

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING BOARD

Minutes February 24, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Mr. Jon Ferguson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Indiana Government Center South, Room W064, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, and by Zoom and declared a quorum with Indiana Code § IC 25-23.6-2.

Board Members Present:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Board Chair
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW, Vice Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, LMFT, Section Chair
Kimble Richardson, MS, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC, MHC, Section Chair
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC, Board Designee
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW, Section Chair
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member

Board Members Not Present:

Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW, Section Chair
Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member
Licensed Clinical Social Worker - Vacant

State Officials Present:

Cindy Vaught, Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency
Dana Brooks, Assistant Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency
Bradley Repass, Litigation Specialist, Professional Licensing Agency
Adam Harvey, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

The video recording can be found on:

<https://www.youtube.com/@INProfessionalLicensingAgency>

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 27, 2025 are under review.

IV. ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

A. Public Rules Hearing for LSA #24-591 Held February 14, 2025

Parties Present:

Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW,

Kelley Gardner, LMFT

Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC

C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC

Stephan Viehweg, LCSW

Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member

A public hearing was held on February 14, 2025 pursuant to Indiana Code 4-22-2. The hearing was convened in Room W064 of the Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana at 10:00 a.m. local time. This meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

Notice of the hearing was published in the Indiana Register on January 8, 2025, as well as the full text of the proposed rule.

The purpose of this hearing was to hear public comment regarding LSA Document 24-591 concerning fees, fines, and civil penalties that may be imposed by Indiana Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board.

There were no comments from the public.

The video recording for LSA #24-591 Public Hearing held February 14, 2025

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/WZUfUdz0S4U>

Board Action: After review, a motion was made by Dr. Cooper-Bolinskey and seconded by Mr. Viehweg to adopt the proposed rule.

Motion carried 7/0/0

The video recording for LSA#24-591 for February 24, 2025 YouTube Link:

Part 1: https://youtu.be/nHHCl_hqbD0

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/F2qsP9ernRE>

V. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

A. Tiffany Capps (LSW)

Cause No. 202412-BHS-0073

Re: Appeal of Denial of Licensure

Parties Present:

Respondent was not present
Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW,
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW
Kelley Gardner, LMFT
Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Stephan Viehweg, LCSW
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member
Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about December 20, 2024 the Board approved Ms. Capps to test and issue her temporary permit on probation. On or about January 5, 2025 the Board received notice from Ms. Capps to appeal their decision. Ms. Capps was not present to provide evidence for her request, and the Board has not received any communication from Ms. Capps since her request to appeal. It has been determined that Ms. Capps was provided adequate notice in this matter.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to issue a Notice of Proposed Dismissal in the matter of Ms. Capps appeal.

Viehweg/Richardson
Motion carried 7-0-0

B. Tracey Fisher

Cause No. 202412-BHS-0071
Re: Motion for Order to Cease and Desist

Parties Present:

Respondent was present
Carah Rochester, Deputy Attorney General
Gus Petrungaro, Deputy Attorney General Intern
Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW,
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW
Kelley Gardner, LMFT
Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC

C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Stephan Viehweg, LCSW
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member
Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member

State Witness:

Jack Guanajuato, Investigator for the Office of Attorney General

Case Summary: On or about March 19, 2024 a Consumer Complaint was filed against Ms. Fisher with allegations of unlicensed practice and using the title of mental health counselor without holding the license. Ms. Fisher indicated that she was unaware she was doing anything against the law, and the State indicated that she has been presenting herself as a mental health counselor since 2021. The State submitted Exhibit 1-2 for the Board to review which is a copy of the consumer complaint, and her letter in response. Ms. Fisher indicated that she graduated with her MSW in 2008 and has not obtained her clinical license as she has not passed the clinical exam. She stated that she is currently supervised by a HSPP psychologist seeing Medicaid clients but has not pursued the examination due to personal struggles. The State inquired about whether her personal struggles impacted seeing her clients, and ability to work. She stated that she did take time off, but it did not impact on her ability to work.

The State called their witness Jack Guanajuato. He provided an overview of his investigation including the subpoena of her employment records. The State submitted Exhibit 3-5 were copies of her employer website and records which show her listed as a mental health counselor.

Ms. Fisher alleges that the complaint was filed from someone who had malicious intent against her.

The State concluded that Ms. Fisher's statement does not have bearing to the facts of her practicing and using the title of mental health counselor without a license.

