ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN COUNSELING

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MINUTES

Board Meeting - Amended July 18, 2025

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling (ABEC) held its regular meeting on Friday, July 18, 2025, to conduct business. The meeting was held at the Board's office located at 2740 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. Members in attendance were Ms. Anjanette Robinson (Board Chair), Dr. Glenn Hollingsworth (Board Vice Chair), Dr. Sherrionda Crawford (member), Ms. Cynthia Hooper (member), Ms. DeAnna Tidwell (member), Ms. Jessie Bowie (member) and Mr. Jacques Austin (member). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Mr. Matt Bledsoe (Assistant Attorney General attending on behalf of Ms. Vania Hosea, Board Counsel), Ms. Dawn Durick (Licensing Specialist), Ms. Deborah Whitman (Licensing Specialist), Ms. Karen Entriken (Investigator) Ms. Karen Harlow (Legal Assistant), Dr. Charlotte Daughhetee (Academic Reviewer attending virtually), Mr. Denny Merritt (SW Investigator) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary). Public guests were also present and attended virtually.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Robinson, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The regularly scheduled meeting was publicized 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 read aloud the opening statement regarding the meeting being conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and Alabama Open Meetings Act. Mr. Warren called the official member roll, and a quorum of the members was in attendance. Chairperson Robinson welcomed everyone present at the meeting and attending virtually.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Chairperson Robinson presented the meeting agenda for the Board's approval. A copy of the agenda for the July 18, 2025 meeting was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. Mr. Warren indicated that the Wellness Program Contract under Old Business and the Review of Responsed to RFP Academic Review under New Business were removed and would be placed on a future meeting agenda.

MOTION: Ms. Tidwell made a motion to approve the July meeting agenda as modified. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Robinson presented the minutes from the May 16, 2025 regular meeting for the Board's approval.

MOTION: Ms. Bowie made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes with the correction to the typographical error on page 6. The motion was seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved by the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director report and reviewed the number of current licensees by designation. He also reported on the number of consumer complaints submitted to the Board in fiscal years 2022 through 2025 and status of disciplinary fines assessed during this period (report available

in the Board's official Book of Minutes). He indicated that additional information regarding complaints would be presented in the Investigative Committee report and the list of disciplinary action approved by the Board was being updated and would be posted on the Board's website.

He commented that the attendance certificates from the Board's May CE program had been mailed to the licensees and plans to conduct another CE program in August had been postponed. Chairman Robinson requested that the Board consider hosting an all virtual or hybrid program prior to the end of the calendar year and Mr. Warren indicated that he would inquire with OIT about the matter.

<u>Financial Statement:</u> Mr. Warren presented the financial report covering May through June 2025. He reported on the financial activities during the reported period. He reviewed the current and projected expenditures compared to budgeted funds by category (object codes). He presented a positive projected balance for the end of fiscal year 2025.

MOTION: Dr. Crawford made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren commented on the Counseling Regulatory Board Summit held in June that he attended, along with Chairman Robinson, Dr. Crawford, and Mr. Austin.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Bledsoe presented the Investigative Committee's recommendations concerning complaint cases and a list of cases was provided to the members (list available in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

- Close complaints due to no jurisdiction in cases 2025-048BR, 2025-057, 2025-063 and 2025-064.
- Close complaints as unfounded in cases 2024-097, 2025-039, 2025-044, 2025-052, 2025-059, 2025-060BR, 2025-062, 2025-068 and 2025-070.
- Close complaint 2025-053 as founded and letter of concern sent to respondent regarding safety plan and best practice procedures for suicidal patients.
- Close complaint 2025-015 as founded and the respondent surrendered their license in lieu of disciplinary action by the Board, which was a violation of Rule 255-X-8-.07.
 Recommendation to not accept the surrender of license in lieu of discipline, which would be a violation to Board rules.
- Close complaint 2025-058 as founded for professional ethics violation and a consent agreement offered with \$2,500 fine and one year probation.

MOTION: Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the IC's recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board with Chairperson Robinson recused as an IC member.

