

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020 @ 9:00 AM
PUBLIC MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice (the “Board”) was held at the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (“OPLC”), 121 South Fruit St., Concord, NH on February 21, 2020 beginning at 9:17 a.m., with the following members present:

Unless otherwise indicated, the members present and participating were: Diane Vaccarello, MW, LMFT, Chair; Gary Goodnough, Ph.D., LCMHC, NCC; Dayl Hufford, D.Min. LPP; Samuel Rosario, LICSW; Sheryl Reasoner, LCMHC, MLADC, Community Mental Health Center; Janet Stevens, Public Member; and Deborah Kennedy, MA, Public Member

Absent: Deborah Kennedy, MA, Public Member

I. ADMINISTRATIVE:

- A. Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Hufford, with a second by Mr. Rosario, the Board approved the minutes from January 17, 2020, as amended. *~Motion Approved*

II. TABLED:

- A. Application Changes, unified application – further changes have been tabled until the March 20, 2020 meeting.
- B. Standing Orders – waiting on further information, to be tabled until March 20, 2020 meeting.
- C. **Senate Bill 684:** “*relative to Medicaid to schools*”

01/14/20 – Introduced 1/08/2020 and referred to Education and Workforce Development

01/16/20 – Hearing: 1/23/2020, Room 103, SH, 9:00 am

01/28/20 – Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2020-0269s

01/30/20 – Committee Amendment #2020-0269s, AA, VV; 01/30/2020; SJ 2

01/30/20 – Ought to Pass with Amendment #2020-0269s

01/31/20 – Introduced 01/09/2020 and referred to Education

02/05/20 – Public Hearing: 2/12/2020 10:00 am LOB 207

02/05/20 – Executive Session: 02/12/2020 11:00 am LOB 207

02/21/20 – Discussion regarding the Stakeholder Meeting being held with DHHS on March 3, 2020, Mr. Rosario to follow up with who will be attending. Ms. Stevens and Ms. Vaccarello to follow up with bill sponsor Senator Fuller Clark; Mr. Rosario and Ms. Vaccarello to follow up with bill sponsor Senator Kahn. Ms. Hufford voiced concern

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regarding the potential for disproportionate voting sway among clinical members with the addition of another Social Work Board member.

D. House Bill 1521: *“adding a peer support specialist to the board of Mental Health Practice”*

12/03/19 – Introduced 01/08/2020 and referred to Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

01/14/20 – Public Hearing: 01/23/2020 2:30 pm LOB 205

01/29/20 – Subcommittee Work Session: 02/04/2020 10:00 am LOB 308

02/21/20 – The Board reviewed the bill as introduced, and as amended, and are in support

E. House Bill 1616: *“relative to the age of minor’s visits to mental health practitioners”*

12/06/19 – Introduced 01/08/2020 and referred to Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

01/22/20 – Public Hearing: 01/28/2020 10:00 am LOB 205

01/29/20 – Subcommittee Work Session: 02/04/2020 10:00 am LOB 308

02/21/20 – The Board reviewed and discussed the bill information, regarding temporary help, and the importance of the setting. Ms. Stevens to follow up with bill sponsors for additional information.

F. House Bill 1106: *“relative to noncompete agreements for certain mental health professionals”*

12/02/19 – Introduced 01/08/2020 and referred to Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

01/21/20 – Public Hearing: 01/29/2020 10:00 am LOB 307

02/05/20 – Executive Session: 02/12/2020 10:00 am LOB 307

02/21/20 - The Board reviewed the bill, administrator to follow up with Board counsel regarding the terminology used. Ms. Stevens to follow up with bill sponsor Representative Abrami

G. House Bill 546: *“relative to the regulation of art therapists”*

01/15/19 – Introduced 01/03/2019 and referred to Executive Departments and Administration HJ 3 P. 19

01/30/19 – Public Hearing: 02/06/2019 10:00 am LOB 306

02/06/19 – Subcommittee Work Session: 02/19/2019 10:30 am LOB 306

02/13/19 – Executive Sessions: 02/19/2019 10:30 am LOB 306

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02/20/19 – Retained in Committee

