

# ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN COUNSELING

2777 Zelda Rd  
Montgomery, AL 36106  
334/240-7229 Fax: 334/263-6115  
[www.abec.alabama.gov](http://www.abec.alabama.gov)

## MINUTES

Board Meeting  
May 13, 2022

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling (ABEC) held its regular meeting on Friday, May 13, 2022, to conduct business. The meeting was held at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. Members in attendance were Dr. Latofia Parker (Board Chair), Dr. Debra Atchison (member), Ms. Anna Barksdale (member), Dr. Sheila Webb (member attending virtually), Dr. Jessica Tyler (member), and Ms. DeAnna Tidwell (member). Member absent was Dr. Jennifer Brown (Board Vice Chair). Also in attendance were Dr. Keith Cates (Executive Director), Mr. Matt Bledsoe (Assistant Attorney General), Mr. Keith Warren (Deputy Director), Mrs. Cindy Edgar (Assistant Director), Dr. Charlotte Daughetee (Academic Reviewer), Mr. Mike James (Investigator) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary attending virtually).

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Parker, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The regularly scheduled meeting was advertised to the public on the Board's website, ([www.abec.alabama.gov](http://www.abec.alabama.gov)), as well as the Secretary of State's website, ([www.sos.alabama.gov](http://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 Roberts Rules of Order, and Chairperson Parker welcomed attendees.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Chairperson Parker presented for the Board's approval the Board meeting agenda. A copy of the agenda was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. Ms. Barksdale made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tidwell and unanimously approved by the Board.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Parker presented the minutes from the March 11, 2022 regular meeting. Dr. Atchison made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes with the corrections to the spelling of Ms. DeAnna Tidwell on page 1 and Ms. Michelle Pruett on page 3 and the acronym ALCA. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Cates reported that an applicant petitioning the Board for reinstatement of their license had requested to address the Board. Applicant Williams reported that his LPC license had been revoked in 2017 based on a conviction. Following some questions by the Board, Chairperson Parker thanked Mr. Williams for the update and the Board would be advising him of their decision about reinstating his license.

Dr. Cates reported that an applicant had requested a waiver for licensure and had requested to address the Board. Applicant Hollis reported on her education and work experience and requested reconsideration for licensure after having been denied a license in January and she was not aware of the rule change from a 48-hour semester program to a 60-hour semester program. Dr. Cates reminded the Board that the new rule change that allowed licensure for those currently enrolled before January

1, 2022 in a 48-hour college program. Chairperson Parker thanked Ms. Hollis for the information and indicated that the Board would advise her of their decision.

Also addressing the Board were faculty members of the The Chicago School of Professional Psychology on behalf of applicant K Williams, whose application had been denied in January. Dr. Liljedahl explained about the coursework, and indicated that program was not CACREP accredited, but in-line with CACREP and the Board's 11 academic areas. Chairperson Parker thanked Ms. Williams and Dr. Lidjedahl for the clarification and indicated that the Board would advise Ms. Williams of their decision.

Dr. Cates indicated that other items on the Executive Director's report would be addressed later on the meeting agenda.

#### MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Warren reported on the financial activities of the Board for the period ending April 30, 2022. He reported on the number of new applications and licenses, along with updated activities on the number of complaints in FY 2021 and FY 2022 (report available in Official Book of Minutes). He reported that open complaints from prior years had been investigated and closed, with one (1) case from the past pending from 2021. Mr. Warren reported that Ms. Coody was not available to attend the meeting due to a death in the family and introduced Mr. Matt Bledsoe, Assistant Attorney General, to assist with Legal Counsel discussions.

Dr. Atchison made a motion to accept the financial report as present. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tyler and unanimously approved by the Board.

#### LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Mike James, Board Investigator, reported that the Investigative Committee had met the day before the Board meeting to review complaints and he presented the following recommendations from the Investigative Committee for Board action:

- Dr. Webb made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Investigative Committee in the matter of Board Case 2022-026 that the case be closed as unfounded. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board.
- Dr. Atchison made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Investigative Committee in the matter of Board Case 2022-028 that the case be closed due to no probable cause in the matter. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board.
- Ms. Tidwell made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Investigative Committee in the matter of Board Case 2022-029 that a letter of concern be issued to the Respondent regarding ethics violations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tyler and unanimously approved by the Board.
- Dr. Atchison made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Investigative Committee in the matter of Board Case 2022-034 that a \$250 fine be assessed for violation of not obtain explicit consent for video recording. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board.

- Dr. Tyler made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Investigative Committee in the matter of Board Case 2022-035 that the case be closed administratively due to unknown complainant and the inability to obtain information from complainant. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tidwell and unanimously approved by the Board.
- Ms. Barksdale made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Investigative Committee in the matter of Board Case 2022-036 that the case be closed due to no jurisdiction in the matter which pertained to another Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tidwell and unanimously approved by the Board.

