



STATE OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
1740 WEST ADAMS STREET, SUITE 3600
PHOENIX, AZ 85007
PHONE: 602.542.1882 FAX: 602.364.0890
Board Website: www.azbbhe.us
Email Address: information@azbbhe.us

KATIE HOBBS
Governor

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

AZBBHE MISSION STATEMENT

To establish and maintain standards of qualifications and performance for licensed behavioral health professionals in the fields of counseling, marriage and family therapy, social work and substance abuse counseling and to regulate the practice of licensed behavioral health professionals for protection of the public.

BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS NOTICE & AGENDA FOR REGULAR SESSION PUBLIC MEETING

Scheduled for January 12, 2024 at 9:00 AM

1740 West Adams Street, Board Room C, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
1st Amended (January 5, 2024)

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the general public and to members of the Arizona State Board of Behavioral Health Examiners that the Board will hold a regular meeting open to the public on the date and at the time indicated above. A full meeting agenda and list of applications to be considered can be found online at www.azbbhe.us or in the lobby of the Board's office building in the binder adjacent to the case displaying meeting notifications.

The Board reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, except for those matters set for a specific time. The formal hearings and formal interviews are scheduled to be heard during specific time blocks. The Board Chairperson, however, reserves the right to call cases in random order. Please note that the recommendations listed on the agenda are merely suggested Board actions. Those recommendations do not become final until adopted by the Board. The Board has the authority to accept, reject or modify any recommendation listed on the agenda.

The Board, upon a majority vote of a quorum of the members, may hold an Executive Session on any of the listed agenda items to discuss or consider records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state and federal law, or to obtain legal advice. A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) and (3). Executive Sessions are not open to the public.

The Board usually allows 3 – 5 minutes per person for public comment on any agenda item: however, depending on the issue presented, the Board Chairperson has the discretion to expand that time.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter or a copy of this document in alternative format, by contacting Erin Yabu at 602-542-1811 or the TDD number at 800-367-8939.

Board Members

Adalesa Meek, LISAC, LPC, Chairperson
Polly Knape, LAC, Secretary/Treasurer
Kimberly Bailey, LMFT
Robert Charles, Public Member
Mary Coonrod, Public Member
Leanne Henagan, LCSW, LISAC
Meaghan Kramer, Public Member
Diane Palacios, LISAC, LPC
Mark Shen, LPC
Antwan Trotter, Public Member
Vacant, Professional Member
Vacant, Professional Member

If you need to speak to a member of the Board staff regarding an agenda item, please contact Erin Yabu at 602-542-1811 or the TDD number at 800-367-8939.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order

2. Roll call (staff)

3. Minutes: review, consideration and action.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2), any discussion of the executive session minutes will take place in executive session.

A. December 8, 2023, general meeting minutes

4. Consent Agenda:

Consent agenda items may be considered for approval as a single action unless a Board member or interested party wishes to remove an item for discussion.

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. Cases recommended for dismissal.

The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s):

1. 2023-0173, Elizabeth Gonzales, LAC-15873
2. 2023-0206, Crystal King, LMSW- 18793
3. 2023-0207, Laurie Swann, LMSW-18912
4. 2023-0199, Elizabeth Jacek, LAC-21780

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

The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s):

1. 2024-0097, Lauren Kiser, LPC-16516

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

The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s).

N/A

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

The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s).

1. 2023-0148, Michael Kolasa, LMFT-15447

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

The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s):

N/A

F. Cases recommended for acceptance of a proposed signed disciplinary consent agreement. The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s).

N/A

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

The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s):

N/A

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

The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s).

N/A

I. Cases recommended for release from consent agreements.

The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s):

1. 2023-0128, Jara Bender, LCSW-20500
2. 2023-0117, Robin Edgell, LCSW-21619 (*active-restricted*)
3. 2023-0232, Adena Ray, LCSW-3639
4. 2023-0076, Jessica Sanchez, LCSW-21001
5. 2023-0184, Anne Tantillo, LMSW-16554
6. 2022-0053 Patrick Thurman, LPC-19262 (*active-restricted*)

5. Administrative Hearings

Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3253(A)(10) and 41-1092.07, the Board will conduct administrative hearings 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).

N/A

6. Formal Interviews

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3281, the Board will conduct a Formal Interview in the following matter(s). During a formal interview, 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).

N/A

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

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).

Pending complaints represent unproven allegations. On investigation, many complaints are found to be without merit or not of sufficient seriousness to merit disciplinary action against the licensee and are dismissed.

A. 2023-0160, Christine Carrillo, LPC-21582

Review, consideration and possible action regarding complaint.

B. 2023-0170, Julia Gunthner, LPC-14300

Review, consideration and possible action regarding complaint.

C. 2023-0226, Kavita Hatten, LPC-0952

Review, consideration and possible action regarding complaint.

D. 2023-0180, Sarah Kircher, LMSW-19191 (Interim suspension)

Review, consideration and possible action regarding complaint and possible release from Interim Consent Agreement.

E. 2024-0012, Timothy Mills, LPC-15304

Review, consideration and possible action in regards to issuing an Order for the professional to submit to a 10-panel hair follicle drug test.

F. 2023-0191, Sandra Ritter, LPC-17442

Review, consideration and possible action regarding complaint.

G. 2024-0034, Thomas Wood, LAC-22163

Review, consideration and possible action regarding complaint.

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

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).

N/A

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

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

Names are posted for review in the building lobby of the 1st floor of 1740 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.

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

10. Report from the Chair

The Board may go into executive session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1), 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. Summary of current events

By law, the summary of current events is limited to summarizing recent occurrences. The Board cannot propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

11. Report from the Treasurer

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

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

12. Report from the Executive Director and/or staff

The Board may go into executive session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1), 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. Update on 2024 pending Legislation

B. Discussion regarding telehealth platforms

C. Update on Boardal implementation

D. Update on Board members and appointments

E. Review, discussion and possible action regarding additional members to the personnel subcommittee

F. Update regarding the 2024 Sunset Audit by the Arizona Auditor General's Office

G. Review, consideration and possible action regarding Board member attendance at the Counseling Regulatory Boards Annual Summit for National Board for Certified Counselors

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

The Board may go into executive session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1), 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).

N/A

14. Future agenda items

N/A

15. Call for public comment

Those wishing to address the Board do not need to request permission in advance; however, the Board may limit those persons speaking during this time to a reasonable number on any given public matter. In addition, each person wishing to address the Board will be given five (5) minutes to do so. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H), the Board can only take action on matters listed on the agenda. Action on public comment matters that are not listed on the agenda will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or to schedule the matter for further discussion at a later date.

16. Establishment of future meeting date(s)

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

17. Adjournment

January 5, 2024



Tobi Zavala
Executive Director