

**South Carolina Board of Examiners for the Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family  
Therapists, Addiction Counselors and Psycho-Educational Specialists**  
**TELECONFERENCE BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present**

Jennifer C.L. Jordan, Vice Chair  
Robert B. Carter  
Nikita M. Harrison  
Jeannie James  
Charles D. Stinson

**Absent Members – Danny Garnett, Chair**

**Staff Present**

Mary League, Advice Counselor  
Tina Brown, Disciplinary Counsel  
Angela Baldwin, Office of Investigations  
Roselind Bailey-Glover, Administrator  
Shaun Strother, Board Assistant  
Courtney Clark, WebEx Host  
Melanie Farmham, Court Reporter

Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the office of the South Carolina Board of Examiners for the Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, Addiction Counselors and Psycho-Educational Specialists, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive in Columbia, SC was posted on the Board website and provided to any requesting persons, organizations, or news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the 1976 South Carolina Code, as amended, relating to the Freedom of Information Act. A quorum is noted as *present/not present*. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

In accordance with the Governor’s directives regarding social distancing, the meeting will be held via teleconference. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone. The telephone number and access code are provided on the posted agenda.

**Call to Order**

Vice Chairman, Jennifer Jordan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**MOTION:** Ms. James made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Approval/Disapproval of Absent Members:**

**MOTION:** Ms. Harrison made a motion to approve the absence of Chairman Danny Garnett. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Ms. Harrison made a motion to approve the July 21, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Ms. Harrison made a motion to approve the October 6, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Vice Chair's Remarks: Dr. Jennifer Jordan**

Dr. Jordan requested that staff review and correct page five on the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document on the Board's website.

**MOTION:** Mr. Stinson made a motion for staff to correct page five on the website FAQs. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Application Hearing: Samuel Nagi**

The application hearing was called to order. Mr. Nagi appeared before the board along with his attorney Debra Barber to answer questions the board raised regarding compliance questions Mr. Nagi provided on his last renewal application. Both provided testimony regarding the legal questions.

**MOTION:** Ms. James made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to return to public session. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to grant Mr. Nagi an unconditional renewal of all three counselor licenses. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Legislative Update: H.3731:** Holly Beeson, Attorney and Katie Phillips, LLR Communications and Governmental Affairs

Ms. Beeson briefed the board on Bill H.3731 stating the Bill would add the following credentials to the Counselors Board for persons working with autism clients. The credentials would be Behavioral Analyst, Assistant Behavioral Analyst and Technicians. So far, the education requirements may be met by certification and the Technician credential will not be regulated but defined, without a license. Ms. Beeson mentioned forms, fees, certification and background check requirements. The board would be notified if the bill moves forward, but so far, it has not moved and it will probably be next year before a legislative update would be available. The board members thanked Ms. Beeson for the update and for her time.

**Administrative Reports:**

**Office of Investigations and Enforcement Reports (OIE/IRC):** Angela Baldwin, Office of Investigations

Ms. Baldwin provided the board with a brief overview on how complaints are processed through the Office of Investigations and Enforcement. Ms. Baldwin also reviewed the IRC report and explained what cases were coming in for ethics violations, misconduct, substandard patient care, and unlicensed practice.

**MOTION:** Ms. James made a motion to approve the OIE Report. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report (ODC)**

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel report was reviewed for information only.

**Application Hearing: Teresa Masi**

The application hearing was called to order. Ms. Masi appeared before the board to answer questions the board had regarding her application.

**MOTION:** Mr. Stinson made a motion to go into Closed Session. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Stinson made a motion to allow the application process to move forward. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Application Hearing: John J Delany**

The application hearing was called to order. Mr. Delany appeared before the board to request that the hours he obtained from Massachusetts be accepted toward full LPC licensure. Mr. Delany does not hold any type of license with the state of Massachusetts, however he has submitted a confirmation of hours and supervision logs.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to go into executive session. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to return to public session. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to deny the request for full licensure based on regulation 360-05. Mr. Delany must finish the requirements of the LPC-A credential. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Application Hearing: Beatrice Ellison**

The application hearing was called to order. Ms. Ellison appeared before the board because she did not renew her existing LPC license by 8/31/2021 so the license lapsed. Ms. Ellison continued to supervise two LPC Associates with a lapsed LPC license. Ms. Ellison testified she is an LPC-Supervisor in North Carolina in good standing and appealed to the board for consideration.

