

MINUTES

South Carolina Board of Examiners for the Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, Addiction Counselors and Psycho-Educational Specialists

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.
Synergy Business Park – Kingstree Building
Midlands Conference Room
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210

Board Members Present

Dr. Jennifer C. L. Jordan, Chairperson
Robert B. Carter, Vice Chair
Patrice Felder
Jeannie James
Arvilla Ann Kirven
Dr. Markesha Miller
Dr. Sandra Manning
James W. Pruett
Nikita M. Smith – Departed at 3:00 p.m.

Absent Members - None

Staff Members Present

Mary League, Advice Counsel
Sherrie Butterbaugh, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Roxane Tran, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
April Howe, Office of Investigations
Renee Dash, Office of Investigations
Pam Dunkin, Board Executive
Shaun Strother, Program Coordinator

Other

Katherine Boone, Creel 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, South Carolina 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. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

NOTE: These Minutes are a record of the motions and official actions taken by the Board and a brief summary of the meeting.

Meeting Called to Order

Dr. Jordan, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION

On the motion of Mrs. Kirven, seconded by Ms. James, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Approval/Disapproval of Absent Members

No absent board members.

Approval of the Minutes – July 9, 2024, August 1, 2024 and September 16, 2024

The board moved to hold over the approval of the September 16, 2024 minutes to the next upcoming scheduled board meeting.

MOTION

On the motion of Ms. Felder, seconded by Mrs. Kirven, the board voted unanimously to approve the July 9, 2024 minutes. The motion passed.

MOTION

On the motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Kirven, the board voted unanimously to approve the August 1, 2024 minutes. The motion passed.

Chairperson Remarks and Introduction of New Board Member Dr. James W. Pruett

Dr. Jordan addressed the board and welcomed Dr. James W. Pruett.

Disciplinary Hearing – [Closed]

Case#: 2022-9 – Motion to dismiss with a Letter of Caution.

The board returned to open session

Application Hearing

Ms. Yuliya Pidhirna: The purpose of this hearing was to determine if Yuliya Pidhirna could be granted approval to move forward in the licensure process for the Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA) license. Ms. Pidhirna appeared before the board and was represented by legal counsel, Tracey Perlman, Esq.

MOTION

On the motion of Mrs. Kirven, seconded by Ms. James, the board voted to unanimously to go into executive session to receive legal advice in regards to Yuliya Pidhirna’s application. The motion passed.

MOTION

On the motion of Mrs. Kirven, seconded by Ms. James, the board voted unanimously to come out of executive session and reconvene in public session. The motion passed.

MOTION

On the motion of Ms. James, seconded by Mrs. Kirven, the motion was to approve Yuliya Pidhirna’s application to move forward in the application process for Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA) license upon

completion of the following conditions: Applicant must take and successfully complete one three (3)-hour graduate level class in social and cultural foundations, one three (3)-hour graduate level course in lifestyle and career development, and one three (3)-hour graduate level class in professional orientation, all geared towards the counseling profession. b. Additionally, Applicant must complete a 100-hour supervised counseling practicum, and also complete an internship of at least 600 hours under the supervision of a qualified licensed mental health practitioner that includes experience assessing and treating clients with more serious programs as categorized in standard diagnostic nomenclature. Completing this through enrollment in a counseling program as a non-degree seeking student is acceptable to the Board. The motion passed.

Board Member Training – Office of Investigations and Enforcement and Office of Disciplinary Counsel

The board moved to hold over the “Board Member Training” to the next upcoming scheduled board meeting.

Administrative Reports

Office of Investigations and Enforcement Reports (OIE - Information Only) – April Howe, Office of Investigations addressed the board.

The board reviewed the Statistical Report as information only.

Investigative Review Committee (IRC Information) – April Howe

April Howe, Office of Investigations presented the board with fifteen (15) dismissals, nine (9) letters of caution and seven (7) formal complaints.

Dismissals

MOTION

On the motion of Ms. James, seconded by Mr. Carter, the board voted unanimously in favor to accept the IRC recommendations for dismissal of the fifteen (15) cases. The motion passed.

Letters of Caution

MOTION

On the motion of Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Kirven, the board voted unanimously in favor to accept the IRC recommendations for the nine (9) letters of caution. The motion passed.

