



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN COUNSELING

400 South Union Street, Suite 245·Montgomery, Alabama, 36104
Post Office Box 305030, Montgomery, Alabama 36130

MINUTES Board Meeting April 17, 2026

Present:

Dr. Glenn Hollingsworth	Board Chair
DeAnna Tidwell	Board Member
Jessie Bowie	Board Member
Cynthia Hooper	Board Member
Anjanette B. Robinson	Board Member
Elizabeth Sheehan	Executive Director
Leslie Tomlin	Administrator
Dawn Durick	Licensing Agent
Mike James	Investigator
Karen Entrekin	Investigator
Vania Hosea	Board Attorney

Absent:

Jacques Austin	Board Vice-Chair
Dr. Sherrionda Crawford	Board Member

Attending Virtually:

Margaret Anne Davis	Legal Assistant
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The Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling (ABEC) held a regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, April 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at 400 S. Union Street, 4th floor conference room in Montgomery, Alabama. 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, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Hollingsworth, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call established there was a quorum present.



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II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. Hollingsworth presented a copy of the agenda for the meeting. A copy of the agenda was provided to board members prior to the meeting. Ms. Bowie made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hooper. The board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Dr. Hollingsworth presented the February 23, 2026, meeting minutes. Ms. Robinson moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sheehan reported that the background check legislation did not pass this legislative session. She advised the Board should be prepared to pre-file it for the upcoming legislative session.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Ms. Sheehan announced representatives from I3vertical, the potential new database company, were attending the meeting to do a quick demo of its licensing software. The board chose to designate Ms. Hooper and Dr. Hollingsworth to make the decision regarding the database. The motion was made by Ms. Bowie and seconded by Ms. Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Ms. Sheehan presented the roster of new license applicants. Ms. Tidwell moved to accept the licensee applicants. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The Board voted unanimously to approve the applicants.
- c. Ms. Sheehan presented the Special Requests.

April 2026-01 – Exemption Request – Licensee requested a waiver of the 5-year-requirement to become an LPC Supervisor. Ms. Robinson made a motion to deny the request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously.



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April 2026-02 – Extension Request – An out-of-state LPC requested a waiver on licensure to provide services to her client, a military spouse, who would be stationed with her husband in Alabama for a prolonged period. Alabama allows for 30 hours of services to out-of-state clients but the requestor wanted 75. Ms. Robinson moved to deny the request for the additional hours. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hooper. The motion passed unanimously.

April 2026-03 – Licensee requested a provisional license approval citing hours spent obtaining the LCADA certification. Ms. Robinson moved to deny the request as it does not meet the Board's legal requirements. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously.

April 2026-04 – The staff received an application for an LPC whose hours were suspiciously high for the time frame cited. Upon review, Ms. Bowie moved to refer this request to the Investigative Committee to investigate the licensee and the supervisor. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tidwell. The motion passed unanimously.

April 2026-05 – Extension Request – Ms. Robinson moved to allow the request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tidwell. The motion passed unanimously.

April 2026-06 – Licensee requested a one-year-extension to complete the provisional license requirements. Ms. Robinson moved to allow the request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hollingsworth. The motion passed unanimously.

April 2026-07 – Licensee requested a reduction in hours. The Board requested licensee's transcripts. Ms. Robinson moved to defer the vote until the transcripts were provided. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tidwell. The motion passed unanimously.

April 2026-08 – Licensee requested NCMHCE hours toward her provisional license. After a discussion, Ms. Tidwell moved to deny the request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously.

April 2026-09 – Licensee requested to appear virtually to request special consideration of a lapsed license. The requester was not present virtually.

Ms. Robinson moved to take a short break. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. Dr. Hollingsworth said to report back at noon.



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- d. Ms. Sheehan presented the financial statement. Ms. Robinson moved to accept the financial statement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. Ms. Sheehan presented the budget revision. Ms. Bowie moved to accept the budget revision. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. Ms. Robinson presented the 6-year rule. Ms. Tidwell moved to file a rule change to clear up the language and take out the prior-to-date language. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously.
- g. Ms. Sheehan presented a case of a licensee passing away with no plan for who takes over her files. The family has asked what they should do with the files. Ms. Robinson made a motion to table the vote so research can be done on how to handle it. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously.
- h. Ms. Sheehan reported she would like to purchase a vehicle for Investigator Karen Entrekin. The board said they would like to see a cost analysis. A motion was made by Ms. Robinson to defer the decision until the next board meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hooper. The motion passed unanimously.
- i. Ms. Robinson presented the *Chiles v. Salazar* decision where the supreme court ruled that a counselor can continue to use conversion therapy on LTGBQ clients. Ms. Robinson asked if the board thought they could make a statement regarding this issue. Ms. Hosea suggested that the board should not do that as a whole, but individuals can.

VI. INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS

Ms. Sheehan reported the Investigative Committee met and reviewed the cases. She said they decided to dismiss all the unfounded cases. The other cases will go forward with consent or further investigation. Two cases will be referred to the Wellness Program. Dr. Hollingsworth asked if the sheet provided to the board could have a very short summary of the case. Ms. Robinson moved to accept the Investigative Committee report with the amendment moving forward. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously.



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VII. OTHER BUSINESS


- a. Compact Update – Dr. Crawford was absent, so no report was given.
- b. Quarterly Trainings – Ms. Robinson said they would like to have a virtual training in July. It was suggested we partner with a university. A committee was formed to look into the training. The committee will be Ms. Robinson, Ms. Tidwell and Dr. Crawford.
- c. Ms. Sheehan reported the travel for Mr. Austin and Mr. Warren was not paid to CCE last year. She explained to the board there is no way to pay that invoice from the previous fiscal year and advised the invoice should be filed with the Board of Adjustment.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS


- a. Ms. Sheehan said the next board meeting is May 29, 2026.
- b. Ms. Sheehan reminded the board to turn in their travel forms.
- c. Ms. Sheehan told the board we would send out an email about the conference in June and whoever wants to go needs to reply to that email so we can start the travel pre-approval process.
- d. Ms. Sheehan reminded the board of the deadline to file their Statements of Economic Interest is April 30, 2026.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tidwell moved to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.



Dr. Glenn Hollingsworth
Board Chair



Elizabeth Sheehan
Executive Director