

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING BOARD

Minutes

February 26, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Professional Licensing Agency Conference Room W64, Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, and declared a quorum in accordance with Indiana Code § 25-14-1-12(a).

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Not Present:

Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW
Kimble Richardson, MS, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC, MHC Section Chair
Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member (left at 12:17 p.m.)

State Officials Present:

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

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Harner/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes are currently under review.

IV. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

A. Probation

1. **Raven Money, LSW, Permit No. 99120744A**
Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0045

Ms. Money appeared as requested to discuss her ongoing probation. She discussed her new employment at OmniVisions and her supervision under Erica Short. She informed the Board that her criminal matters will be resolved in October, and she did not pass the ASWB Masters

examination. She discussed with the Board on how she is preparing and studying to retake the examination.

2. **Aimee Norton, LSW, License No. 33011824A**
Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0042

Ms. Norton appeared as requested to discuss her ongoing probation. She stated that she has hired an attorney for her pending criminal charges, and a hearing is set for next week. The Board reviewed her fitness for duty report and noted that the report does not reflect any recommendations, and it appears to be an intake evaluation. The Board discussed with her what the report needed to reflect and requested further information. Ms. Norton stated that she is ready to return to work.

B. Renewal

1. **Lisa Cook, LSW, License No. 33007250A**

Ms. Cook appeared as requested to discuss her yes response to an arrest that occurred since she last renewed. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed the DUI conviction which occurred in February of 2022 and the steps she has taken to prevent a repeat incident. All court requirements have been resolved.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Cook's social work license renewal.

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 7-0-0

2. **Katelyn Kapelinski, LMHC, License No. 39003705A**

Ms. Kapelinski appeared as requested to discuss her yes response to an arrest that occurred since she last renewed. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed the impact of her OWI that occurred in May of 2023 and the steps she has taken to prevent a repeat incident. Ms. Kapelinski provided a letter of support from her supervisor.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Kapelinski's mental health counselor license renewal.

Justice/Harner
Motion carried 7-0-0

C. Reinstatement

1. **Melissa Baker, LCSW, License No. 34006547A**

Did not appear. Ms. Baker's Indiana license expired in 2016. The Board reviewed her statement and submitted continuing education hours and determined an appearance is not required.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Baker's application for reinstatement of her clinical social work license.

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 7-0-0

2. **Monica Berry, LAC, License No. 86000378A**

Ms. Berry appeared as requested to discuss the reinstatement of her license that expired in 2018. She provided a statement and continuing education hours for the Board to review. The Board discussed her continuing education and noted that some of her continuing education hours were not provided by approved providers. Ms. Berry stated that they were the ones she had to complete for her employment. She discussed her employment with the Board that started in 2023.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Berry's application for reinstatement of her addiction counselor license.

Justice/Viehweg
Motion carried 7-0-0

3. **Kimberly Hinton, LSW, License No. 33001724A**

Ms. Hinton did not appear as requested. She will be rescheduled.

4. **Ruth Kozienski, LCSW, License No. 34002572A**

Ms. Kozienski did not appear as requested. She will be rescheduled.

D. Application

1. **Vernon Billups (LMFT)**

Mr. Billups appeared per his request to discuss his eligibility for the marriage and family therapy license. Mr. Billups is asking the Board to approve the clinical and supervision hours that he completed from June of 2021 to February of 2023 due to a delay of being approved for the examination. Mr. Billups was issued his marriage and family therapy license on July 19, 2023 after passing the examination. The Board noted that they are not able to waive statute and rule requirements for licensure. Mr. Billups discussed the difficulties with obtaining his hours and what can count. The Board noted that he will not be eligible for the LMFT until 2025.

2. **Chandra Carter-Mendoza (LSW)**

Ms. Carter-Mendoza appeared as requested to discuss why she did not disclose her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed her 2006 reckless driving charge with the Board. Ms. Carter-Mendoza was confused on whether the incident was a misdemeanor or a citation.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Carter-Mendoza's application for social work licensure to sit for the ASWB Master exam.

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 7-0-0

3. Allyson Cora (LMHCA)

Ms. Cora did not appear as requested.

