

Open Session Teleconference Meeting Minutes
IOWA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

September 9, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Lucas State Office Building, 5th Floor Conference Room #526
Des Moines, Iowa

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:23 a.m.

Roll Call

Members Present

Blake Stephenson, BCBA
Natalia Indrasari, MFT
Kevin Allemagne, MFT
Amy Mooney, MHC
Cody Samec, MHC
Laura Wilcke, BCBA

Members Absent

David Wolter, Public Member
Echo Kent, MFT
Kerry Lust, Public Member

Staff Present

Steve Garrison, Bureau Chief
Laura Steffensmeier, Assistant Attorney General
Tony Alden, Board Executive
Beth Jorgenson, Discipline Coordinator
Maureen Barton, Investigator
Vicky Winter-Clearman, Assistant to Board Administration,

Public Present

Kayla Bell Consolver, President IMHCA
Ellen Ritter
Natalie Ginty, Iowa House Republicans
Sandra Conlin, Lobbyist Tanager Place
Courtney Ackerson, Past President IMHCA
Jennifer Becker, LMHC

Introductions

Were made by the Board members and staff present

Approval of Open Session Minutes June 9, 2021

Stephenson moved approval of the June 9, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. A second was received by Mooney. All ayes, nays none, , motion carried.

Reports

Board Executive Report – Administrative Update

Alden reported September 23, 2021 is the deadline for renewal due to COVID-19. He noted after that date, licensees are required to follow the license reactivation process outlined in the Board's administrative rules.

Alden noted there are currently 1,759 licensed mental health counselors, 371 licensed temporary mental health counselors, 388 licensed martial and family therapists and 64 licensed temporary martial and family therapists.

Requests

Request to waive rule regarding exam requirements – Diane Bailey

Alden stated Ms. Bailey took the Texas counselor examination rather than the national exam through the NBCC. Board consensus is to approve the waiver request.

Indrasari moved the Board approve the waiver request regarding exam requirements for Diane Bailey. A second was received by Mooney. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Request to waive rule regarding exam requirements – Ellen Ritter

Alden noted the applicant passed the CRCC exam in 2015, having graduated from Drake University in 2013. He stated she seeks a temporary license to begin her supervised clinical experience requirement.

Ms. Ritter noted since her graduation she works as a family school liaison and was employed as a certified rehabilitation counselor.

Board consensus is to deny the waiver request.

Mooney moved the Board deny the waiver request regarding exam requirements for Ellen Ritter. A second was made by Stephenson. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Request to waive rules regarding exam requirements and regarding supervision requirements – Todd Thompson

Alden said the applicant has acquired 42 hours of supervision through the last year and passed the NCE in June of 2020. He noted the applicant requests the supervised experience and national examination as fulfilling the requirements for permanent licensure, as he was employed as a school counselor for 32 years. Board consensus is to deny the waiver request.

Samec moved the Board deny the waiver request regarding exam and supervision requirements for Todd Thompson. A second was received by Indrasari. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Request for an alternate supervisor – Traci Biddle

Alden noted the licensee requests a psychologist to supervise as she maintains she would be required to travel outside of Linn County to find a licensed mental health counselor to provide supervision. Board consensus is to deny the waiver request.

Stephenson moved the Board deny the request for an alternate supervisor for Traci Biddle. A second was received by Mooney. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Request for an alternate supervisor – Linnette Kramer

Request for an alternate supervisor – N’Gnoron Valentine Ella Yapo

Alden noted the request is for a licensed psychiatrist to provide supervision as the employment location of CHI Mercy does not have a licensed mental health counselor or Independent Licensed Social Worker to provide supervision.

Indrasari moved the Board deny the request for alternate supervisor for Linnette Kramer and N’Gnoron Valentine Ella Yapo. A second was received by Allemagne. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Request to accept BHIS services towards meeting the supervised practice requirements for full MHC licensure – Vincent Mahon

Stephenson moved the Board deny the request of Vincent Mahon to accept BHIS services towards meeting the supervised practice requirements for permanent licensure. A second was received by Mooney. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Request to be an approved supervisor – Emma Thompson

Alden noted the licensee is short of the required three year post permanent licensure requirement by six months.

