

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING BOARD
MINUTES
May 19, 2025**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Mr. Jon Ferguson called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. in the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Center Room 1 and 2, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, and declared a quorum with Indiana Code § IC 25-23.6-2.

Board Members Present:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Board Chair
Kimble Richardson, MS, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC, MHC, Section Chair
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC, Board Designee (left at 11:50 a.m. and back at 12:30 p.m.)
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW, Section Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, LMFT, Section Chair (present at 9:15 a.m.)
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW, Section Chair
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member (left at 12:30 p.m.)

Board Members Not Present:

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW
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

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 6-0-0 Gardner not present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 21, 2025, as amended.

Viehweg/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0 Gardner not present.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

9:00 a.m.

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

Cause No. 202504-BHS-0010
Re: Appeal of Denial of Reinstatement

Parties Present:

Respondent was present
Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)
Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Stephan Viehweg, LCSW
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, LMFT,
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW
Peter Karalis, MD, Physician Member

Case Summary: On or about March 13, 2025, Mr. Christenberry was denied his request to reinstate as he did not appear upon request to discuss his reinstatement. On or about March 31, 2025, Mr. Christenberry appealed the decision citing that he failed to receive notice to appear. He stated that he has completed all required continuing education and that he has been working in education since his license expired in 2006. He stated that he was originally grandfathered in for his mental health counselor license and has not taken the NCMHCE examination. He stated that he will complete any additional requirements the Board wishes to reinstate his license.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Mr. Christenberry's petition and reinstate his license pending passing the NCMHCE examination within one year of approval and passing the Indiana jurisprudence examination.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

B. Melissa Price, LCSW, License No. 34003978A

Cause No. 202408-BHS-0050
Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent was present
Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)
Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Stephan Viehweg, LCSW
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, LMFT,
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW

Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member

Case Summary: On or about August 27, 2024, Ms. Price was renewed on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation and may not petition withdrawal of her probation until the following requirements are met:
 - Criminal probation terms have been completed
 - Employers must sign Final Order and submit it to the Board within 15 days of the Final Order being issued.
 - Quarterly employment reports while on probation. If she is not employed, she shall submit quarterly self-reports
 - Quarterly therapy reports from her treating therapist which indicate her treatment and compliance with treatment.
 - Keep the Board up to date on her contact information
 - Keep the Board up to date on her employment information
 - Comply with all statutes and rules of the practice of behavioral health.

Ms. Price stated that she has met all the terms of her probation and submitted all reports to the Board. She indicated that she completed her criminal probation early and is currently employed at Centerstone. She is supervised by an LCSW and finished her treatment in March 2025. She discussed what she learned during her treatment, and what she is doing in order to maintain her sobriety.

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

Viehweg/Adams
Motion carried 7-0-0

C. Minh Tran, LMHCA, License No. 88002672A
Cause No. 202408-BHS-0039
Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent was present
Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

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

Case Summary: On or about August 8, 2025, the Board issued Mr. Tran's license on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than six (6) months from March 25, 2024.
- While on probation he agrees to:
 - Keep the Board up to date on his contact information
 - Keep the Board up to date on his employment information
 - Keep the Board up to date on his title, work schedule, and average weekly hours
 - Complete 10 hours of continuing education in licensure or ethics
 - Have his employer sign and submit the Final Order within 10 days of issuance of the Final Order
 - Take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence exam
 - Submit quarterly employment reports from his supervisor outlining his performance. If he is not employed, he shall submit quarterly self-reports.
 - Appear once before the Board prior to requesting probation withdrawal.
 - Follow all statute and rules of the Behavior Health profession.

Mr. Tran stated that he has met all the requirements of his probation. He stated that he has been working at Parkview for four years and would like to continue his practice there. He discussed what he learned during his probation and from the continuing education programs he completed. He discussed what he has learned from his supervisors and outlined his support system. He stated that his hospital employment has revised the job requirements to ensure that employees are licensed in order to work.

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

Richardson/Viehweg
Motion carried 7-0-0

D. Carrie Pelc, LMHC, License No. 39002237A HEARING CONTINUED

Cause No. 2016 BHSB 0001

Re: Petition for Reinstatement

The hearing in the matter of Ms. Pelc was continued.

