



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN COUNSELING

400 South Union Street, Suite 245·Montgomery, Alabama, 36106
Post Office Box 305030, Montgomery, Alabama 36130

MINUTES Board Meeting January 30, 2026

Present:

Jacques Austin	Board Vice Chair
Anjanette Robinson	Board Member
Dr. Sherrionda Crawford	Board Member
Jessie Bowie	Board Member
Cynthia Hooper	Board Member
Elizabeth Sheehan	Executive Director
Keith Warren	Past Executive Director
Vania Hosea	Board Legal Counsel
Leslie Tomlin	Administrator
Mike James	Investigator
Dawn Durrick	Licensing Agent
Karen Harlow	Paralegal

Absent:

Dr. Glenn Hollinsworth	Board Chair
DeAnna Tidwell	Board Member

The Alabama Board of Examiners of Counseling (ABEC) held a regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, January 30, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at SmithWarren offices located at 2740 Zelda Road, third floor conference room, in Montgomery, Alabama. The regularly scheduled meetings 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

Mr. Austin, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call established there was a quorum present.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Austin presented a copy of the agenda for the meeting. A copy of the agenda was provided to members prior to the meeting. Ms. Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mr. Austin presented the November 14, 2025 and the November 25, 2025 meeting minutes. Dr. Crawford moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes.

IV. REPORTS

- A. **Executive Director Report** – Ms. Sheehan reviewed the financial report with the Board. She asked for clarification regarding the 0200 benefit payments. Mr. Warren explained that the investigator who was currently working parttime was paid fulltime benefits. Ms. Sheehan asked if the board had voted at an earlier meeting to make the investigator a fulltime position and Mr. Warren said they did and that he had not done it yet. Ms. Sheehan assured the Board that she would take the steps to make the investigator a fulltime position. Mr. Warren said he would forward the emails from Personnel concerning her classification and pay.

There being no further questions regarding the Executive Director's Report, Ms. Bowie moved to accept the Executive Director's Report. That motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. **Legal Counsel Report** - Ms. Hosea gave the first half of the Legal Counsel report. Ms. Hosea asked that the board accept the legal report recommendations of the Investigative Committee, to include setting aside several cases for further investigation. Dr. Crawford moved to accept the first portion of recommendations of the Investigative Committee with the amendment to set aside cases for further review. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. Ms. Robinson recused herself because she is on the IC Committee. All were in favor.

Ms. Hosea continued the second half of the legal report with a Joint Stipulation and Consent for Case Nos. 2025-054 and 2025-055. The IC recommended board-initiated complaints for licensees who failed to provide proof of continuing education.

Ms. Hosea asked for a motion to adopt the remainder of the Investigative Committee recommendation. The motion was made by Dr. Crawford and seconded by Ms. Bowie. Ms. Robinson recused herself. The motion passed with all in favor.

- C. **Counseling Compact Update** - Dr. Crawford reported she will attend the February 26th Annual Business Meeting. She said they are working on language for background checks for the legislation. Ms. Sheehan offered to assist in getting background language drafted and to the legislature this session.

Dr. Crawford made a motion to move allowing Ms. Sheehan to draft an amendment to the statute to include background checks for compliance with the Compact. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson. The motion was passed with all in favor.

D. Academia Rules Revision Committee Report

No Report

E. Supervision Committee Report

No Report

F. ALCA Update - Dr. Driver reported the association is working on the open council positions. She stated the Executive Council meeting will be February 13, 2026 at the University of Alabama in Florence. She reported that the fall conference was well attended and will be held in Mobile next year.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sheehan reported she is working on hiring an Academic Reviewer. She explained the RFP had no responses and the Board could either rebid the contract or hire a reviewer as a Board employee. After a discussion, Ms. Bowie made a motion for Ms. Sheehan to hire an Education Reviewer as a Board employee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and unanimously passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. SIX YEAR RULE CLARIFICATION

After a discussion regarding clarification of the six-year rule for ALCs, Ms. Sheehan suggested forming a Rules Committee to periodically review the administrative rules for clarity. Dr. Crawford moved to appoint Ms. Robinson as the Chair of the Rules Committee. Ms. Robinson will select two other Board members to serve on the committee. This was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed with all in favor.

B. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Prior to approval of applications, Ms. Sheehan asked if the Board would consider allowing the administrative staff to have the authority to license qualified applications without waiting for meetings to get applicants licensed. She asked a vote for that be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

1. Initial ALC: A motion was made by Dr. Crawford to approve the list of ALC's applicants as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie and passed unanimously.
2. Provisional: Ms. Durick presented one applicant for provisional endorsement. She explained the licensee has one year for completion and can only get one extension. Ms. Robinson moved to approve the provisional license. The motion was seconded by Dr. Crawford and passed unanimously.
3. ALC to LPC: Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve the list of new LPC applicants as presented. Ms. Bowie seconded the motion. motion passed unanimously.
4. LPC Endorsement Approval – Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve the list of LPC applicants by endorsement. Ms. Bowie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. LPC-Supervisor: Motion was made by Dr. Crawford to approve the list of LPC Supervisors and seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Reduction in Hours: Motion was made by Ms. Robinson to approve the list of licensees requesting a reduction in hours and seconded by Dr. Crawford. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Inactive Status: Dr. Crawford made the motion to approve the list of inactive licensee requests, and it was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed with all in favor.
8. Reactivation Request: No reactivation requests were presented.
9. Accommodations: A motion to approve the accommodation requests was made by Ms. Bowie and seconded by Dr. Crawford. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Special Request: No special requests were presented.
11. Legal Requests: Ms. Hosea stated new information was available regarding Case No. 2025-040 and asked that the earlier approved recommendation be rescinded. She stated she has received information that the licensee is still in the Wellness Program. Dr. Crawford moved to rescind the motion for hearing regarding Case No. 2025-040. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously apart from the recusal by Ms. Robinson.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Robinson asked that a vote for licensure approval by the staff be put on the next meeting's agenda.

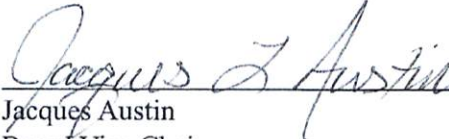
Ms. Sheehan indicated she is unable to attend the March meeting. She said they could reschedule or meet with Ms. Tomlin. After some discussion it was decided that the meeting would continue as planned.


Ms. Sheehan said she will add the new information to the website following today's meeting.

The board thanked Mr. Warren for his service to the board.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Crawford moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowie. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:33.


Jacques Austin
Board Vice Chair


Elizabeth Sheehan
Executive Director