<u>Update on RFP for Administrative Services:</u> Mr. Warren reported that an interagency agreement between the Board and another state board had been proposed and additional information would be forthcoming in an email to the Board. The Board discussed the timeline needed to obtain information and scheduling a special Board meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to tentatively schedule a special meeting on August 22, 2025.

UPDATE ON COUNSELING COMPACT: Mr. Warren reported that the Counseling Compact was beta testing the recently created licensee database and reminded the Board that the Compact's proposed rules were on the Compact website. The Board discussed Dr. Parker's resignation effective

August 31, 2025 as the Board's liaison to the Compact. Chairperson Robinson asked Dr. Crawford about serving in the capacity of Compact Liaison effective September 1, 2025 and inquired about any other volunteers. Dr. Crawford agreed to serve and Ms. Hooper volunteered to assist with the Compact. Mr. Warren indicated that he would email Dr. Crawford any required Compact forms, etc.

ACADEMIA RULES REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Hollingsworth reported that the Academia Rules Revision Committee had no report at this time.

SUPERVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Crawford reported that the Supervision Committee had no report at this time.

ALCA UPDATE

Dr. Coleman commented on the Association's annual meeting that was scheduled for November 19-21, 2025 in Birmingham and inquired about the Board scheduling a regular business meeting to coincide with the annual meeting. The Board indicated that they would consider the meeting date and if financial assistance could be available to reduce the registration cost for licensees. Ms. Hooper reported that event vendors were provided with 2 registrations which were not always utilized and may be available to benefit a licensee. Other registration options to benefit the licensees were discussed by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Robinson called for any old business and there were none.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approval of Applications: Mr. Warren presented licensing application requests for the Board's approval (list of applications available in the Board's official Book of Minutes) and he indicated that the applications had been reviewed by Dr. Daughhetee.

<u>Initial ALC:</u> Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve the ALC requests for initial issuance of license. The motion was seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved by the Board.

<u>ALC to LPC:</u> Ms. Tidwell made the motion to approve the requests from ALC to be licensed as LPC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hooper and unanimously approved by the Board.

<u>Provisional:</u> Ms. Tidwell made the motion to approve AJ's request of Provisional licensure. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hooper and unanimously approved by the Board.

<u>LPC-Supervisor</u>: Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve the LPC-Supervisor requests for licensure. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

<u>Reduction in Hours:</u> Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the requests for a reduction in supervision hours. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board.

<u>Inactive:</u> Ms. Tidwell made the motion to approve the requests for inactive licensure. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board.

<u>Reactivation:</u> Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve AJ's request of Provisional licensure. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

<u>LPC by Endorsement:</u> Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve the LPC applications by endorsement requests. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tidwell and unanimously approved by the Board.

<u>Accommodations:</u> Ms. Bowie made the motion to approve the requests for NCE accommodations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

Special Requests: Mr. Warren presented two licensure special requests for Board approval.

CLB – Applicant had applied for military exemption and was short 333.50 hours.

Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to forgo the provisional license based on the military exception rules and grant CLB a LPC Endorsement license. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board.

KRP – Applicant had applied for Provisional license and was short 35.5 direct client hours.

Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve KPR's request for Provisional licensure. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by the Board.

Board Legal Review: Mr. Warren presented two applications for legal review.

JBA – applicant currently licensed in another state and Mr. Warren read aloud the applicant's letter to the Board regarding his criminal history background. Following discussion by the Board of his LPC Endorsement application, Ms. Tidwell made the motion to approve JBA's request for licensure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved by the Board.

RHW – applicant's criminal history background was presented by Mr. Warren and the full pardon received for the conviction. Dr. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve RHW's request for ALC licensure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved by the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

<u>Next Board Meeting:</u> Chairperson Robinson reported that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting was September 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Board's office, along with a special meeting of the Board tentatively scheduled August 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Board Travel Expense Forms: The Board accepted the travel expense reports submitted by the members for meeting attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Tidwell made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairperson Robinson adjourned the meeting at 11:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anjanette B. Robinson

Board Chair

Keith E. Warren Executive Director

/rr // Minutes approved on:

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