



STATE OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
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KATIE HOBBS
Governor

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
MEETING MINUTES
August 9, 2024

Members Present: Adalesa Meek, Diane Palacios, Robert Charles, Kristina Groves, Leanette Henagan (Telephonic In at 9:03 and Out at 9:05), Crystal Krueger, Jose Luis Madera, Dominic Miller, Mark Shen

Members Absent: Antwan Trotter

Staff Present: Tobi Zavala, Executive Director; Mona Baskin, A.A.G.; Polly Knape, Deputy Director; Allison Taylor, Operations Manager; Jarett Carver, Investigations Manager

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners was called to order on August 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at 1740 West Adams Street, Boardroom C, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 with Ms. Meek presiding.

2. Roll Call

See above.

3. Minutes: review, consideration and action

A. *May 10, 2024, general meeting minutes*

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

B. *May 10, 2024, executive session minutes/ Agenda item 7 F*

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

C. *June 14, 2024, general meeting minutes*

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

D. *July, 12, 2024 general meeting minutes*

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Charles, to approve the general meeting minutes for the July 12, 2024 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Krueger abstained.

4. Consent Agenda: review, consideration and action

A. Cases recommended for dismissal

1. 2024-0341, Derek Allen, LPC-15310
2. 2024-0182, Brian French, LPC-22543
3. 2024-0187, Sharna Horn, LPC-20897
4. 2024-0165, Sandra Lehmann, LPC-14466
5. 2024-0179, Sandra Lehmann, LPC-14466
6. 2024-0229, Caitlin Navarro Reyes, LMSW-21637
7. 2024-0233, Melony Opheim, LCSW-10334
8. 2024-0172, Kerry Ramella, LPC-14465
9. 2024-0263, Jana Venditte, LPC-22855

For consent agenda item 4(A)(3), Ms. Palacios disclosed she has met the licensee in a professional manner but can

be unbiased and impartial on this matter.

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the consent agenda item 4(A)(1-9). The motion passed unanimously.

B. Cases recommended for dismissal with a letter of concern.

1. 2024-0204, Jara Bender, LCSW-20500
2. 2024-0358, Teri Hourihan, LPC-17044
3. 2024-0166, Dashanae Lartigue, LMSW-21502
4. 2024-0186, Sandra Lehmann, LPC-14466
5. 2024-0212, Kaila Moles, LPC-22324
6. 2024-0164,2024-0360, Molly Mahoney, LCSW-1326
7. 2024-0005, Candace Wilson, LMSW-18498
8. 2024-0214, Valerie Wilson, LPC-18815

Following discussion, Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Mr. Madera, to approve the consent agenda item 4(B)(7). The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Meek and Mr. Miller recused. Ms. Henagan appeared telephonically.

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Madera, to approve the consent agenda item 4(B)(2). The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shen recused.

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Madera, to approve the consent agenda item 4(B)(1,3,4,8). The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shen recused.

5. 2024-0212, Kaila Moles, LPC-22324
- Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional appeared and addressed the Board.

Following discussion, Ms. Meek moved, seconded by Ms. Krueger, to dismiss the complaint with a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 2024-0164,2024-0360, Molly Mahoney, LCSW-1326
- Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional's attorney, Flynn Carey, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following discussion, Ms. Meek moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to approve dismissal with a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Cases recommended for opening a complaint and dismissing with a letter of concern
N/A

D. Cases recommended for acceptance of a proposed signed non-disciplinary consent agreement.

1. 2024-0340, Crystal Boyd, LAC-21603
2. 2024-0196, Nancy Chaparro, LMSW-18925
3. 2024-0185, Azanean Petty, LMSW-22040

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the consent agenda item 4(D). The motion passed unanimously.