06/10/19 – Subcommittee Work Session: 06/11/2019 11:15 am LOB 306

10/02/19 – Subcommittee Work Session: 10/15/2019 11:00 am LOB 306

10/15/19 – Subcommittee Work Session: 10/22/2019 11:00 am LOB 306

10/22/19 – Subcommittee Work Session: 11/06/2019 11:00 am LOB 305

10/23/19 – Executive Session: 11/06/2019 01:00 pm LOB 306

11/13/19 – Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2019-2836h (Vote 15-3; RC) HC 50 P. 23

01/08/20 – Amendment #2019-2836h: AA VV 01/08/2020

01/08/20 – Ought to Pass with Amendment 2019-2863h: MA RC 218-144 01/08/2020

01/08/20 – Referred to Commerce and Consumer Affairs 01/08/2020

01/29/20 – Public Hearing: 02/05/2020 2:15 pm LOB 302

02/21/20 – The Board reviewed and discussed the bill information, felt that the term “expressive” versus “art therapist” would be more expansive, or inclusive. The Board is in support of this bill, but better to be more inclusive, instead of too much subgrouping. Ms. Stevens to follow up with Senator Watters to discuss any Board testimony, or position.

III. HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

A. Show Cause Hearing, Kara Serasis, MA, Clinical Mental Health Counselor Applicant

In Attendance: Kara Serasis, and Mary Seebart, LCMHC

Absent: Deborah Kennedy, Public Member

Chair, Ms. Vaccarello, called to order the Show Cause Hearing of Kara Serasis, MA at 9:55 a.m. regarding a conditionally denied licensure application for Clinical Mental Health Counselor. Ms. Serasis was given the opportunity for an opening statement in which she discussed her education and degree type and expressed the perception of a Board precedent in relation to others with similar circumstances to her own receiving different outcomes from the Board. Most specifically, regarding supervision agreements approved by the Board while still needing additional graduate courses completed before licensure.

The Board reviewed the submitted exhibits Ms. Serasis wished to include in her hearing:

Exhibit A: Witness List

Exhibit B: Letter from Kara Serasis, dated April 21, 2017

Exhibit C: Letter from Kimberley Burden, LCMHC

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Ms. Seebart testified to Ms. Serasis' clinical supervision hours completed under her supervision; and provided names of additional licensure candidates she had supervised who were able to accrue hours while completing additional courses. Ms. Seebart further testified the clinical supervision being completed after the Board's initial denial of Ms. Serasis' supervision agreement, was done with the intention of appealing to the Board at the time of licensure to have the clinical supervision hours accepted retroactively.

The Board asked clarifying questions of Ms. Serasis regarding her decision to not resubmit the supervision agreement after the coursework was completed as specified in the Board's original communication. Ms. Serasis' responded stating the courses were completed shortly before the licensure application was received by the Board.

The Board concluded the Show Cause Hearing at 10:30 a.m., and thanked Ms. Serasis and Ms. Seebart for their time and information.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Medicaid to Schools:

- a. OPLC Medicaid to Schools Policy Guidance – The Board reviewed this information provided by Health Division Director, Lindsey Courtney, there is no Board action required.
- b. Optional Application Question survey – The Board reviewed the optional survey; this survey has been added to the Board's website with the licensure applications under "Forms." There is no Board action required
- c. Medicaid to Schools Report, from Health Division Director, Lindsey Courtney to Governor Sununu – The Board reviewed the report from Director Courtney, there is no Board action required.
- d. The Board reviewed a concern from Ann Marie Banfield as it relates to Senate Bill 684, Medicaid to Schools, in relation to the privacy, and code of ethics concerns. As licensees, the individuals practicing under the Board of Mental Health have the requirement to abide by their respective code of ethics. The Board asked for further clarification as to how it relates to Mental Health. There is no Board action required.