4. Jennifer Davis (LMHCA)

Ms. Davis appeared with counsel, Angela Rhinehart, as requested to provide clarification on her work history. The Board noted that her coursework was approved. She indicated on her application that she was working as a Behavioral Health Technician. She discussed with the Board her job duties and supervision.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Davis' application for a mental health counselor associate and to sit for the NCE examination.

Justice/Harner
Motion carried 7-0-0

5. Nicole DeYoung (LMHCA)

Ms. DeYoung appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding her background, and to provide clarification on her work history. The Board noted that her coursework was approved. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. Ms. DeYoung discussed the 2005 charge of underage drinking and all matters with the court had been resolved.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. DeYoung's application for mental health counselor associate and to test for the NCE examination.

Justice/Viehweg
Motion carried 7-0-0

6. Alexandria Dunn (LCAC)

Ms. Dunn appeared as requested to provide clarification on her supervision and experience hours. The Board had reviewed her application and noted that she was counting supervision time from 2018-2019, and she did not hold a license to practice during that time. Ms. Dunn provided a summary of her job duties and timeline of obtaining her social work license. Ms. Dunn indicated that she earned her clinical social work license in 2022. The Board noted that they can count any hours she earned from 2019-2022 as she did hold a license to practice during that timeframe. Ms. Dunn explained that during that time period, she would not have had enough supervision hours to meet the clinical addiction license requirements, as she only was completing enough hours to meet the clinical social work license requirements. The Board advised her to provide updated forms of only what she completed, and it will be reviewed. The Board staff noted that her application was at the 1-year mark, and she will need to submit her corrected forms in at least 30 days or she will have to reapply.

7. Hannah Kenady (LMHCA)

Ms. Kenady appeared as requested to provide clarification on her work history. She indicated that she has been working as a school-based therapist since 2022 but did not hold a school counselor license. She discussed with the Board her job duties and supervision. Ms. Kenady

indicated that there were other Master Level therapists working in the same capacity as her that did not have a license. The Board discussed unlicensed practice with Ms. Kenady.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Kenady's application for licensure and place it on probation with the following terms:

- The Applicant's license shall be on **INDEFINITE PROBATION**. The Applicant may not petition for withdraw of the probation for at least three (3) months from the date of February 22, 2024.
- The Applicant's practice shall be governed by the following **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**:
- The Applicant must keep the Board apprised of the following information in writing and update it as necessary:
 - The Applicant's current home address, mailing address, e-mail address and residential telephone number.
 - The Applicant's place of employment, employment telephone number, employment e-mail address and name of supervisor.
 - The Applicant's title and work schedule, including the number of hours worked per week.
- The Applicant shall take at least ten (10) Continuing Education Units ("CEUs") in ethics or licensure and submit documentation of those CEUs to the Board.
- The Applicant shall provide copies of this Order signed by any employers within ten (10) days of the issuance of the Order. If Applicant starts or secures different employment, Applicant shall provide a copy of the Board Order signed by the new employer within ten (10) days of starting employment.
- The Applicant shall take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence examination.
- The Applicant shall cause her employment supervisor to submit Quarterly supervision reports to the Board regarding Applicant's employment performance. If Applicant is not employed, Applicant shall submit a written self-report.
- The Applicant shall comply with all statutes and rules regulating the practice of behavioral health and report any future arrests, work discipline, or terminations to the Board immediately in writing.
- The failure of the Applicant to comply with the terms of this probation may subject Applicant to a show cause hearing and the possible imposition of further sanctions.

Justice/Harner
Motion carried 7-0-0

8. Shannon King (LCSW)

Ms. King appeared as requested to discuss her application. The Board noted that they do not understand her employment and supervision timeframes, locations, and hours that she completed based upon her forms. Ms. King explained that she worked at various locations with Methodist Hospitals from 2009- 2021, and then with the Franciscan Alliance from 2021 to the present. She stated that she was under the supervision of Beth Flesher and Veronica Clement. She stated that her supervisors were Registered Nurses, and that she did contract a Clinical Social Worker to also supervise her. Ms. King provided the Board with information about her difficulties in getting the signatures from her supervisor and employers. She provided the Board with updated forms.