Board Action: After hearing testimony and consideration of the exhibits submitted, a motion was made and seconded to issue a Cease and Desist in the matter of Ms. Fisher.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 7-0-0

C. Anthony Grady

Cause No. 202409-BHS-0067

Re: Motion for Order to Cease and Desist

The hearing in the matter of Mr. Grady was continued.

D. Amy J. Bowmer, LACA, License No. 86900039A

Cause No. 202411-BHS-0069

Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent was present

Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW,

Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW

Kelley Gardner, LMFT

Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC

C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC

Stephan Viehweg, LCSW

Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member

Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about November 12, 2024 Ms. Bowmer's LACA license was placed on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite Probation for no less than 3 months from the date of September 25, 2023.
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her employment and their contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her title, work schedule, and number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of CEU in ethics and/or licensure
- Final Order signed by employer, and submitted signed Order to the Board
- Comply with all statutes and rules of the profession.

Ms. Bowmer stated that she has met all terms of her probation and discussed with the Board what she learned from her continuing education she attended.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Bowmer's petition for withdrawal of probation.

Richardson/Cooper-Bolinskey

Motion carried 7-0-0

E. Hannah Kenady, LMHCA, License No. 88002470A

Cause No. 202407-BHS-0031

Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent was present

Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW,

Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW
Kelley Gardner, LMFT
Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Stephan Viehweg, LCSW
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member
Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about July 8, 2024 Ms. Kenady's LMHCA license was placed on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite Probation for no less than 3 months from the date of February 22, 2024.
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her employment and their contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her title, work schedule, and number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of CEU in ethics and/or licensure
- Final Order signed by employer, and submitted signed Order to the Board
- Take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence exam.
- Quarterly reports submitted to the Board from her supervisor regarding her employment performance.
- Comply with all statutes and rules of the profession.

Ms. Kenady stated that she has met all terms of her probationary order.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Kenady's petition for withdrawal from probation.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

F. Joseph Poynter, LMHCA, Temporary Permit No. 99126559A

Cause No. 202408-BHS-0038
Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent was present
Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW,
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW
Kelley Gardner, LMFT
Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC

Stephan Viehweg, LCSW
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member
Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about August 8, 2024 the Board issued Mr. Poynter's LMHCA license on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than 6 months from February 22, 2024
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her employment and their contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her title, work schedule, and number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of CEU in ethics and/or licensure
- Final Order signed by employer, and submitted signed Order to the Board
- Take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence exam.
- Appear once before the Board prior to requesting coming off probation.
- Comply with all statute and rules of the profession

Mr. Poynter stated that he has met all terms of his probation order, and that the licensure path has been a difficult process for him.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Mr. Poynter's petition for withdrawal of probation.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

Mr. Poynter asked the Board for clarification on who can supervise him. The Board discussed who can supervise him.

G. Marcelene Robinson, LCACA, Temporary Permit No. 99127177A
Cause No. 202409-BHS-0062
Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent was present
Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW,
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW
Kelley Gardner, LMFT
Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Stephan Viehweg, LCSW
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member

Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about September 6, 2024 the Board issued Ms. Robinson's LCACA license on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than 3 months from June 17, 2024.
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her employment and their contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her title, work schedule, and number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of CEU in ethics and/or licensure
- Final Order signed by employer, and submitted signed Order to the Board
- Take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence exam.
- Comply with all statute and rules of the profession

Ms. Robinson stated that she has met all her terms of probation and requested the Board to withdraw her probation status as it has caused trouble with her employment. The Board noted that they do not see the signed Board order submitted. Ms. Robinson stated that she was unaware that was required as she focused on passing her exams.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Robinson's petition for withdraw of probation pending receipt of the signed order by March 10, 2025. If the signed is not received within the required timeframe, her petition for withdraw of probation is denied.

Cooper-Bolinsky/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

H. Keith Wygle, LCSW, License No. 34005872A

Cause No. 2021 BHSB 0032

Re: Petition for Reinstatement of Licensure

A Motion to Vacate Hearing on Reinstatement was filed by Mr. Wyle's attorney, Eric Massey, on February 21, 2025. The hearing was vacated.

VI. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

A. Application

1. Janis Ashburn (LMHC)

Ms. Ashburn appeared as requested via zoom to provide clarification on the documentation of her post-degree experience and supervision. She stated that she understood she could not count hours until the issuance of her LMHCA and tried to correct the forms. She stated that her manager submitted corrected forms. The Board staff noted that they have not received the forms as of this date. However, the forms submitted by her manager were not dated when she signed the forms, so they could not be accepted.