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- B. The Board reviewed a request from the Department of Health and Human Services requesting access to the dates of birth for licensees for the purposes of ensuring the surveys are completed. The Board is requesting further information, along with answers to technical questions as to why this information is needed, specifically for the licensees that have chosen to opt out of the survey. This request will be TABLED until the March 20, 2020 meeting.
- C. The Board reviewed the waiver request from Kristin Grasso, LMFT, requesting a waiver for two administrative rules regarding the educational requirements for licensure and pre-licensure supervision hours. The Board is requesting Ms. Grasso provided additional documentation before a decision can be made regarding her waiver requests.
- D. The Board reviewed the waiver request from Robert Danner, MS, requesting the waiver of a graduate level course in addictive behavior as stated in the educational requirements for Mental Health Counselors. Mr. Danner provided a number of continuing education certificates completed in addictions, with the intention of having those be accepted instead of the additional graduate course. Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Hufford, the Board voted to approve the waiver request. *~Motion Approved*
- E. The Board reviewed the waiver request from Sam Rosario, LICSW, requesting a waiver for a portion of his candidate's supervision to be completed via HIPAA compliant video conference. Upon a motion by Ms. Hufford, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted to approve the supervision agreement approved on December 20, 2019 to grant the waiver for video conference to include clarification from the supervisor with a signed agreement or statement from the agency stating the availability for electronic access to records. *~Motion Approved, Recused: Mr. Rosario*
- F. The Board reviewed the waiver request from Erin Durocher, MFT, requesting a waiver for an extension of her pre-licensure practical supervised experience. Upon a motion by Ms. Stevens, with a second by Ms. Hufford, the Board voted to approve a one-year extension to complete her supervised clinical hours within a supervision agreement. *~Motion Approved*
- G. The Board reviewed a letter from Page Cannon, LICSW and current Professional Conduct Investigator, requesting to serve another three-year term as an investigator with the Board's Professional Conduct Committee. Upon a motion by Ms. Stevens,

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with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted to appoint Ms. Cannon to another three-year term as a PCI. *~Motion Approved*

- H. The Board reviewed a draft letter written from the Florida Board of Mental Health, submitted to the Association of Social Work Boards (“ASWB”) requesting an exception to their “Exam Use Policy.” This letter was reviewed for content and an example of what other states have submitted to ASWB as a waiver. The Board is concerned that with the implementation of ASWB’s policy, the rule of completing two years of clinical supervision before being able to register for the clinical exam, would bottleneck those attempting to get licensed. An additional concern discussed, is if ASWB has the ability to block those that attempt to register, due to non-compliance with their policy.

Mr. Rosario presented the idea of inviting Dwight Hymans, the incoming CEO for ASWB, to come provide a presentation to the Board regarding the reasoning for the ruling.

Upon a motion by Ms. Vaccarello, with a second by Ms. Hufford, the Board voted to draft a waiver letter, following the Florida Board of Mental Health letter as guidance, asking for candidates to be eligible to take the exam after 12 months of supervision, with the expectation that ASWB will request completion of 18 months. This letter will include the precedent set by Florida. *~Motion Approved*

- I. The Board reviewed a letter and information supplied by Peter Engel, regarding “Environment and the Drug Problem in our state.” This was informational only, there is no required Board action.
- J. The Board reviewed a letter from Julia Brau, President of SNHU Psychology Student Association, requesting a member of the Board to speak to current undergraduate students about the process of obtaining licensure as a mental health professional. Mr. Goodnough will follow up with Ms. Brau to set up a meeting.

V. QUESTIONS:

N/A

VI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion to commence Non-Public Session:

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At 11:54 a.m., upon a motion by Ms. Hufford, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted to conduct a non-public session for the purpose of evaluating complaints, the approval disapproval/correction of the Non-Public Minutes and other confidential Board business and noting that such a non-public session is authorized by RSA 91-A:3, II (c), RSA 91-A:5, IV, RSA 330-A:18, RSA 330-A:29, *Lodge v. Knowlton*, 119 N.H. 574 (1978), and the Board's executive and deliberative privileges.

Non-Public Session:

[Minutes kept separately]

Motion to keep minutes of non-public session confidential:

Upon a motion by Ms. Stevens, with a second by Mr. Rosario, the Board voted to withhold the minutes of the preceding non-public session from public disclosure pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, III on the grounds that public disclosure would be likely to affect adversely the reputation of a person other than a board member and/or to render the proposed action ineffective.

Motion to resume public meeting:

At 2:50 p.m., upon a motion by Ms. Stevens, with a second by Mr. Rosario, the Board voted to go out of non-public session and resume the public session.