E. Cases recommended for opening a complaint and acceptance of a proposed signed non-disciplinary consent agreement.

N/A

F. Cases recommended for acceptance of a proposed signed disciplinary consent agreement.

1. 2024-0223, Keli Dersch-Baldonado, LPC-17337

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Groves, to accept the proposed signed disciplinary consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

| | Robert Charles | Kristina Groves | Leanne Henagan | Crystal Krueger | Jose Luis Madera | Adalesa Meek | Dominic Miller | Diane Palacios | Mark Shen | Antwan Trotter |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| AYE | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| NAY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absent | | | X | | | | | | | X |

G. Cases recommended for opening a complaint and acceptance of a proposed signed disciplinary consent agreement.

1. Jordian Hicks, LMSW Applicant

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Shen, to open a complaint and accept the proposed signed disciplinary consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

| | Robert Charles | Kristina Groves | Leanne Henagan | Crystal Krueger | Jose Luis Madera | Adalesa Meek | Dominic Miller | Diane Palacios | Mark Shen | Antwan Trotter |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| AYE | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| NAY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absent | | | X | | | | | | | X |

H. Cases recommended for opening a complaint and denying for unprofessional conduct.

N/A

I. Cases recommended for release from consent agreements.

1. 2022-0178, Bridgette Glade, LAC-21074
2. 2022-0038, Samantha Higgins, LPC-16841
3. 2024-0030, Andrea Morales, LAC-22430
4. 2023-0142, Annia Salas, LPC-15763
5. 2023-0218 2023-0225, Stephanie Speake, LAC-17610
6. 2024-0073, Ericka Valdez, LPC-18591

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Charles, to approve the consent agenda item 4(I)(1). The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shen recused

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the consent agenda item 4(I)(2,4,5,6). The motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion, Ms. Kreuger moved, seconded by Ms. Groves, to approve the consent agenda item 4(I)(3). The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Palacios recused.

5. Administrative Hearings

Administrative Hearing Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3281 and 41-1092.07, the Board will conduct administrative hearings or consider related procedural issues in the following matter(s). During the administrative hearing, the Board may go into executive session to discuss confidential records pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) or to obtain legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3).

- A. 2024-0171, Aimee Jarvis, LMSW-21981

Board members present for hearing, indicated through roll call.

| | Robert Charles | Kristina Groves | Leanne Henagan | Crystal Krueger | Jose Luis Madera | Adalesa Meek | Dominic Miller | Diane Palacios | Mark Shen | Antwan Trotter |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| AYE | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| NAY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absent | | | X | | | | | | | X |

Ms. Mona Baskin, A.A.G., appeared on behalf of the state.

The Licensee and her attorney, Amanda Kuklinski, were properly noticed, but failed to appear.

Ms. Carrie Smith, A.A.G., appeared to provide independent legal advice to the Board.

Ms. Baskin made an opening statement.

Ms. Zavala, Executive Director, was sworn and testified.

Ms. Baskin admitted State's Exhibit 3 into evidence.

Ms. Meek accepted State's Exhibit 3 into evidence.

Ms. Baskin moved to admit State's Exhibits 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 into evidence with items 3-10 entered as confidential records.

Ms. Meek accepted State's Exhibits as stated by Ms. Baskin into evidence.

Ms. Dobratz was sworn and testified.

Ms. Baskin, offered Ms. Dobratz as an expert in the case.

Ms. Meek approved.

Ms. Baskin moved to admit State's Exhibit 2 into evidence.

Ms. Meek approved.

Ms. Baskin, A.A.G., made a closing statement.

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Groves to incorporate the factual allegations as findings of fact. The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adopt the violations of law under A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(l), A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(k), and A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(c)(ii) as the Boards conclusions of law. The motion passed unanimously.

Following continued discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Groves to revoke the professionals license, assess costs of \$1695.00 for Board incurred costs and assess a civil penalty of \$1,000.00 per violation found. The motion passed unanimously.

| | Robert Charles | Kristina Groves | Leanne Henagan | Crystal Krueger | Jose Luis Madera | Adalesa Meek | Dominic Miller | Diane Palacios | Mark Shen | Antwan Trotter |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| AYE | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| NAY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absent | | | X | | | | | | | X |

6. Formal Interviews

N/A

7. Complaints and other disciplinary matters: review, consideration and action

A. 2024-0378, Cagnur Dalton, LMSW-19779

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

Mr. Shen disclosed he worked with the professional a couple of years ago, and stated this will not cloud or bias his judgement on the matter.