She stated that she can submit corrected forms. The Board cautioned her about not submitting forms that were corrected with whiteout on them.

Board Action: The Board tabled Ms. Ashburn's application at this time.

2. Ericka Coates (LMHCA)

Ms. Coates appeared as requested via zoom to provide clarification of her work history. The Board noted that her education can be approved with noted adjustments, and her response regarding her background has been previously approved on a different license application. The Board requested clarification of her work history as she indicated that she has been working as a therapist since August 2024. She stated that she no longer works at Community Fairbanks Behavioral Health but is now working as a home-based therapist doing contract work for DCS in case management. The Board discussed the unlicensed practice and that she cannot call herself a therapist until she holds a license.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Coates' mental health counselor associate's application to test, and upon passing the examination to issue her license on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than 6 months
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her employment and their contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her title, work schedule, and number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of CEU in ethics and/or licensure
- Final Order signed by employer, and submitted signed Order to the Board
- Take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence exam.
- Comply with all statute and rules of the profession

Richardson/Justice

Motion carried 7-0-0

3. Kelsea Cox (LSW)

Ms. Cox appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She indicated that her criminal probation will be complete as of February 25, 2025. She discussed the matter of her forgery of documentation she submitted for her nursing education program. She discussed her fear and anxiety and acknowledged that she reacted poorly. She discussed the steps she is taking to address matters and prevent a repeat of that situation.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Cox's application for the ASWB Master examination pending receipt of documentation which shows that her criminal probation is complete.

Viehweg/Richardson
Motion carried 7-0-0

4. Carolina DeSilva (LMFTA)

Ms. DeSilva appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. Ms. DeSilva discussed with the Board her DUI in 2020 and that she completed three months of outpatient rehab. She discussed the steps she has taken to prevent a repeat of this incident.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. DeSilva's marriage and family therapy associate application to test.

Gardner/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

5. Pamela Flick (LMHC)

Ms. Flick appeared per her request via zoom to discuss her post-degree experience and supervision hours. She requested to appear as she did not agree with the review of her application. She provided forms which state she is no longer able to locate her employer and supervisor for the Board's consideration and stated that she felt she has met all requirements for licensure. She has been working steadily since graduation. The Board staff noted that she does not have all her hours verified by her employer or supervisor. She stated that she provided the Board the contact information if they wished to reach out to verify her hours. The Board staff noted that it is not the responsibility of the Board to verify her time, but hers as the practitioner. The Board provided different ways that she would be able to verify her time and that completing the "unable to locate" forms is not a guarantee the hours will be accepted.

Board Action: Ms. Flick's application was tabled.

6. Alexander King (LSW)

Ms. King appeared as requested via zoom to discuss why she did not disclose her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that the incident was dismissed, and she misread the questions on the application as she thought the Board was looking for convictions. She stated that she currently works as a parole officer and discussed the steps she has taken in order to prevent a repeated occurrence.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. King's social work application for the ASWB Master examination.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey

Motion carried 7-0-0

7. Cashina Leary (LSW)

Ms. Leary appeared as requested via zoom to discuss why she did not disclose her complete background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she was applying for licensure in multiple states and got confused with the different questions. The Board discussed with her regarding being sure to read all documentation clearly.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Leary's social work application for the ASWB Master examination.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 7-0-0

8. Evan Linehan (LMHC)

Mr. Linehan appeared as requested via zoom to discuss his post-degree experience and supervision documentation. The Board reviewed each of his forms and noted which employment and supervision can be counted. His documentation currently shows 25 months of experience with 3000 hours and 168 supervision hours.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Linehan's mental health counselor application for the NBCC NCMHCE examination.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

9. Jamarra Massey (LMFTA)

Ms. Massey appeared as requested via zoom to provide clarification on her work history. She indicated on her application she obtained her Master's in Psychology in May 2021, and has been working as a therapist since May 2024. Ms. Massey clarified that she has been working as a counseling intern since 2021, and that she completed a second master's degree in December 2024. She is currently a contractor working in the school system doing peer mentoring and skills. The Board noted that her application did not disclose the 2024 Master's degree and they will need her official transcripts showing completion of that graduate degree.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Massey's marriage and family therapy associate application for the AMFRTRB examination pending receipt of her transcripts with master's degree conferred.

