

Public Notice

Sarah Patrick, Registered Psychologist

Location: Chilliwack, BC

Date of Action: July 11, 2024

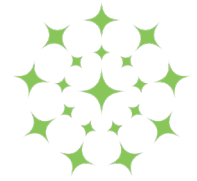
Background: Dr. Sarah Patrick (the “Registrant”) is the subject of two current complaint investigations (College File Nos.: 2022-C19 and 2024-C11).

On June 28, 2024, the College of Psychologists of BC (CPBC) amalgamated with six other health profession colleges to form the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC (“CHCPBC”). The CHCPBC Inquiry Committee retained jurisdiction over the matter in accordance with the Act and CHCPBC’s Bylaws.

Nature of Action: On July 11, 2024, the Registrant agreed to undertakings under section 36(1)(d) of the *Health Professions Act* placing conditions on her practice of psychology.

In particular, the Registrant agreed to the supervision of her practice of psychology, with a primary focus on her assessments. The supervision will include:

- a. Ensuring that adequate supervision and oversight is provided to supervisees, and that supervision records and other documentation related to supervision (e.g. supervision contracts, consent forms, reports) meet professional standards;
- b. Review of referrals to ensure that they are appropriate for her practice before being accepted, and making referrals to other agencies/practitioners when necessary;
- c. A periodic review of record keeping to ensure that all necessary information is properly documented, including parent/guardian consent, progress/process notes for all contacts, all protocols including names/dates, and any additional forms/paperwork completed;
- d. A review of the difference between having exposure to an area of practice and having competency to practice in a specific area (e.g. education, training, experience, and ongoing continuing competency activities);
- e. Integrating data across tests and with background information in formulating diagnostic opinions, and addressing any discrepancies between test scores;
- f. Clearly explaining her rationale for deviating from standard assessment procedures and stating appropriate limitations within her reports;



The Registrant acknowledged practice issues and began working on addressing these issues while the Inquiry Committee's investigation was underway. She further agreed to the supervision of her practice for 3-6 months, which may be extended up to a maximum of 12 months.

In addition, the Registrant agreed to refrain from conducting or supervising assessments for autism spectrum disorder until her supervisor confirms her readiness and then to complete such assessments under supervision for a period of 12 months. The College-appointed supervisor will also review the Registrant's practice records to determine what, if any, further action needs to be taken to correct any errors. The supervisor will also direct the completion of further educational activities, the suitability of referrals received for the Registrant's practice, and the Registrant's own supervision of clinicians.

Reasons for the Action: The College received a report under s.32.2 of the *Health Professions Act* from two registrants raising concerns about the Registrant's assessments of children for learning disabilities and autism. In particular, concerns related to incorrect test selection, administration, and scoring; errors integrating test results and explaining discrepant results; ensuring that diagnostic criteria are met to provide a diagnosis; insufficient recommendations; inadequate informed consent; insufficient gathering of historical information; and inadequate supervision. During the course of investigating the complaint, the registrants identified a third assessment with the same practice issues.

While this investigation was underway, another registrant lodged a complaint about the Registrant's assessment of an adult. Concerns in the second complaint related to ensuring clarity of the referral question, informed consent, sources of information, addressing discrepancies in test scores, and diagnostic considerations.

In all of the assessments provided to the College, the assessments were completed by clinicians under the Registrant's supervision; however, the Registrant was responsible for the assessments. In addition to deficiencies in the Registrant's supervision of others, the Inquiry Committee noted significant gaps in the Registrant's training that needed to be addressed through a period of supervision.