) 89 and AB 1436. The new requirements apply to current licensed practitioners, as well as recent graduates and pre-licensed professionals. AB 89 became effective January 1, 2020, and applies to BOP applicants and licensees. AB 1436 becomes effective January 1, 2021, and applies to BBS applicants and licensees. Existing law requires a person applying for renewal or reinstatement of an active license to certify under penalty of perjury that he or she has fulfilled the continuing professional development requirements. All professionals must retain proof of training completion in the event the respective board requests such documentation.

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**Board of Psychology Requirements** The information below applies to psychologists applying for licensure, and license renewals.

- Effective January 1, 2020, an applicant for licensure as a psychologist with the BOP shall show completion of a minimum of six (6) hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide assessment and intervention.
- At time of his/her first (1<sup>st</sup>) renewal, after January 1, 2020, licensee will be required to attest to meeting a one-time, six (6) hour, suicide risk assessment and intervention coursework or applied experience requirement.
- Licensees with inactive or expired licenses shall meet the six (6) hour training requirement prior to renewing/reactivating his/her license.

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## INFORMATION NOTICE 20-01, Continued

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### Board of Behavioral Sciences Requirements

The information below applies to the following BBS applicants and licensees applying for licensure, and license renewals; Educational Psychologists, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs), Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs).

- Effective January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as an Educational Psychologist, LMFT, LCSW, or LPCC with the Board of Behavioral Sciences shall show completion of a minimum of six (6) hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide assessment and intervention.
  - At time of his/her first (1<sup>st</sup>) renewal after January 1, 2021, licensee will be required to attest to meeting a one-time, six (6) hour, suicide risk assessment and intervention coursework or applied experience requirement.
  - Licensees with inactive or expired licenses shall meet the six (6) hour training requirement prior to renewing/reactivating his/her license.
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### How to Meet Requirement

Applicants and licensees can obtain the training needed to meet this requirement by completing a minimum of six (6) hours of coursework, or applied experience under supervision, in suicide risk assessment and intervention. The following list outlines three (3) ways to meet this requirement:

1. Obtain coursework as part of the graduate degree program that qualified you for licensure. (To use this option, you will need to obtain a written certification from the registrar or training director of the school/school program stating that the coursework was a required part of the curriculum for your graduation or that you had completed the coursework).
2. Obtain requirement as part of applied experience. (To use this option, the experience must have been obtained through your practicum or supervised experience required for licensure, formal doctoral placement, or other qualifying supervised experience. You will need to obtain a written certification from the director of training for your program, or from your primary supervisor that supervised the experience. The certification must state that the required training was included in the applied experience).
3. Complete a continuing education course from a provider approved by your licensing board. You will need to obtain a certification of completion from the course provider.

**Note:** The six (6) hour suicide prevention course is a one-time requirement and may be used to satisfy the requirement at time of licensure or renewal, and counted toward board-required annual CEU's the year the course was taken.

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### Approved Trainings

Relias course *REL-HHS-0-SPTWA: Suicide Prevention Training for Washington State* meets the six (6) hour training requirement specified in this IN.

**Note:** Continuing education (CE) hours may be obtained by taking any approved, structured, sequenced learning activity, whether conducted in-person or online. Licensees are responsible for verifying a CE provider is approved/accepted by their applicable licensing board.

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### Related Policy or Procedure

DBH Standard Practice Manual:

- Credentialing Policy ([QM6008](#))

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### Reference(s)

- California Assembly Bill No. 89 (2017-2018): [Psychologists: suicide prevention training](#)
  - California Assembly Bill No. 1436 (2017-2018): [Board of Behavioral Sciences: licensees: suicide prevention training](#)
  - California Board of Psychology- Legislative Advisory- Psychologists: [Suicide Prevention Training](#)
  - Board of Behavioral Sciences- [New Requirements for Existing Licensees and Applicants for Licensure: Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention](#)
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### Questions

For questions regarding this Information Notice, please contact the DBH Office of Compliance at (909) 388-0879 or via email at [compliance\\_questions@dbh.sbgcounty.gov](mailto:compliance_questions@dbh.sbgcounty.gov).

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