Gardner/Richardson
Motion carried 7-0-0

10. Tavis Schlundt (LCSW)

Ms. Schlundt appeared as requested to provide clarification on his post-degree experience and supervision. His documentation indicated that he has been working in a self-employment capacity while under supervision. He provided letters from his employer and supervisor that outline how employment oversight occurred. He stated that in 2020 he was a W2 employee, and then the employer switched him to a 1099 employee. He stated that nothing in the day-to-day processes and supervision changed. The Board noted that being a 1099 employee is considered independent practice, which he cannot do as an LSW. The Board inquired that if a client came to complain, who would be responsible for addressing that complaint. Mr. Schlundt stated that the office manager receives the complaint, and then the leadership team reviews the complaint. He stated that he is not part of that process. Mr. Schlundt stated that he is transparent with his clients, that he is receiving supervision, and he is working like a W2 employee. The Board inquired if his supervisor is a W2 employee, and he indicated that they are. He stated that he is reimbursed monthly from the office as he is a sole proprietor. He stated that he was also receiving outside supervision to ensure he met state requirements. The Board noted that it sounds like he is managing his own practice, contracted through the agency, despite being under supervision. The Board stated that they are unable to accept any hours for his clinical license which were accrued under his 1099 hours for his clinical license.

Mr. Schlundt stated that he will withdraw his application at this time.

11. Lisa Steward (LAC)

Ms. Steward appeared as requested via zoom to provide clarification on her post-degree experience and supervision. She indicated on her application that she graduated from her bachelor's program in May 2015, and her Master's program in May 2018. She does not currently hold a license issued by this Board and submitted documentation of post-degree training from March 2015 to May 2023. She stated that she worked as a substance use assessment counselor until 2023 when she left the profession. She indicated that her duties were mostly processing documentation for drug court, and did not involve counseling or therapy. She discussed her supervision and work with the Board. They noted that they cannot accept her post-degree experience and supervision forms as she did not hold a license to accrue the hours. The Board noted that she could qualify for the LACA license. Ms. Steward requested to switch her application.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to switch Ms. Steward's application to the LACA and approve her to test for the Level- II examination. Also, her temporary permit/associate license would be issued on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than 6 months.
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her employment and their contact information

- Keep the Board up to date with her title, work schedule, and number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of continuing education in the area of ethics and/or licensure.
- Probationary Order signed by employer and submitted to the Board.
- Take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence examination.
- Comply with all statutes and rules of the profession.

Cooper-Bolinsky/Justice

Motion carried 7-0-0

12. Rachel Taylor (LSW)

Ms. Taylor appeared as requested via zoom to discuss her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed the DUI that occurred after she celebrated graduating from her master's program and submitting her license application. She indicated she is on informal criminal probation and is required to complete drug and alcohol classes. She stated that this incident was outside of her current character.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Taylor's social work application to sit for her ASWB Master examination and issue her temporary permit/license on Probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for the duration of the criminal probation.
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information.
- Keep the Board up to date with her employment and their contact information.
- Comply with all statutes and rules of the profession.

Viehweg/Richardson

Motion carried 7-0-0

13. Jonathan Thomas (LSW)

Mr. Thomas appeared as requested to discuss his yes response regarding his background. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He stated that he was discharged from parole in 2018 and discussed his recovery program. He stated that his arrests resulted in his being involved in a toxic romantic relationship that he since has left. He described the programs he completed including AA and men's support groups. He stated that he has been sober for 6 years and is currently active in his church. He stated that he completed his parole in 2018 and that he no longer is in a toxic relationship, as most of his charges occurred during the time of the relationship. He discussed the training and steps he has taken to prevent further incidents including attending AA, personal therapy, participating in other support groups, and is active in his church.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Thomas' positive response.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 7-0-0

14. Dania Watson, (LCSW)

Ms. Watson appeared as requested via zoom to discuss her next examination attempt. She stated that she has primarily been in teaching, and last attempted the clinical examination a few years back. She stated that she struggles with testing and has requested accommodations in the past, and that her most recent employment has allowed her to stay up to date with the changes in the profession. The Board discussed other resources she can reach out to, to help her prepare for the examination.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Watson's clinical social work application to sit for the ASWB Clinical examination.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 7-0-0

15. Stephanie Yuftczak (LSW)

Ms. Yuftczak appeared as requested via zoom to discuss her yes response regarding her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that her arrests occurred while she was involved in a toxic relationship and after her last DUI, she ended the relationship. She discussed what methods she was using in order to address the issues and that her supervisor is aware of her current situation.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Yuftczak's social work application for the ASWB Master examination.