**MOTION:** Ms. Harrison made a motion to go into executive session. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to return to public session. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to allow Ms. Ellison to reinstate her SC license since there was no finding that she practiced without a license in SC. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Application Hearing: Kem Frasier**

The application hearing was called to order. Ms. Frasier appeared before the board to grant full licensure as an LPC with accrued supervised hours from NC and requested a waiver of the two-year requirement as an LPC-A in SC.

**MOTION:** Ms. Harrison made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to return to public session. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Ms. James made a motion to deny Ms. Frasier's request for full LPC licensure and that she must complete the training and the two required years of experience per Regulation 36-05. A final Order will be issued to Ms. Frasier. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Application Hearing: Karon A Hopkins**

The application hearing was called to order. Mr. Hopkins appeared before the board seeking licensure as an LAC and is requesting that the board accept supervision hours completed from 2015 to 2020 prior to submitting an LAC application with the board. Mr. Hopkins has a current SC Social Work License. Mr. Hopkins passed two addiction exams, but is missing a few required courses for the LAC credential.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to go into executive session. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Ms. James made a motion to return to public session. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Ms. James made a motion to deny the appeal based on Regulation 36-10 and that the board could not establish substantial equivalency required for LAC licensure. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Application Hearing: Abdul K Kargbo**

The application hearing was called to order. Mr. Kargbo appeared before the board to request that his work experience be accepted by the board to satisfy the LAC Supervision hour requirement towards the LAC credential. He does not have any supervision hours. He has not taken the MAC or the AADC examination.

**MOTION:** Mr. Stinson made a motion to go into executive session. Ms. James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to return to public session. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Ms. James made a motion to grant the LAC-A license with the five (5) years of experience in Washington DC and the NCAC examination. Mr. Kargbo would also need to finish the LAC-A requirements. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Application Hearing: Virginia Schwab**

The application hearing was called to order. Ms. Schwab appeared before the board with an appeal to be licensed as a full LPES with hours and licensure obtained from Massachusetts.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the LPES license with substantially equivalent credentials from Massachusetts. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Application Hearing: Emily Williams**

The application hearing was called to order. Ms. Williams appeared before the board to obtain full licensure as an LPC and waive the two year associate license period with a master's degree in forensic psychology.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to deny Ms. Williams request and stated she must follow the established regulation requirements and complete not less than two years of supervision. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Application Hearing: Erica Cortes**

The application hearing was called to order. Ms. Cortes did not appear before the board.

**MOTION:** Mr. Stinson made a motion to defer Ms. Cortes request until such time that she can appear before the board. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Administrators Remarks:**

Ms. Glover presented the financial report as information only and invited questions. A report from CE Broker was also provided as information only. The Board members were reminded to complete the State Ethics Commission's economic interest report and file the report by March 30, 2021. Ms. Glover covered the renewal information for 2021 stating the renewal notices should go out in May and the renewal portal should open in mid-May. Late renewals will start September 1, 2021 and end November 30, 2021. The frequently asked questions will be updated and replaced on the website. The renewal fees have not changed and will be the same as in the previous years. Ms. Glover briefed the board on an additional research and statistic update that will be included on the renewal forms so the state can capture better workforce data. Ms. Glover reconfirmed the board decision to allow one hundred percent of the CEU requirement for renewal to be completed online. Ms. Glover briefed the board on some process improvements with the CCE where a secure portal now allows staff to retrieve reviewed applications from CCE in an effort to clear up backlogged applications and eliminate the need for CCE to mail applications to the state for final processing of a license.

**Disciplinary Hearings - None**

**South Carolina Recovering Professional Program (RPP) Presentation**

Ms. Rebecca Payne and Robyn Madden gave a detailed presentation to the Board on services available to licensed professionals through RPP so the board could determine what type of services they would want RPP to provide, if the board decided to recommend their services to licensees.

**MOTION:** Ms. James made a motion to approve the services of RPP. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### New Business

The 2021 New Mileage Rate memorandum was provided to the board for information only.

**Travel/Teleconference Meetings:** Discussion and Vote on Attendees.

### **The 2021 American Counseling Association (ACA) Conference and Expo planned for March 17-21, 2021**

**MOTION:** Ms. Jordan made a motion to nominate **Mr. Carter and Ms. Harrison** to attend the virtual meeting. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **2021 American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) February 26 and March 26, 2021.**

Topic: Counseling Regulation in a Pandemic. Register for the virtual session, one or two days, 6:00 p.m. ET.