Following discussion by members, Mr. Charles moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to accept the proposed signed consent agreement for the voluntary surrender of the professional’s license. The motion passed unanimously.

| | Robert Charles | Kristina Groves | Leanne Henagan | Crystal Krueger | Jose Luis Madera | Adalesa Meek | Dominic Miller | Diane Palacios | Mark Shen | Antwan Trotter |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| AYE | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| NAY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absent | | | X | | | | | | | X |

B. 2025-0004, Olivia Hook, LMFT-15392

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional’s attorney, Michael Ryan, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following discussion by members, Mr. Charles moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios to accept the proposed signed consent agreement for the voluntary surrender of the professional’s license. The motion passed unanimously.

| | Robert Charles | Kristina Groves | Leanne Henagan | Crystal Krueger | Jose Luis Madera | Adalesa Meek | Dominic Miller | Diane Palacios | Mark Shen | Antwan Trotter |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| AYE | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| NAY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absent | | | X | | | | | | | X |

C. 2024-0018, Kimberly Kriesel, LPC-19252

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The professional and her attorney, Flynn Carey, appeared and addressed the Board.

Mr. Shen disclosed he was the professional’s professor over ten years ago, and that this will not cloud or bias his judgement on the matter.

Following further discussion, Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Groves, to offer the professional a 12-month non-disciplinary consent agreement for completion of 3 clock hours in digital marketing, 3 clock hours in clinical supervision specific to Arizona, and 3 clock hours in behavioral health ethics, and if not signed, to invite the professional to participate in a formal interview and, if not accepted to remand the matter to a formal hearing. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Palacios recused.

D. 2024-0234, Todd Lawrence, LASAC-15439 (Interim suspension)

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The professional appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Shen, to find the following violations:

- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(l), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession
- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(ii), violating any federal or state law, rule or regulation applicable to the practice of behavioral health, as it relates to:
 - A.R.S. § 32-3208, Mandatory Reporting of Criminal Charges
- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(c)(ii), making any oral or written misrepresentation of a fact in any statements provided during an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by the board

The motion passed unanimously.

E. 2024-0273, Todd Lawrence, LASAC-15439 (Interim suspension)

Mr. Carver summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional appeared and addressed the Board.

Following discussion Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to combine complaint numbers 2024-0273 and 2024-0234. The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Krueger, to find the following violation:

- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(c)(iii), making any oral or written misrepresentation of a fact regarding the licensee’s skills or the value of any treatment provided or to be provided

The motion passed unanimously.

Following further review, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Shen, to offer a consent agreement that stipulates the following:

- The licensee shall be placed on probation for 24 months
- Stayed suspension
- A practice restriction shall be in place for no participation in supervised private practice
- The professional shall complete, in person, a pre-approved 3 semester credit hour graduate level course in behavioral health ethics
- The professional shall submit to random biological fluid testing once per quarter, with an option for early release after the first 12 months
- The professional shall continue with therapy a minimum of once monthly for the first 12 months, with an additional focus on relapse, prevention, and triggers. The frequency for the remaining time will be at the recommendation of the therapist, and could include early release.

and if not signed, the professional will remain on the ICA. The motion passed unanimously.

| | Robert Charles | Kristina Groves | Leanne Henagan | Crystal Krueger | Jose Luis Madera | Adalesa Meek | Dominic Miller | Diane Palacios | Mark Shen | Antwan Trotter |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| AYE | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| NAY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absent | | | X | | | | | | | X |

F. 2024-0321, Valerie Le Grande-Stewart, LMSW-17753

Mr. Carver summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Ms. Krueger, to order the licensee to complete a psychological evaluation. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Palacios recused.

| | Robert Charles | Kristina Groves | Leanne Henagan | Crystal Krueger | Jose Luis Madera | Adalesa Meek | Dominic Miller | Diane Palacios | Mark Shen | Antwan Trotter |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| AYE | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | |
| NAY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absent | | | X | | | | | Recused | | X |

The Board took a break at 10:15 a.m., reconvening its public meeting at 10:30 a.m.