Formal Complaints

MOTION

On the motion of Mrs. Kirven and seconded by Ms. James, the board voted unanimously in favor to accept the IRC recommendations for the seven (7) formal complaints. The motion passed.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report (ODC – Information Only) – Sherrie Butterbaugh, Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Ms. Butterbaugh, presented the “ODC” report as information only.

Board Executive Reports/Remarks - Pam Dunkin

Mrs. Dunkin presented the following items below as information only.

- Finance Report
- CE Broker Report & Update on CE Audit
- Review List of New Licensees: 6/20/24 – 9/12/24 (Informational Purposes Only)
- Number of Active Credentials as of 9/12/24 (Informational Purposes Only)
- Number of Continuing Education Providers Approved: 6/20/24 – 9/12/24 (Informational Purposes Only)
- Ratification of New Licenses and Continuing Education Sponsors Vote: 6/20/24 – 9/12/24
- Application Review Committee: Applications Reviewed: 6/20/24 – 9/12/24 (Informational Purposes Only)

New Business

a. Board Member Reports – Conference or Meetings Attended

- The Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) 38th Annual Meeting of State Delegates 2024 and Clear’s Annual Education Conference: 38th Annual Conference will be held in Baltimore Maryland September 16-24, 2024 and CLEAR’s 2024 Annual Education Conference September 16-19, 2024.

The board discussed the 2024 AMFTRB 38th Annual Meeting of State Delegates.

b. Upcoming Travel Meetings – Discussion, Vote and Attendees

- 2024 Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES) Conference being held in Dallas Texas, November 7-9, 2024
- American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) 2025 Conference: February 9-11, 2025, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- National Association of School Psychologists (NASP): February 18-21, 2025 in Seattle, Washington
- 61st Annual South Carolina Counseling Association (SCCA) Annual Conference 2025: February 26-28th, 2025, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- 2025 American Counseling Association (ACA) Conference and Expo, March 27-29, 2025, Orlando, Florida
- 2025 South Carolina Association of School Psychologists (SCASP) Spring Conference: March 14-25, 2025 (Location TBD)
- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) 2025 Leadership Symposium: March 20-22, 2025, San Diego, California

MOTION

On the motion of Ms. James, seconded by Ms. Felder, the board voted unanimously in favor to approve two (2) Board members and two (2) staff members to attend the 2025 travel meetings. The motion passed.

Board Member Nikita Smith Departed the Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.

c. Discussion: Expert Reviewers – April Howe, Office of Investigations

Ms. Howe addressed the board regarding expert reviewers needed. After board discussion Dr. Jordan stated that that copies of resumes of potential expert reviewers will need to be sent to Board Executive, Pam Dunkin. The board will hold over further discussion for “Expert Reviewers” until the next upcoming scheduled board meeting.

- d. Discussion and Vote: 2025 Board Meeting Dates – WebEx/In-person
- February 11, 2025
 - April 8, 2025
 - July 8, 2025
 - October 14, 2025

MOTION

On the motion of Mrs. Kirven, seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2025 Board meeting dates. The motion passed.

- e. Discussion and Vote: Legislative Liaison Contact and Co-Contact

MOTION

On the motion of Ms. James, seconded by Ms. Felder, the board voted unanimously to nominate and approve Mrs. Kirven to serve as Legislative Liaison and Dr. Jordan as Co-Contact. The motion passed.

- f. Discussion and Vote: 2024 Chair and Vice Chair

MOTION

On the motion of Ms. Felder, seconded by Mrs. Kirven, the board voted unanimously to approve Dr. Jordan to serve as Chair and Dr. Miller as Vice Chair. The motion passed.

Old Business

- a. Artificial Intelligence (AI): Dr. Jennifer Jordan

Dr. Jordan addressed the board and suggested information be provided on the board’s website regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI). After further discussions it was decided that the board will hold over the “AI” topic until the next upcoming scheduled board meeting.

Lunch (Time of Lunch will be at the discretion of the Board Chair)

The board had lunch - No votes taken during this time.

Executive Session, *If needed*

Public Comments: There were no public comments presented.

Adjournment

Dr. Jordan moved to adjourn. All were in favor. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.