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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

OBP 2-2020

CHAPTER 858
MENTAL HEALTH REGULATORY AGENCY
OREGON BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

FILED
03/18/2020 8:40 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Temporary suspension of in-person continuing education requirement for March through August renewals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/18/2020 THROUGH 09/13/2020

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 03/13/2020

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, and resulting social distancing initiatives, the Board determined that there is an immediate need to temporarily allow licensees who are due to renew their licenses in the upcoming months to complete all of their continuing education via home study (online programs).

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

Failure to immediately amend this rule will result in licensees' inability to obtain the requisite in-person educational opportunities that are currently a condition of license renewal. In-person training opportunities have been canceled in response to recent measures designed to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Licensees relying on these events to complete their continuing education mandate have been left without in-person training opportunities. Those who cannot attest to having met the continuing education requirements for licensure will not be renewed, and will lose their ability to practice psychology in Oregon. This will result in the loss of livelihood for these practitioners and a reduction in essential mental health services available to Oregonians. Additionally, mandatory in-person training is contrary to current required social distancing measures. This temporary rule amendment will help to reduce the spread of the disease and allow these licensees to redirect their course of study to online options so that they are able to maintain their license while also ensuring that they are completing continuing education that is necessary to maintain professional competency.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

OAR Chapter 858 and ORS Chapter 675 are available on the OBOP website at https://www.oregon.gov/Psychology/Pages/LawsRules.aspx.

AMEND: 858-040-0055

RULE TITLE: Credit Hours Granted

RULE SUMMARY: This amendment temporarily suspends the limitation of 20 hours of continuing education credit

awarded for home study and study group during a reporting period. It applies only to renewals that are due between March 31, 2020 and August 31, 2020.

RULE TEXT:

(1) Credit shall be given for actual hours attended.

(2) Credit shall be given for no more than 20 hours of continuing education for home study and study group hours combined in each reporting period. This limitation is temporarily suspended for renewals that are due between March 31, 2020 and August 31, 2020.

(3) An instructor, discussion leader, or speaker shall be given two hours of credit for preparation for each hour of presentation time, and one hour of credit for each hour of presentation time.

(4) Credit shall be given for no more than 20 hours of continuing education for service as an instructor, discussion leader, or speaker and published material combined in each reporting period.

(5) One hour of continuing education credit shall be given for reading 100 book pages or four peer-reviewed articles. Credit shall be given for no more than four hours (400 book pages or 16 articles) of reading in each reporting period. No more than two hours of reading may be used to fulfill the professional ethics continuing education requirement, and no more than two hours of reading may be used to fulfill the one-time pain management continuing education requirement.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.110

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.110(14)