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

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 7-0-0

9. Thomas Kurtz (LCSW)

Mr. Kurtz appeared as requested to discuss his yes response regarding his background. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He discussed his 2009 arrest and conviction of manufacturing methamphetamine. Mr. Kurtz's sobriety date is December 28, 2009. Since living in Kentucky he has been expanding his business along the Tennessee and Indiana border.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Kurtz's clinical social work application by reciprocity.

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 6-0-0 (Gardner not present)

10. Alyssa Maples (LMFT)

Ms. Maples did not appear as requested. The Board staff noted that there has been some confusion with her application, and she may qualify for reciprocity. Staff will follow up with Ms. Maples.

11. Lakendra Martin (LSW)

Ms. Martin did not appear as requested. She will be rescheduled.

12. Michael McCafferty (LACA)

Mr. McCafferty did not appear as requested. He will be rescheduled.

13. Jennifer Millar (LMFT)

Ms. Millar did not appear as requested. She currently has an expired marriage and family therapy associates license but holds a current marriage and family therapy license in the state of Florida. The Board had questions regarding her employment and supervision and why she did not apply by reciprocity since she holds an active license. The Board requested that Ms. Millar be rescheduled to appear.

14. Shenise Nash (LCAC)

Ms. Nash appeared as requested to discuss why she did not disclose her background, and to provide clarification on her work history. She provided a statement and supporting documents for the Board to review. The Board discussed with Ms. Nash her employment and supervision from 2019 to the present. The Board stated they cannot accept her post-degree hours as she did not hold a license.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to switch her application to the clinical addiction counselor associate and approve her to test. Upon passing the examination her license shall be placed on probation with the following terms:

- The Applicant’s license shall be on **INDEFINITE PROBATION**. The Applicant may not petition for withdraw of the probation for at least six (6) months from the date of February 26, 2024.
- The Applicant must keep the Board apprised of the following information in writing and update it as necessary:
 - The Applicant’s current home address, mailing address, e-mail address and residential telephone number.
 - The Applicant’s place of employment, employment telephone number, employment e-mail address and name of supervisor.
 - The Applicant’s title and work schedule, including the number of hours worked per week.
- The Applicant shall take at least ten (10) Continuing Education Units (“CEUs”) in ethics or licensure and submit documentation of those CEUs to the Board.
- The Applicant shall provide copies of this Order signed by any employers within ten (10) days of the issuance of the Order. If Applicant starts or secures different employment, Applicant shall provide a copy of the Board Order signed by the new employer within ten (10) days of starting employment.
- The Applicant shall cause Applicant’s employment supervisor to submit QUARTERLY written employer reports to the Board regarding Applicant’s performance.
- The Applicant shall have ONE personal appearance before the Board.
- The Applicant shall take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence examination.
- The Applicant shall comply with all statutes and rules regulating behavioral health and report any future arrests, work discipline, or terminations to the Board immediately in writing.
- The failure of the Applicant to comply with the terms of his probation may subject Applicant to a show cause hearing and the possible imposition of further sanctions.

Justice/Ferguson
Motion carried 6-0-1 (Gardner not present.)

15. Joseph Poynter (LMHCA)

Mr. Poynter appeared as requested to provide clarification on his work history. Mr. Poynter indicated on his application that he has been working as a counselor since he graduated in May 2021. Mr. Poynter discussed his job duties and supervision, and why he delayed in obtaining his license.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Poynter’s mental health counselor associate application and to sit for his NCE examination. Upon passing the examination, his license shall be placed on probation with the following terms:

- The Applicant’s license shall be on **INDEFINITE PROBATION**. The Applicant may not petition for withdraw of the probation for at least six (6) months from the date of February 22, 2024.

- The Applicant’s practice shall be governed by the following TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
- The Applicant must keep the Board apprised of the following information in writing and update it as necessary:
- The Applicant’s current home address, mailing address, e-mail address and residential telephone number.
- The Applicant’s place of employment, employment telephone number, employment e-mail address and name of supervisor.
- The Applicant’s title and work schedule, including the number of hours worked per week.
- The Applicant shall take at least ten (10) Continuing Education Units (“CEUs”) in ethics or licensure and submit documentation of those CEUs to the Board.
- The Applicant shall provide copies of this Order signed by any employers within ten (10) days of the issuance of the Order. If Applicant starts or secures different employment, Applicant shall provide a copy of the Board Order signed by the new employer within ten (10) days of starting employment.
- The Applicant shall take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence examination.
- The Applicant shall cause his employment supervisor to submit Quarterly supervision reports to the Board regarding Applicant’s employment performance. If Applicant is not employed, Applicant shall submit a written self-report.
- The Applicant shall personally appear before the Board for at least ONE appearance prior to withdraw of probation.
- The Applicant shall comply with all statutes and rules regulating the practice of behavioral health and report any future arrests, work discipline, or terminations to the Board immediately in writing.
- The failure of the Applicant to comply with the terms of this probation may subject Applicant to a show cause hearing and the possible imposition of further sanctions.

