

ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN COUNSELING

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MINUTES

Board Meeting
May 14, 2021

A special/called meeting of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling (ABEC) was held on Friday, May 14, 2021, to review applications and related licensure business. The meeting was held at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. Due to the COVID 19 State of Emergency and the recent shortage of gasoline in parts of the State, the meeting was held virtually. Board members participating in the Zoom meeting were Ms. Anna Barksdale (Board Chair), Dr. Latofia Parker (Vice Chair), Dr. Debra Atchison (member), Ms. Karole Ohme (member) and Dr. Sheila Webb (member). Board member absent was Dr. Jennifer Brown. Also in attendance via Zoom were Dr. Keith Cates (Executive Director) and Mrs. Hendon Coody (Legal Counsel) and public guest. Attending onsite were Mr. Keith Warren (Administrative Director), Mrs. Cindy Edgar (Assistant Administrator) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary).

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair, Ms. Barksdale, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with a quorum of the members present onsite to conduct business. Ms. Barksdale welcomed all participants. The special 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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA: Ms. Barksdale 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. Dr. Cates indicated that two business items under his report would be deferred to the next business meeting. Ms. Ohme made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Parker and unanimously approved by the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dr. Cates presented special licensure requests for the Board's approval:

A request for a Provisional ALC using the LPC hours acquired in another state. Ms. Ohme made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and unanimously approved by the Board.

A request for a Provisional ALC in order to acquire the 115 direct service hours deficit in their LPC Endorsement application. Dr. Parker made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ohme and unanimously approved by the Board.

A request for accommodations for NCE to allow unscheduled breaks during examination. The Board reviewed the statement from her physician. Ms. Ohme made the motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and unanimously approved by the Board.

A request for accommodation for NCE for additional time to take the exam. The Board reviewed the statement from her physician. Ms. Ohme made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Atchison and unanimously approved by the Board.

A request for accommodation for NCE for additional time to take the exam. The Board reviewed the statement from the medical nurse practitioner. Dr. Webb made the motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ohme and unanimously approved by the Board.

A request for examination exemption to advance to LPC having scored one (1) point less than required, along with other contributing special circumstances. Mrs. Coody counseled the Board on not having the authority to award examination points. Dr. Parker made the motion to deny the request due to lack of jurisdiction and authority. The motion was seconded by Dr. Atchison and unanimously approved by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS – REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS: Dr. Cates presented applications for the Board’s approval (list available in the Board’s official Book of Minutes).

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

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

Inactive Status Request: Ms. Ohme made the motion to approve the Inactive Status requests as recommended by Dr. Cates. The motion was seconded by Dr. Parker and unanimously approved by the Board.

Reactivation: Dr. Parker made the motion to approve the application to reactivate their license as recommended by Dr. Cates. The motion was seconded by Dr. Atchison and unanimously approved by the Board.

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

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

Ms. Barksdale announced that the Board’s next regularly scheduled meeting was July 16, 2021. The Board discussed having a business meeting on June 11, 2021, prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Warren explained that the June meeting would not include application reviews. Ms. Ohme made a motion to meet on June 11, 2021 for a business meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Atchison and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Coody reported that the Investigative Committee was scheduled to meet the day preceding the business meeting on June 10, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Board’s office.

Mr. Warren recommended that an Opening Statement, concerning the meeting process and public participation, be read aloud at the beginning of the each Board meeting and the Board concurred.

There being no further business of the Board, Dr. Parker made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and unanimously approved by the Board. Ms. Barksdale adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Renee' Reames, Recording Secretary



Anna Barksdale, Board Chair

Approved on: 6-11-2021 /rr