QUALIFICATION AND LICENSURE

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

1. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE: Mental Health Counselors

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following for licensure:

- A. BARNARD, Martha, MA
- B. CAREY, Emily, MS
- C. ESPOSITO, Anastasyia, MA
- D. FOSTER, Amy, MA
- E. HALL, Kathleen, MA
- F. KING, Shawn, M.Ed

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- G. MAROUSEK, Eileen, MA
- H. PENDRY, Miles, MS
- I. PUOPOLO, Danielle, MS
- J. SARGUT, Idenice, M.Ed
- K. SILVER, Nichole, MS
- L. VAN DUSEN, Danielle, MS

2. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE – RATIFY: Mental Health Counselors

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following for licensure:

- A. PALAZZO, Stephanie, MA
- B. STUTZMAN, Kelly, MA

3. CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE SUPERVISION AGREEMENTS: Mental Health Counselors

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following supervision agreements:

- A. BAKER, Cynthia, M.Ed
- B. BOIS-RIOUX, Amelia, MA
- C. CHANDLER, Barbara, MS
- D. CURRO, Jordan, M.Ed
- E. DRISCOLL, Ella, MS
- F. FRAZIER, Mary, MA
- G. GOLDSMITH, Sarah, MS
- H. GORDON, Reuven, MA
- I. MCPHERSON, Kathleen, MS
- J. RIVERS, Aisha, MS
- K. SCHULTZ, Arika, MA
- L. TOOLEY, Jamison, MA
- M. VANDAELE, Anastasia, MS

4. APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE IN SUPERVISION AGREEMENTS: Mental Health Counselors

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following change in supervision agreements:

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- A. BELANGER, Kelsey, MA
- B. LECCESE, Lisi, MS
- C. NEWELL, Nicole, MA
- D. SOULE, Carley, MA
- E. YOUNG, Tonya, MS

SOCIAL WORKERS

1. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE: Social Workers

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following for licensure:

- A. COYNE, Julie, MSW
- B. OIKLE, Katharine, MSW
- C. SCHANCK, Sarah, MSW
- D. SILVA, Ashley, MSW
- E. SPYKMAN, Annelies, MSW
- F. TUSTIN, Carolee, MSW
- G. WADE, Brittany, MSW
- H. WAKEMAN, Robin, MSW

2. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE – RATIFY: Social Workers

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following for licensure:

- A. CHUMACK, Patricia, MSW
- B. GELDON, Heather, MSW
- C. MANZI, Lahalayne, MSW

3. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE – REINSTATEMENT: Social Workers

Upon a motion by Ms. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following for reinstatement of licensure:

- A. STURTEVANT, Adrienne, LICSW

4. CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE SUPERVISION AGREEMENTS: Social Workers

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Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following supervision agreements:

- A. BENOIT, Katherine, MSW
- B. DURGIN, Caitlin, MSW
- C. THERRIEN, Jessica, MSW

5. APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE IN SUPERVISION AGREEMENTS: Social Workers

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following change in supervision agreements:

- A. BAZZINOTTI, Rianna, MSW
- B. BERRY, Melissa, MSW
- C. DAHLBERG, Stephanie, MSW
- D. MCNALLY, Amy, MSW
- E. PADECKY, Katherine, MSW
- F. SEAMAN, Lauren, MSW
- G. SLAALIEN, Meghan, MSW
- H. SPINA, Ryan, MSW

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

1. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE: Marriage and Family Therapists

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following for licensure:

- A. JONES, Sarah, MS
- B. WOLF-O'HERN, Astrid, MS
- C. WOLFF, Andrew, MS

2. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE – RATIFY

N/A

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3. CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE SUPERVISION AGREEMENTS: Marriage and Family Therapists

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following supervision agreement:

A. RODGERS, Christina, MS

4. APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE IN SUPERVISION AGREEMENTS: Marriage and Family Therapists

Upon a motion by Mr. Goodnough, with a second by Ms. Reasoner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following change in supervision agreement:

A. ANDERSON, Bridgette, MS

PASTORAL PSYCHOTHERAPIST

1. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE: Pastoral Psychotherapists

N/A

2. APPLICATIONS FOR REINSTATEMENT: Pastoral Psychotherapists

N/A

3. CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE SUPERVISION AGREEMENTS: Pastoral Psychotherapists

N/A

4. APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE IN SUPERVISION AGREEMENTS: Pastoral Psychotherapists

N/A

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

At 2:59 p.m., upon a motion by Ms. Reasoner, with a second Mr. Rosario, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.