Justice/Harner
 Motion carried 7-0-0

16. Thomas Reaves (LMHC)

Mr. Reaves appeared as requested to discuss his request to sit for the NCMHCE examination for the fourth (4th) time. He provided a study plan for the Board to review. The Board discussed study materials and testing accommodation with Mr. Reaves.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Reaves’ mental health counselor application to sit for the NCMHCE examination for the fourth time.

Justice/Harner
 Motion carried 6-0-1 (Viehweg not present.)

17. Keely Stevens (LMFTA)

Ms. Stevens appeared as requested with her supervisor to provide clarification on her work history. Ms. Stevens disclosed on her application that she has been working as a counselor since December 2020. Ms. Stevens stated that her understanding was that she could not apply for the license until she had completed her two years of supervised experience, and her supervisor stated

that her work fell under the religious exemption statute. The Board stated that the religious exemption statute IC 25-23.6-3-2 is specific for those that are clergy or ministers. Ms. Stevens' supervisor indicated that she would reach out to other supervisors regarding the clarification of that statute. The Board discussed unlicensed practice with Ms. Stevens and her supervisor.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Stevens' marriage and family therapy associate's application to sit for the AMFTRB examination. Upon passing her license shall be issued probation with the following terms:

- The Applicant's license shall be on **INDEFINITE PROBATION**. The Applicant may not petition for withdraw of the probation for at least six (6) months from the effective date of this Order.
- The Applicant's practice shall be governed by the following **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**:
- The Applicant must keep the Board apprised of the following information in writing and update it as necessary:
- The Applicant's current home address, mailing address, e-mail address and residential telephone number.
- The Applicant's place of employment, employment telephone number, employment e-mail address and name of supervisor.
- The Applicant's title and work schedule, including the number of hours worked per week.
- The Applicant shall take at least ten (10) Continuing Education Units ("CEUs") in ethics or licensure and submit documentation of those CEUs to the Board.
- The Applicant shall provide copies of this Order signed by any employers within ten (10) days of the issuance of the Order. If Applicant starts or secures different employment, Applicant shall provide a copy of the Board Order signed by the new employer within ten (10) days of starting employment.
- The Applicant shall cause her employment supervisor to submit **QUARTERLY** supervision reports to the Board regarding Applicant's employment performance.
- The Applicant shall take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence examination.
- Prior to withdrawing probation, the Applicant shall have **ONE** personal appearance
- before the Board to discuss progress with the CEUs and compliance with this Order.
- The Applicant shall comply with all statutes and rules regulating the practice of behavioral health and report any future arrests, work discipline, or terminations to the Board immediately in writing.
- The failure of the Applicant to comply with the terms of his probation may subject Applicant to a show cause hearing and the possible imposition of further sanctions.

Gardner/Ferguson
Motion carried 6-0-1 (Viehweg not present.)

18. Kelly Tapp (LSW)

Ms. Tapp appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed her 2014 DUI and her current work and supervision. All matters with the court have been resolved.

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

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 6-0-0

19. Ellen Buddeke (LCSW)

Ms. Buddeke appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding discipline in another State. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed with the Board her current work and the steps she is taking to prevent the incident from reoccurring.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Buddeke's clinical social work application by reciprocity

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 6-0-0

20. Ryan Dobbs (LMHC)

Mr. Dobbs appeared as requested via phone to provide clarification on his post-degree experience and supervision. Mr. Dobbs currently works at Tidal Health and is licensed in the state of Maryland. He stated that he worked at Tidal Health in Maryland from October 2022 to 2023, and he was supervised by an LPCC. He stated that he is currently at a new employer being supervised. The Board noted that they will need corrected employment and supervision forms from Tidal Health as his supervisor did not list their credentials, and an E2 and S2 from his current employer and supervisor.

V. NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEFAULT

There were no Notices of Proposed Default.

VI. PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

There were no Settlement Agreements.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

A. Michael Hagedorn, LCAC, LMHC, License No. 87001568A, 39003253A
Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0005
Re: Summary Suspension Extension

Parties Present:

Respondent was not present
Ryan Eldridge, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky, LCAC, LCSW, (Hearing Officer)
Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Vice Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, MFT Section Chair
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Andrew Harner, MSW, LCSW, SW Section Chair, Board Designee
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW

Case Summary: On or about February 16, 2024 a request to extend the Suspension of Mr. Hagedorn's license was filed as he is still determined to be a clear and present danger to the public due to his arrest that occurred on January 18, 2023. Mr. Hagedorn is currently incarcerated in the Vanderburgh County jail, and the State has attempted to reach out to Mr. Hagedorn by phone and by certified mail. The State has not received a response from Mr. Hagedorn.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to extend Mr. Hagedorn's suspension for an additional 90 days.

Harner/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

B. Cara Juarez, LBSW, License No. 33900293A

Cause No. 2022 BHSB 0023
Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

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

Participating Board Members:

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky, LCAC, LCSW, (Hearing Officer)
Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Vice Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, MFT Section Chair
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Andrew Harner, MSW, LCSW, SW Section Chair, Board Designee
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW

Case Summary: On or about August 26, 2022 Ms. Juarez's license was renewed on probation with the following terms:

- Ms. Juarez shall be placed on Indefinite Probation and may not request withdrawal of her probation until the successful completion and resolution of her criminal charges, and criminal probation.
- Ms. Juarez shall complete and provide documentation of completion of at least ten (10) continuing education units ("CEUs") in Domestic Violence and Professional Boundaries.
- Ms. Juarez shall keep the board apprised of the following information and update it as is necessary:
 - Ms. Juarez's current home address, mailing address, and residential telephone number; and
 - Ms. Juarez's place of employment, employment telephone number, and name of supervisor.

- Ms. Juarez shall appear quarterly before the Board to discuss Licensee's progress with employment practice and compliance with these probationary terms.
- Ms. Juarez shall comply with all statutes and rules regulating the practice of bachelor social work and report any future arrests, instances of substance abuse, work discipline or terminations to the Board immediately in writing.
- Failure to comply with the terms of this order of probation may subject Ms. Juarez to an Order to Show Cause before the Board and imposition of additional terms and conditions.

Ms. Juarez stated that she has met all the terms of her probation, and not had any further legal issues. She discussed what she learned from her CEUs and the experience of being on probation.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Juarez's petition to withdraw the probation status.

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 6-0-0

C. Dennis-James Dutcher, LMHCA, License No. 88001988A

Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0015

Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent was present

Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky, LCAC, LCSW, (Hearing Officer)

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Vice Chair

Kelley Gardner, LMFT, MFT Section Chair

C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC

Andrew Harner, MSW, LCSW, SW Section Chair, Board Designee

Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW

Case Summary: On or about April 6, 2023 Mr. Dutcher's application was approved on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than six (6) months
- Keep the Board up to date with his contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with his employment and supervisor contact information.
- Must make quarterly appearances
- Must provide quarterly reports from supervisor
- Must provide quarterly reports from employer
- Must take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence exam
- Must complete 10 hours of CE in ethics or licensure
- Must have his employer sign his Final Order within ten (10) days of receipt.
- Understands that any failure to comply with the terms of his probation could result in a hearing and further sanctions by the Board.

Mr. Dutcher stated that he has met all the requirements and discussed what he learned from being on probation, his CEUs, and discussions with his supervisor.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Mr. Dutcher's petition to withdraw the probation status.

Justice/Harner
Motion carried 6-0-0

D. Amanda Pumphrey, LMFTA, License No. 85000511A

Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0017

Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

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

Participating Board Members:

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky, LCAC, LCSW, (Hearing Officer)
Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Vice Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, MFT Section Chair
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Andrew Harner, MSW, LCSW, SW Section Chair, Board Designee
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW

Case Summary: On or about April 6, 2023 Ms. Pumphrey's application was approved on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than six (6) months
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her employment and supervisor contact information.
- Must make quarterly appearances
- Must take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence exam
- Must complete 10 hours of CE in ethics or licensure
- Must have her employer sign his Final Order within ten (10) days of receipt.
- Understands that any failure to comply with the terms of her probation could result in a hearing and further sanctions by the Board.