**MOTION:** Ms. Harrison made a motion to nominate **Ms. Jordan and Mr. Garnett** to attend the virtual meeting. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **The Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of State Delegates 2021.**

This meeting will be conducted as a virtual meeting on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> in conjunction with the CLEAR Conference that will be held September 21-25, 2021, also virtual.

**MOTION:** Ms. Jordan made a motion to nominate **Mr. Garnett and Ms. Harrison** to attend the virtual meeting. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **The National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) 2021 Annual Conference: October 29 – November 3, 2021, Seattle-Bellevue, WA, Hyatt Regency Bellevue.**

**MOTION:** Ms. Harrison made a motion to nominate **Ms. Jordan** to attend the live meeting. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Review List of New Licensees and Continuing Education Sponsors – Presented as information.**

#### **Ratification of New Licenses and Continuing Education Sponsors:**

**MOTION:** Ms. Jordan made a motion to ratify the new licenses and continuing education sponsors. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **Discussion and Vote:**

#### **Nominations for the Application Review Committee:**

**MOTION:** Ms. Jordan made a motion to have all board members rotate and all participate in the application review process. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Initially the committee members were **Danny, Jennifer, Bob and Charlie.**

#### **Nominations for the Continuing Education (CE) Sponsor Application Committee:**

Initially the committee members were **Mr. Garnett, Ms. Jordan, Mr. Carter, Ms. Harrison and Mr. Stinson.** A discussion ensued. Ms. Jordan recalled writing up and distributing a draft of guidelines for the CE Sponsor Application. She will revisit the document to share with the board at a later date.

**MOTION:** Ms. Jordan made a motion to have all board members participate in the review of CE Sponsor Applications. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **Nominations for the Continuing Education (CE) Audit Committee:**

**MOTION:** Ms. Jordan made a motion to have all board members participate in the CE Audit review process. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **Nomination for an Alternate IRC Member – Need a few names:**

**MOTION:** Ms. Jordan made a motion for the Administrator to contact Kathy Sparks or Garland T Van to determine which one might want to serve as an Alternate IRC Member. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **Telehealth Website ALERT Update – Replace with Federal Amendment Language**

**MOTION:** Mr. Carter made a motion to accept the Federal Amendment Language and place it on the board's website until further notice from the board. Ms. Jordan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Discussion Topics:**

**The 2020 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Annual Conference: November 12-15, 2020.** Ms. Harrison reported to the board that she the virtual meeting and attended training sessions on trauma and telehealth.

**University of South Carolina – The Impact of Regulatory Changes on existing Counselor Programs AND North Central University MAMFT Students – COVID-19 Required Hours Adjustment Announcement to Students:**

The board heard comments from USC and North Central University regarding the regulatory changes made by the board in 2019. Specifically, Ryan G Carlson, PhD, LPC, Associate Professor at USC and Russell Haber, Counselor Education Program at USC appealed to the board regarding concerns students and their counseling program is having with some changes the board made to the regulations particularly with LMFT and LPC education requirements and the number of clinical hours required to graduate. They are also wanting the board to allow students to go by the 2019 application standards to give them a chance to pursue their LMFT. The 2019 application and education course requirements are still listed on the LLR Website, which further adds to the confusion since students rely on the application to provide licensure guidance.

After a lengthy discussion the board clarified that regulation 36-07 provides: the provisions in Reg. 36-07(3) regarding education requirements take effect two years from the effective date of that regulation. Students who have graduated from or are enrolled in a degree program prior to that effective date can meet the education licensing requirements pursuant to the education licensing provision in effect prior to the effective date. The board also clarified that the CACREP and COAMFTE was accepted.

The effective date of the regulations was May 24, 2019, so students who graduated from or are enrolled in a program prior to May 24, 2021 do not have to meet the new requirements. After the month of May there may be an issue, but the board will revisit the regulations.

**MOTION:** Ms. Jordan made a motion that according to regulation 36-07(3) and that CACREP and COAMFTE are approved by the school, the students are covered. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**2021 Election and Vote of Board Officers: Chair and Vice-Chair**

**MOTION:** Ms. Harrison made a motion to elect Ms. Jordan as the new Chair. Mr. Stinson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Ms. Harrison made a motion to elect Mr. Carter as the new Vice Chair. Mr. Stinson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Public Comments: There were none.**

**2021 Board Meeting Dates:**

The remaining board meeting dates were provided for information only.

**Lunch (Time of Lunch will be at the discretion of the Board Chair) – No time taken.**

**Adjournment: 4:19 pm**

**MOTION:** Mr. Stinson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.