

ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN COUNSELING

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

MINUTES

Board Meeting
September 15, 2023

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling (ABEC) held its regular meeting on Friday, September 15, 2023, to conduct business. 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), Dr. Sheila Webb (member attending virtually), Ms. Anjanette Robinson (member), Dr. Glenn Hollingsworth (member), Ms. Jessie Bowie (member) and Dr. Sherrionda Crawford (member arrived at 10:40 a.m.). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Acting Executive Director), Mrs. Hendon Coody (Board Legal Counsel attending virtually), Ms. Cindy Edgar (Assistant Director), Dr. Charlotte Daughhete (Academic Reviewer), Ms. Karen Harlow (Legal Assistant), Mr. Mike James (Investigator), and Ms. Renee' Reames (Recording Secretary). Public guests were also present: Ms. Necoal Driver with the Alabama Counseling Association, and other public guests attending virtually.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Tidwell, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 the official member 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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Chairperson Tidwell presented the Board meeting agenda for the Board's approval. A copy of the agenda was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Dr. Atchison made a motion to approve the September 15, 2023, meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Tidwell presented the minutes from the July 21, 2023, regular meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Robinson made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Atchison and unanimously approved by the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director report to include financial activities of the Board for the period ending August 31, 2023. He reported that the expenditures were lower than had been in the past. He explained that reimbursement of Board travel was allowed, but not when traveling to acquire CE hours toward licensure. He mentioned including, in future proposed legislative changes to the Board's statute, the authority to issue educational grant funds.

Mr. Warren reported on licensing activities during the current fiscal year and reported on the current number of licensees (report available in Official Book of Minutes). He also reported on complaints received in FY 2023, along with a recap of complaints processed in FY 2021 to present.

He reported that the Wellness Program statistics would also be added to future reporting, and educational materials created about the Board's Wellness Program.

He thanked Ms. Tidwell and Ms. Robinson for their attendance at the recent Contract Review Committee meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Atchison moved that the financial report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and unanimously approved by the Board.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Ms. Coody reported that the Investigative Committee (IC) had met to review complaint cases. Mr. James reported on seven (7) cases and a list of the cases was provided to the Board.

MOTION: Dr. Atchison made the motion to approve the IC's recommendation to administratively close BEC cases 2023-044, 2023-049.01 and 2023-049.02 due to complainants withdrawing the complaints. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board, with Ms. Tidwell abstaining as a member of the committee.

MOTION: Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the IC's recommendation to authorize the Board's legal counsel to enter into negotiations for the best outcome in the cases of 2023-029BR and 2023-030. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and unanimously approved by the Board, with Ms. Tidwell abstaining as a member of the committee.

MOTION: Dr. Atchison made the motion to approve the IC's recommendation to close case 2023-042 as unfounded and to seal the case. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and unanimously approved by the Board, with Ms. Tidwell abstaining as a member of the committee.

MOTION: Dr. Webb made the motion to approve the IC's recommendation to reinstate the license of the respondent in case 2022-040 as having complied with the consent order. The motion was seconded by Dr. Atchison and unanimously approved by the Board, with Ms. Tidwell abstaining as a member of the committee.

Counseling Compact Licensing Report: Mr. Warren reported that there was no additional information on the Counseling Compact to report at this time.

Supervision Committee Report: Dr. Atchison reported that the Supervision Committee had not officially met, but discussions were continuing concerning supervision hours. The Board continued a lengthy discussion about the confusion regarding 100 supervision hours per year. Also mentioned was mathematically deriving at 104 hours based on 2 hours per week x 52 weeks per year. The Board discussed modifying the supervision percentage of time for the face-to-face hours to 12.5%. The supervision rule 255-X-3-.02(4)(b)(2) was reviewed by Ms. Coody that indicated 100 supervised hours comprised of

- 50% face-to-face with clients (direct, individual, in-person, one-to-one, face-to-face, synchronous, and physically present without use of virtual platform)
- 50% in other settings, which includes virtual platform.

The 100 supervision hours were adjusted for supervisors who had taken the 2-hour CE training in providing virtual supervision. The 100 hours of supervision required 25% face-to-face and the remaining 75% as other which included virtual platform supervision.

Academic Rules Review Committee Report: Committee Chairman Hollingsworth reported that he had no updates at this time from the Academic Rules Review Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Tidwell called for any old business and there were none to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing on Final Adoption of Proposed Rules: Mr. Warren recommended that, based on the earlier discussion by the Board during the Supervision Committee Report, that the Board vacate adoption of the proposed Rule 255-X-3.02 to allow time for the Supervision Committee to meet on this matter. Chairperson Tidwell assigned to the Supervision Committee review of Rule 255-X-3-.02(4) Plan of Supervision, with a recommendation to the Board about changes.

Chairperson Tidwell called a 30-minute break at 10:11 a.m.

Board members, Dr. Crawford, joined the meeting in person at 10:40 a.m.