Board consensus is to deny the waiver request.

Allemagne moved the Board deny the waiver request of Emma Thompson to be an approved supervisor. A second was received by Mooney. Abstained, Stephenson, all other ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Applications

Larry Jackson, Jr. Supervisor Review

Board consensus is for the licensee to appear before the Board to explain the number of supervisors and the lack of existing supervision plans during the time the licensee has practiced as a temporary mental health counselor. It was noted some of the supervision forms submitted to date are inconsistent and contradict previously submitted documentation. Board consensus is for the review to remain open pending receipt of requested documentation.

New Business

AMHCA Counselor Licensure Interstate Portability Endorsement and Reciprocity Plan Alden referred to the documents included in the meeting materials.

Ms. Courtney Ackerson spoke briefly on the efforts through the Iowa legislature on the licensure compact and licensure reciprocity. She will share the PowerPoint presentation with the members of the Board. .

NBCC Exam Registration Issues and Concerns

Alden noted difficulties in an applicant's attempts to register and take the national examination.

Ms. Ackerson said she has received complaints and followed up with the NBCC. She noted applicants are reaching out to their elected officials for responses. Ms. Ackerson said in many instances the information requested is available in written format and contact with staff is via email as their staff continues to work remotely.

Administrative Rules

Proposed Adopted and Filed to amend rules 31.5 and 31.7 regarding clinical supervision requirements. (Implementing HF 891)

A general discussion followed regarding the preference for face to face or in person supervision as a quality control measure.

Stephenson moved the Board adopt the proposed Adopted and Filed to amend rules 31.5 and 31.7 regarding clinical supervision requirements. (Implementing HF 891). A second was received by Mooney. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

The Board recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 10:51 a.m.

Review and discussion of draft joint supervision rule changes between the Board of Social Work and the Board of Behavioral Science (Implementing HF 891) Pre-notice for public comment.

Alden reviewed the documents included in the meeting materials.

Ms. Ginty read a statement from Representative Joel Fry.

Sandra Conlin noted Tanager Place's preference as a larger employer with dedicated supervisors for no limit on the number of supervisees for an employed licensee serving as a supervisor.

Public Comment

Ms. Ackerson said she put out a notice for interested individuals to apply for any of the vacant Board positions.

She also requested an updated method for receiving the Board's meeting minutes.

Ms. Ackerson said Representative Joel Fry's office has received several complaints regarding difficulty in obtaining an Iowa Mental Health Counselor license.

Ms. Ackerson also spoke on the request for inclusion of BHIS services to satisfy the supervision requirements as a mental health counselor.

Closed Session

Stephenson moved the Board go into closed session at 11:35 a.m. pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(a), to review or discuss records which are required or authorized by state or federal law to be kept confidential, pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(d), to discuss whether to initiate licensee disciplinary investigations or proceedings,. A second was received by Mooney. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Allemagne – Aye

Stephenson – Aye

Indrasari – Aye

Allemagne, - Aye

Mooney – Aye

Samec - Aye

Motion Carried.

Return to Open Session

Vote on any items discussed in closed session requiring final action

The Board returned to open session at 1:13 p.m.

Closed Session Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2021

Stephenson moved the Board approve the closed session meeting minutes of June 9, 2021. A second was received by Allemagne. Abstained, all other ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Mooney moved the Board close 20-0223. A second was received by Stephenson. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Indrasari moved the Board approve the Notice of Hearing, Statement of Charges and Emergency Order in 21-0014. A second was received by Allemagne. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Stephenson moved the Board close 21-0023, 21-0125, 21-0136, 21-0196 and 21-0221. A second was received by Indrasari. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Mooney moved the Board close 21-0162. A second was received by Indrasari. Recused Samec, all other ayes, nays none, motion carried

Future Board Meetings

December 9, 2021

Adjournment

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:17 p.m. on a motion by Mooney and a second by Allemande. All ayes, opposed none, motion carried.