

ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN COUNSELING

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MINUTES

Board Meeting
March 17, 2023

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling (ABEC) held its regular meeting on Friday, March 17, 2023, to review applications. The meeting was held at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. Members in attendance were Ms. Deanna Tidwell (Board Chair), Dr. Debra Atchison (Board Vice Chair attending virtually), Dr. Sheila Webb (member attending virtually), Dr. Sherrionda Crawford (member), Ms. Anjanetta Robinson (member), Dr. Glenn Hollingsworth (member) and Ms. Jessie Bowie (member). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Acting Executive Director), Mr. Matt Bledsoe (Assistant Attorney General-Legal Counsel), Mrs. Cindy Edgar (Assistant Director), Dr. Charlotte Daughhettee (Academic Reviewer), Ms. Sheila Dopson (Licensing Specialist), and Ms. Renee' Reames (Recording Secretary).

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Tidwell, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The regularly scheduled meeting was advertised to the public on the Board's website, (www.abec.alabama.gov), as well as the Secretary of State's website, (www.sos.alabama.gov), in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. Mr. Warren called official roll and a quorum of the members was in attendance. Mr. Warren read the Opening Statement regarding Robert's Rules of Order, and Chairperson Tidwell welcomed attendees.

Mr. Warren reported that the meeting was limited in business to reviewing applications and licensing activities. He explained that the Legal Services Contract had been held in the Legislative Contract Review Committee and remained in Committee for the 45-day maximum allowed review period and subsequently had been submitted to the Governor for approval after March 19, 2023. He reported that the Board did not have Mrs. Coody's services to assist with complaints and other Board-related business until such time that the Legal Services Contract was approved.

Mr. Warren reported that the March 16, 2023, Board Training session that had been scheduled had been cancelled because Mrs. Coody was not able to perform as the Board's Legal Counsel due to her contract not being approved by the Legislative Committee. He commented on the differences in the role of the Board as a consumer protection board and the Association as an advocate for the profession, and commented on areas that the two groups could work on together. He reported that Examiners of Public Accounts were conducting the usual two audits of the Board's activities, e.g., legal compliance audit and sunset audit pertaining to the Board's laws, policies and contracts.

He reminded the members that the Board operated on the income from the licensure fees through the budget approved by the Legislature and the Board did not receive any General Fund allocations. He also reported that the members were required to complete a Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) as an appointed public official, and the SEI was filed annually with the Ethics Commission.

Mr. Warren reported that the management contract with Smith Warren was currently through an emergency contract while the Department of Purchase was revising the State's specifications for bids and requests for proposals. He reviewed the staffing of the Board and the management contract support staffing. He reminded the members that a copy of the Board's statute and rules were posted on the Board's website.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Warren presented the list of applications for the Board's approval.

Initial ALC: Ms. Robinson made the motion to approve the ALC applications for initial issuance of license. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board.

ALC to LPC: Dr. Webb made the motion to approve the ALC applicants requesting licensure as a LPC. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board with Ms. Robinson abstaining from voting.

LPC by Endorsement: Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the LPC applications by endorsement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and unanimously approved by the Board.

LPC-Supervisor: Ms. Bowie made the motion to approve the LPC-Supervisor applications for licensure. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board commented on the pleasure in having a long list of applicants for this license.

Provisional to LPC: Ms. Edgar reported on A.S.S.'s request for approval as a Provisional licensee to an LPC. Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the applicant for an LPC license. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Edgar reported on J.B.'s request for approval as a Provisional licensee to an LPC. Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve J.B. from Provisional License to LPC. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

NCE Accommodations: Ms. Edgar presented L.K.P.'s request for NCE accommodation. Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve the request for NCE accommodation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Edgar presented C.H.'s request for NCE accommodation. Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve the request for NCE accommodation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board.

Inactive Status: Ms. Robinson made the motion to approve T.K.'s request to place their license on inactive status. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board.

Reinstatement of LPC License: Ms. Edgar presented the requests from K.S.R. to reinstate their LPC license. She explained the license had been lapsed for 6 years but not the maximum 15 years and K.S.R. had been working out-of-state. Ms. Edgar also presented the request from C.R. to have their LPC license reinstated. Ms. Bowie made the motion to approve the reinstatement requests as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board.

Other Reviews.

Request for Approval of Supervisor Hours: Ms. Edgar reported that J.C. had requested approval of her hours from her former supervisor. The supervisor had suddenly passed away and the supervision logs were on file but had not signed prior to her supervisor passing away. The supervision log was signed by the office manager and presented for the Board's review. Dr. Webb made the motion to approve the supervision hours as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

NCE Authorization: Ms. Edgar presented the request from M.J. for NCE authorization. She explained that M.J. did not have an active ALC license and was no longer in the professional field. The Board reviewed the Rule requiring an active license to apply to take the examination and candidate had previously taken the exam and, at that time, was eligible for 12 months to retake the exam. Dr. Webb made the motion to approve the request to take the NCE. The motion died for lack of a second motion.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Academia Rule Revision Committee Report: Dr. Hollingsworth reported that the committee had met virtually to discuss the Rule's language regarding the requirement of (1) a single degree and (2) all programs must be CACREP accredited program. He indicated that the Committee had not reached a conclusion during that meeting and discussed restoring the CACREP equivalent requirements. He commented on the limited data to support requiring or benefits from requiring only CACREP accredited programs. The Board discussed consideration to the Counseling Compact criteria in making rules changes, along with allowing any add-on hours within an established timeframe, if applicant had remained in the profession and maintained continuing education, etc. The Board discussed dividing the subject matter into two subcommittees but kept the Committee as established with the priorities to address changes in the rules regarding CACREP programs, along with NCE opportunities for non-licensed applicants, then single degree requirements.

Mr. Warren reported that the staff was working on modifying the application review process and a recommendation would be presented at the next Board meeting. He recommended that the applications not be held between Board meetings and to have the Board ratify approval of the Acting Executive Director's actions.

Supervision Committee: Dr. Atchison reviewed the progress made by the Supervision Committee and forms and procedures recommended to the Board in monitoring supervision. She reported on the feedback from the survey conducted by the Committee, having surveyed approximately 4000 licensees and received 244 responses.

Next Meeting of the Board: Chairperson Tidwell reported that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled on May 19, 2023. The Board agreed to schedule the Board Training session on May 18, 2023, with virtual attendance allowed for Board members only.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the Board, Dr. Crawford made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairperson Tidwell adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DeAnna Tidwell

DeAnna Tidwell
Board Chair

Keith E. Warren
Acting Executive Director

Approved on: *D. Renee Pearson* / *RE* / *TR*
Date *May 19, 2023* Initials