Ms. Pumphrey stated that she has met all terms of her probation. She discussed what she learned from the probation and her completed CEUs.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Pumphrey's petition to withdraw the probation status.

Gardner/Ferguson
Motion carried 6-0-0

E. Victoria Thompson, LMHCA, Temporary Permit No. 99119918A

Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0032

Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

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

Participating Board Members:

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky, LCAC, LCSW, (Hearing Officer)
Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Vice Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, MFT Section Chair
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Andrew Harner, MSW, LCSW, SW Section Chair, Board Designee
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW

Case Summary: On or about July 27, 2023 Ms. Thompson’s application was approved on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than six (6) months
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information
- Keep the Board up to date with her employment and supervisor contact information.
- Must make quarterly appearances
- Must take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence exam
- Must complete 10 hours of CE in ethics or licensure
- Must submit quarterly supervision reports
- Must have her employer sign his Final Order within ten (10) days of receipt.
- Understands that any failure to comply with the terms of her probation could result in a hearing and further sanctions by the Board.

Ms. Thompson stated that she has met all the terms of her probation. She discussed with the Board what she learned from probation, CEUs, and her supervisor discussions.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Thompson’s petition to withdraw the probation status.

Justice/Gardner
Motion carried 6-0-0

F. Conner J. Elonich, LSW, LCACA, License No. 33010494A, 87900069A
Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0044
Re: Administrative Complaint

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

G. Kenneth Abrams
Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0047
Re: Order To Show Cause – Cease and Desist

Parties Present:

Respondent was present
Carah Rochester, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky, LCAC, LCSW, (Hearing Officer)
Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Vice Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, MFT Section Chair

C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Andrew Harner, MSW, LCSW, SW Section Chair, Board Designee
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW

State Witness:

Cindy Vaught, Board Director, Indiana Professional Licensing Agency
Kathy McDaniel, Case Investigator, Office of the Attorney General

Case Summary: On or about December 18, 2023 an Order to Show Cause was issued to Mr. Abrams with three allegations of using a professional title without an active Indiana license, practicing mental health without an active license, and receiving compensation as a therapist without an active license. The State informed the Board that Mr. Abrams has been working as a LMHC and LCSW without a license. Mr. Abrams stated that he was not aware a license was required as he is working for Medicaid clients.

The State called Cindy Vaught as witness. Ms. Vaught stated that Mr. Abrams has submitted two (2) applications with IPLA which have been denied due to failing of the exam. He does not currently have a license in Indiana.

The State submitted Exhibit A which is a copy of the consumer complaint filed against Mr. Abrams.

The State submitted Exhibit B which is Mr. Abrams response to the complaint.

Mr. Abrams stated that he was of the understanding that he did not need a license to practice as he was a contractor for DCS. He stated that he obtained his Illinois license in 2022.

The State submitted Exhibit C which is the certified business records for Mr. Abrams employment Inside Out. The State noted that on page 3 of the record lists Mr. Abrams job title as therapist.

Mr. Abrams confirmed that he has worked at New Horizons and Youth First as a therapist. He provided a summary of job duties, and that he worked as a contractor.

Ms. McDaniel, Case Investigator was called as witness. She confirmed the information presented in the Exhibits, and went over the steps she took to obtain the information.

Mr. Abrams stated that a license was not required if you worked with DCS clients as long as he was supervised by an HSPP and the client was using Medicaid.

The State affirmed that the exemption for DCS employees does not apply to a contractor, and his employment did not fall under the license exemption laws.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to issue a Cease and Desist in the matter of Mr. Abrams.

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 6-0-0

H. Jennifer Werling, LSW, License No. 33004526A
Cause No. 2024 BHSB 0006

Re: Appeal of Denial of Reinstatement

Parties Present:

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

Participating Board Members:

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW, (Hearing Officer)
Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Vice Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, MFT Section Chair
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Andrew Harner, MSW, LCSW, SW Section Chair, Board Designee
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW

Case Summary: On or about January 26, 2024 Ms. Werling’s request to reinstate her license was denied as she failed to appear as requested. Ms. Werling informed the Board that she missed the notices requesting her to appear. She stated that she let her license lapse due to focusing on her family. Ms. Werling talked about the steps she took to return to the field including any CEUs she completed. The Board discussed her work history and job duties.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Werling’s appeal of the denial and reinstate her license.