G. 2024-0372, Jessica Reid, LPC-20722

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The professional and her attorney, Faren Akins, appeared telephonically and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Meek moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to order the professional to complete a substance abuse evaluation. The motion passed unanimously.

| | Robert Charles | Kristina Groves | Leanne Henagan | Crystal Krueger | Jose Luis Madera | Adalesa Meek | Dominic Miller | Diane Palacios | Mark Shen | Antwan Trotter |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| AYE | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| NAY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absent | | | X | | | | | | | X |

8. Assistant Attorney General’s Report: Mona Baskin, A.A.G.

N/A

9. Applications for licensure and educational programs: review, consideration and action

A. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding applications for licensure

Counseling

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Shen, to deny 1 application based on a failure to take the required examination, 2 applications based on a failure to meet minimum requirements, and 2 applications based on a finding of unprofessional conduct. The motion passed unanimously.

Marriage and Family Therapy

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Groves, to deny 1 application based on a failure to pass the required examination and 1 application based on a failure to meet minimum requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

Social Work

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to deny 11 applications based on a failure to pass the required examination, 5 applications based on failure to take the required exam, and 3 applications based on a failure to meet minimum requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

Substance Abuse Counseling

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Madera, to deny 1 application based on a failure to pass the required exam, 1 application based on a failure to take the required examination, and 2 applications based on a failure to meet minimum requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding applications for educational programs

N/A

10. Report from Chair

A. Summary of current events

No report.

11. Report from the Treasurer

A. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding June financial report

Following review, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to accept the June financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding July financial report

Tabled

12. Report from the Executive Director and/or staff

A. Review and discussion regarding confidential draft performance audit and sunset review conducted as part of the sunset review process prescribed in Arizona Revised Statutes §41-2951 et seq.

Ms. Zavala introduced the topic and relayed the draft is confidential information. Ms. Meek moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) to review confidential records exempt from public inspection. The motion passed unanimously and the Board went into executive session at 11:23 am, reconvening its public meeting at 11:55 am.

The Board took a break 11:56 a.m., reconvening its public meeting at 12:33 p.m.

B. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding communication from Licensee Jason Klarer to the Executive Director/Staff and briefing from ADOA regarding the same.

Ms. Zavala provided a brief summary of the behavior, outreach to the Board Chair, ADOA, Governor's Office and Law Enforcement. Ms. Zavala then introduced Nicole Sornsin, State HR Director-ADOA, who provided a summary of ADOA engagement and actions taken to date to address the situation. Upon completion of Ms. Sornsin's summary, Ms. Zavala thanked Director Sornsin for the support on behalf of herself and Board staff, noting safety is a top priority.

C. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding appointing a Board member 2024 delegate to the Association of Social Work Boards.

Ms. Zavala summarized the event and time commitment required by the delegate. Following Board member discussion Ms. Meek moved, seconded by Mr. Madera, to appoint Mr. Miller as the Board member delegate. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion regarding the Board's employee engagement survey results.

Ms. Zavala provided the employee engagement survey results and discussed the results with the Board.

E. Update on staff changes

Ms. Zavala provided an update on the addition of new staff positions, hiring timelines, and announced recent Board Staff promotions.

F. Discussion regarding Ms. Knape's recent involvement with the American Association of State Counseling Boards AI and research committees.

Ms. Knape updated the Board on her recent invitation to participate in the AASCB research committee and her current participation in the AASCB AI committee.

13. Request for extension of inactive status: review, consideration and action

A. Stacy Wallschlaeger, LMSW-13038 (Inactive Status Extension)

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, for the continuation of the inactive status extension. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Future agenda items

N/A

15. Call for public comment

N/A

16. Establishment of future meeting date(s)

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at 1740 W. Adams St., Boardroom C.

17. Adjournment

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Diane Palacios
Secretary/Treasurer

Date