Chairperson Tidwell reconvened the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Mr. Warren reported that proposed Rule 255-X-3-.01 had also been published for public comment and none were received. Dr. Hollingsworth reviewed the proposed Rule changes. The Board discussed concerns about an applicant's ability to add master's level course hours to meet the 60 graduate semester hours or 90 graduate quarter hours to meet the qualifications for licensure.

MOTION: Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to remove the word "single" in referencing conferred/awarded master's degree and remove "(the degree is not required to be attained at a single institution, college or university)". The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Driver with the Alabama Counseling Association requested that the content of this proposed Rule be available and presented at the November conference.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Applications and License Requests: Mr. Warren and Ms. Edgar presented applications for the following designations for the Board's approval (report available in the Official Book of Minutes):

Initial ALC: Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the ALC requests for initial issuance of license. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board, with Ms. Robinson abstaining from voting.

ALC to LPC: Mr. Crawford made the motion to approve the ALC requests to become an LPC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board.

LPC-Supervisor: Dr. Webb made the motion to approve the LPC-Supervisor requests for licensure. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

LPC by Endorsement: Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the LPC applications by endorsement as a military exemption request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Hollingsworth departed the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Request from BAC for Provisional License: Dr. Robinson made the motion to approve that BAC take the NCE exam as required and to accept BAC as provisional licensee to LPC. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Hollingsworth joined the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Request from RMM for Provisional License: Dr. Atchison made the motion to approve RMM as provisional licensee to LPC. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

Request from SS for Provisional License: Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve the extension as requested by SS as a provisional licensee to LPC. The motion was seconded by Dr. Atchison and unanimously approved by the Board.

Inactive Status: Requests from AC to be placed on inactive status was reviewed and the submission of the request was received on the last day that the license was active. It was the decision of the Board that the license would have a lapsed status.

NEC Accommodation: Four (4) applicants requesting NEC accommodation was reviewed. Dr. Webb made the motion to approve the NEC accommodation request from JLB. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Bowie made the motion to approve the NCE accommodation request from TAF. The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the NCE accommodation request from CH. The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Webb made the motion to approve the NCE accommodation request from MM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and unanimously approved by the Board.

Reactivation Requests: Dr. Crawford made the motion to reactive the license as requested by JOB, with no waiver of the \$100 lapse fee required. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

Review of Counseling Psychology Academic Review: Five (5) applications were reviewed indicating that academic content was equivalent to the Board's requirements. Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve AOA, HCD, GPO, WSP and CLS as requested. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and unanimously approved.

The Board requested that a Board position statement be prepared to post on the Board's website about the Board's rationale and consideration regarding academic equivalency.

Other Licensure Reviews of 4 requests.

LPC appeal from CB for LPC-S license. Board review indicated that the applicant did not have 5 year's continuous licensure in Alabama as required by the Board for supervisors. The applicant had completed supervisor training course. Dr. Atchison made the motion to deny the appeal. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robinson and approved by the majority of the members with Dr. Hollingsworth voting nay.

Appeal from CMJ requesting LPC license without examination due to health impairments. Dr. Robinson made the motion to deny the appeal. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board.

Request by CW to approve supervision hours due to supervisor suddenly being removed in a criminal case. Board review indicated the 100 supervision hours, 680.5 direct hours and 433 indirect hours were not signed by the supervisor and CW was under new supervision. Dr. Robinson made the motion to approve the supervision hours as requested. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and unanimously approved

by the Board. It was the consensus of the Board that should future discovery be incriminating and detrimental to CW in the criminal case pending regarding the former supervisor, the Board would reconsider the matter.

Request from JLH for additional hours to complete academics: The Board reviewed the correspondence from the Board in 2014 and 2016, referencing JLH's 2003 application, and considered JLH's request to honor the additional academic hours based on these communications. Dr. Webb made the motion to approve JLH's request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and was approved by the majority of the Board with Dr. Atchison voting nay and Dr. Crawford abstaining to vote.

Chairperson Tidwell presented the letter from Dr. Willingham with Faulkner University Graduate Counseling Programs regarding progress in pursuing CACREP accreditation, with plans to submit the self-study by mid-August.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

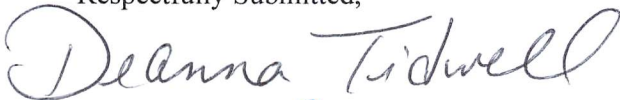
Next Board Meeting: Chairperson Tidwell reminded the members that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board was November 1, 2023, and it was the consensus of the Board to change the starting time. Ms. Robinson made the motion to change the November 1, 2023, meeting time to 10:00 a.m. rather than 9:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board.

Clarification was made by Ms. Coody regarding the current rule of the Board concerning supervision who have received the CE training for virtual supervision, referring to Rule 255-X-2-.02(4)(a) indicating 100 hours per year, with 75 % as other supervision to include virtual and 25% must be face-to-face with the supervisor and supervisee at the same physical location. A report from the Supervision Committee would be presented at the next Board meeting for further consideration.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Atchison made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairperson Tidwell adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



DeAnna Tidwell
Board Chair



Keith E. Warren
Acting Executive Director

Approved on: November 1, 2023 /rr /rr
Date Initials