#### OLD BUSINESS

ALC Wellness Program Consultation Agreement – Mr. Warren presented a contract for the purpose of establishing an ALC Wellness Program and establishing fees to be paid to the Alabama Medical Association for developing the program. He explained that once the program was developed, the client would be responsible for paying for services received through the wellness program. Ms. Barksdale made a motion to approve the wellness contract as discussed. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tyler and unanimously approved by the Board.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Supervision Committee – Dr. Atchison reported that the Committee had met a couple of times and she presented forms and templates for the Board’s review (forms can be viewed in the Board’s Official Book of Minutes). She also commented that in a recent survey conducted by the Committee, the results from responders were in favor of virtual supervision. The Board discussed amending the Board rules regarding supervision criteria and hours.

Chairperson Parker called a recess of the Board at 10:02 a.m. for 20 minutes.  
Chairperson Parker reconvened the Board meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Dr. Atchison made the motion to amend Rule 255-X-3-.02 Associate License Counsel to state that an LPC-S who had 2 hours of CE training in providing virtual supervision may provide up to 75% of supervision in a virtual setting as Other Supervision and 25% of supervision will be physically, in-person. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tidwell and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Atchison made the motion to allow Dr. Cates to define direct supervision as being physically present. The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Atchison made the motion to amend Rule 255-X-3-.03 Supervising Counsel to require 2 CE hours in practices and ethics of providing virtual supervision and such training shall be required once as a one-time training. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tyler and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Atchison made the motion to define other supervision as occurring in a non-direct setting, to include virtual setting, in relation to the other rule changes approved by the Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reminded the members that the rule changes would be published for public comments.

Performance Evaluation Committee Report: Chairperson Parker reported that there was no report by the Committee at this time.

Licensure Requests:

Dr. Atchison made the motion that the request by VPW to reinstate his LPC license be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tyler and failed by majority vote of the Board. The motion did not pass.

Dr. Webb made the motion to approve the request by VPW to reinstate his LPC license, subject to supervision requirement and oversight as defined by the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tyler and failed by majority vote of the Board. The motion did not pass.

Ms. Tidwell made the motion to proceed forward with SAH's ALC application under the current academic review process. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tyler and approved by the majority of the Board. The Board discussed a case-by-case review of applications to determine if the education, etc. was substantially equivalent.

Dr. Webb made the motion to proceed forward with SW's ALC application under the current academic review process. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tyler and approved by the majority of the Board.

Chairperson Parker called a recess of the Board at 12:06 p.m. for 10 minutes.  
Chairperson Parker reconvened the Board meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Licensure Requests - The following requests concerning licensure were presented by Dr. Cates. It was agreed that the initials of the individuals would be used during the discussions.

Provisional to LPC

The Board reviewed the request from JMR for LPC license from Provisional license. Ms. Barksdale made a motion to approve the provision to LPC license as requested. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tidwell and unanimously approved by the Board.

Inactive Status Request

The Board reviewed the request from the following licensees, KH, ARJ, DMS and KCD, to place their ALC license on inactive status. Dr. Tyler made a motion to approve the inactive status request for these four licensees. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board.

NCE Accommodation Requests

The Board reviewed the request from the following licensees, PTF, TC, KT, JPB and TD for NCE accommodations. Dr. Atchison made a motion to approve the inactive status request for these five individuals. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board.

Application Review:

Dr. Cates presented applications for the Board's approval:

Initial ALCs: Ms. Barksdale made the motion to approve the initial ALC applications as recommended by Dr. Cates. The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and unanimously approved by the Board.

ALC to LPC: Dr. Tyler made the motion to approve the ALC to LPC requests as recommended by Dr. Cates. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board.

LPC Endorsement: Dr. Atchison made the motion to approve the LPC Endorsement applications as recommended by Dr. Cates. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board.

LPC Supervisor: Dr. Tyler made the motion to approve the LPC Supervisor requests as recommended by Dr. Cates. The motion was seconded by Dr. Atchison and unanimously approved by the Board.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Interstate Compact: Dr. Cates updated the Board on the Interstate Compact, indicating that it would be a long process due to other States joining to comprise the minimum number required for the Compact. He reported that information about the Interstate Compact would be placed on the Board's website.

Update on Website Improvements and iGOV database: Dr. Cates reported that iGOV had not met the March deadline while working on developing license renewal data and other information that would follow. He reported that the data migration for payments had been completed.

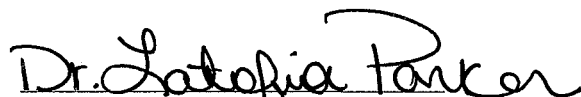
SB184: Dr. Cates commented briefly on SB184 regarding gender identity, disclosure of certain information to parents by schools concerning students and establishing criminal penalties for violations.

Next Board Meeting: Chairperson. Parker reminded the Board that the next regularly scheduled meeting was July 22, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business of the Board, Ms. Barksdale made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tidwell and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairperson Parker adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Renee' Reames, Recording Secretary

  
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Dr. Latofia Parker, Board Chair

Approved on: 7-22-2022 /rr