Viehweg/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

B. Reinstatement

1. Alan Christenberry, LMHC, License No. 39001088A

Mr. Christenberry did not appear as requested. His license expired in 2006 and there is no national examination on file.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Christenberry's reinstatement application pending passing the Indiana jurisprudence examination and taking and passing the NBCC NCMHCE examination within the next six months.

Richardson/Justice
6-1-0 Ferguson nay

The board discussed their vote regarding the reinstatement as Mr. Christenberry has failed to appear multiple times or communicate with staff regarding his appearance or the status of his reinstatement.

A motion was made and seconded to vacate the previous vote in the matter of Mr. Christenberry.

Richardson/Cooper-Bolinsky
7-0-0

A motion was made and seconded to deny Mr. Christenberry's request to reinstate his mental health counselor license.

Richardson/Justice
7-0-0

2. Shana Richmond, LSW, License No. 33006698A

Ms. Richmond did not appear as requested. Her license expired in 2016. She submitted several continuing education certificates, and the Board noted that only 18 hours of her continuing education can be accepted. The Board requested that Ms. Richmond be rescheduled and notified of the additional continuing education that is required.

3. Mechele Sellers-Edmonds, LCSW, License No. 34001926A

Ms. Sellers-Edmonds did not appear as requested. The Board reviewed the continuing education submitted and approved the hours provided. The Board requested that Ms. Sellers-Edmonds be rescheduled to appear.

VII. DISCUSSION

There were no items for discussion.

VIII. APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

1. Shavon Maliro (LSW)

Ms. Maliro's application was submitted for review. She attended Purdue Global University and graduated with a Master of Science in Human Services on December 23, 2022. This is not an accredited social work program by the Counsel on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny Ms. Maliro's social work application based upon the fact that she did not graduate from an approved social work program.

Viehweg/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

IX. FORMAL ADOPTION OF APPLICATION REVIEWS

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the application reviews.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to accept the application reviews.

Cooper-Bolinsky/Richardson
Motion carried 7-0-0

X. CONTINUING EDUCATION SPONSOR APPLICATION REVIEW

1. Stillwater Hospice

Stillwater Hospice submitted continuing education sponsor application for review and approval in order to provide continuing education to licensees of the Board. The application was in order and presented all documents required.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Stillwater Hospice as a continuing education sponsor.

Gardner/Richardson
Motion carried 7-0-0

XI. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ryan Eldridge reported to the Board that they have opened 5 new complaints within the past 30 days, currently have 140 open complaints, and have closed 52 complaints since the beginning of the year. Primarily the complaints against respondents were from Marion County followed by Allen County. The complaints were filed from complainants in Marion County followed by outside the State/Country. The content of the complaints are unlicensed practice, unprofessional conduct, and professional malpractice. The average age of open complaints is 6.8 months and primarily against mental health counselors and clinical social workers.

There were 2 litigation cases closed in the past 30 days with 13 open litigation cases. The average duration of litigation cases is 4.4 months. Litigation has occurred mostly outside of the State/County. The current litigation charges are for lewd/immoral conduct and unlicensed practice. Primarily against Clinical Social Workers.

Mr. Eldridge stated that Amy Osborne has taken a position at IPLA as their Deputy Director, replacing Evan Bartel.

XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Board members discussed license exemption requirements, specifically the Medicaid rule which states that if a clinician is being supervised by an HSPP they are exempt from

licensure. The Board members stated that they would like to review this rule and have further discussions on this topic.

XIII. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT

Cindy Vaught, Board Director IPLA, presented the Administrator Report.

She stated that in 2024 IPLA received 5,769 applications, issued 3,954 licenses, abandoned 1,267 applications, and denied 943 applications for failing the exam.

For January 2025 the Board received a total of 513 applications, issued 300 licenses, denied 77 applications for failing the exam, and abandoned 78 applications.

She stated that there are currently 3,002 pending applications. Of that number there are 1,502 applications pending because they have been approved to test and IPLA is waiting for examination scores to be reported back.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and having completed its duties, the meeting of the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board adjourned at 3:16 p.m. by general consensus.