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 6-0-0

VIII. DISCUSSION

A. ELLEN CRISTINA CORREIA MENDONCA (LSW)

Request for Reinstatement of Temporary Permit

Ms. Correia Mendonca submitted a request to the Board to be issued a 2nd Temporary Permit, or reinstate her previous Temporary Permit. She had disclosed that her Temporary Permit expired when her Visa expired. The Board stated that they cannot grant her request as the law does not permit the Board to reinstate or issue a second permit.

IX. APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

There were no applications for review.

X. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General’s office reported to the Board that they have 15 new complaints opened within past 30 days with 91 current open complaints and they have closed 16 since the beginning of the year. Primarily the complaints have been from Marion County followed by Hamilton County. The content of the complaints are unlicensed practice, professional incompetence, and unprofessional conduct. The average age of the open complaints is 6.2 months and primarily against Mental Health Counselors and Clinical Social Workers.

There are currently 1 litigation cases open the past 30 days with 19 open litigation cases and 1 closed this year. The average duration of the litigation cases is 11.9 months. The litigation has

occurred mostly in Marion county. The current litigation charges are for unprofessional conduct followed by unlicensed practice, and client abandonment. Primarily the charges have been filed against Clinical Social Workers followed by Mental Health Counselors.

XI. FORMAL ADOPTION OF APPLICATION REVIEWS

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

Justice/Gardner
Motion carried 6-0-0

XII. CONTINUING EDUCATION SPONSOR APPLICATION REVIEW

1. Alison Leslie

The Board reviewed the sample course of Pet therapy. Noted that there were advantages for that training.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Alison Leslie as a CE Sponsor.

Harner/Gardner
Motion carried 6-0-0

2. Donnica Carpenter

The Board reviewed the submitted Mental Health aid programs, and noted the courses looked appropriate.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Donnica Carpenter as a CE Sponsor.

Harner/Gardner
Motion carried 6-0-0

3. Finding Hope Counseling

The Board reviewed the sample course of trauma and resilience. Sponsor has been reviewed by Ohio.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Finding Hope Counseling as a CE Sponsor.

Harner/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

4. Gerkin Counseling, Inc.

The Board reviewed the sample course for trauma informed substance use, and escalation of virtual treatments.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Gerkin Counseling, Inc. as a CE Sponsor

Harner/Ferguson
Motion carried 6-0-0

5. Indiana Youth Group

The Board reviewed the sample course of LGBTQ+ presentation and suicide awareness.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Indiana Youth Group as a CE Sponsor.

Harner/Gardner
Motion carried 6-0-0

6. Turning Point System of Care

The Board reviewed the sample course of Finding the Professional way.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Turning Point System of Care as a CE Sponsor.

Viehweg/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

7. Serendipity Counseling Center

The Board reviewed the sample course of adolescent substance use.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Serendipity Counseling Center as a CE Sponsor.

Harner/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

8. Mezzo Solutions LLC

The Board reviewed the sample course of 24 different learning categories including play therapy.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mezzo Solutions LLC as a CE Sponsor.

Harner/Ferguson
Motion carried 6-0-0

XIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed unlicensed practice and if they need to file complaints against the supervisors for supervising unlicensed practitioners.

XIV. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT

Cindy Vaught, Board Director, reported that during the 2024 renewal cycle there have been 6,730 practitioners renewed so far. Currently there are still 18, 000 practitioners that have not renewed. She discussed the new platform for renewing licenses this year.

Since January 1, 2022 the IPLA has issued 17, 084 licenses for the Behavior Health and Human Services Board. She stated that this is an increase of 1, 500 licenses in two years.

Stephen Viehweg, Social Work Section, has been appointed to be a part of the Bylaws Committee for the ASWB.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and having completed its duties, the meeting of the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board adjourned at 3:41 p.m. by general consensus.

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky, LCAC, LCSW
Board Chair

Date