E. Jacqueline T. Mitchell, LSW, License No. 33008801A

Cause No. 2024 BHSB 0023

Re: Petition for Reinstatement

Parties Present:

Respondent was present

James Goldberg, Counsel for Respondent was present

Jacy Rush, Deputy Attorney General

Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

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

Case Summary: On or about August 15, 2024, a Settlement Agreement was reached with the following terms:

- Indefinite Suspension for no less than 9 months
- Prior to requesting reinstatement from Suspension, Ms. Mitchell must complete:
 - Complete a fitness for duty evaluation by an HSPP within 3 months prior to requesting reinstatement and submit it to the Board. The report must be labeled “NOT FOR PUBLIC ACCESS”
 - Keep the Board up to date on her contact information
 - Not violating any statute and rules of the practice of social work
 - Pay a fee of \$5.00 to be deposited into the Health Records and Personal Identifying Information Protection Trust Fund.
 - Ms. Mitchell understands any violation of the Final Order may result in further sanctions on her license up to including revocation.

Ms. Mitchell said she understands the Board’s concerns about the boundary violation which occurred regarding a dual relationship with her client. She discussed focusing on improving her own mental health with engaging in continued personal therapy. She stated that if she is granted reinstatement, she will ensure she will be under a higher level of professional supervision. She indicated that she has an offer to work at DCS as a case worker. She stated that she no longer is in communication with the client with whom she engaged in a dual relationship. The State had no objection to Ms. Mitchell’s request to reinstate her license.

The Board reviewed her fitness for duty and noted that it is not as comprehensive as expected. They noted that there did not appear to be any treatment recommendations listed. The State indicated that if the Board had concerns with the fitness for duty report, then they could object to the request for reinstatement.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to reinstate Ms. Mitchell’s social work license on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than two years
- Prior to obtaining employment, the Board must receive a complete fitness for duty evaluation listing treatment recommendations, and approve the report
- She must follow all treatment recommendations outlined in her fitness for duty evaluation that has been approved by the Board.

- Appear personally before the Board every six months while on probation
- Must complete 20 hours of continuing education in the area of boundaries and dual relationships
- Quarterly supervisor reports
- Quarterly therapy reports regarding the recommendations from the fitness for duty
- Signed Probation Order within 10 days of beginning employment

Viehweg/Adams
Motion carried 7-0-0

V. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

A. Application

1. Jeffrey Danes (LMHC)

Mr. Danes appeared as requested to discuss a reprimand issued by his previous employer, and why he did not disclose it on his license renewals for his LMHCA license. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He stated that the reprimand was issued because his workload was greater than expected, and he struggled to keep up with expectations. He stated that he did receive supervision; however, he needed more support than was provided. He outlined the avenues he took to meet expectations, but ultimately gave a two month notice to ensure he did not leave any clients abandoned. He stated that he forgot to disclose his license renewals as the first renewal occurred during a chaotic personal time for him, and during the second renewal enough time had passed that the situation had already been resolved. He stated it was not his intention to hide or mislead the Board in any way, just an oversight.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Danes' application to take the NCMHCE examination.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

2. Stephanie Dunning (LBSW)

The Board staff received an email request to reschedule.

3. Austin Hagedorn (LBSW)

Mr. Hagedorn appeared as requested to discuss his background. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He stated that he completed treatment in 2017, and he has attended personal therapy. He indicated that he still attends recovery meetings and reaches out to mentors in the field. He has maintained employment at Centerstone for the past three years in various positions, and he is involved in managing sober living programs.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Hagedorn 's application to sit for the ASWB Bachelor examination.

Viehweg/Adams
Motion carried 7-0-0

4. Jossie Helmerick (LSW)

Ms. Helmerick appeared as requested to discuss her background and the discipline imposed against her Indiana nursing license. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. The Board inquired as to the status of her nursing license and the discipline. She stated the Nursing Board placed her license on probation with certain terms to complete; however, she could not complete the terms as she was no longer working as a nurse. Due to noncompliance the nursing license was suspended. She stated that she participated in the ISNAP program but was discharged due to diluted screens. She indicated that she is still in treatment and attends therapy on a regular basis. The Board indicated that she needs to reach out to the Nursing Board regarding the suspension, as that means that there is a concern regarding her ability to practice.

The Board tabled acting on Ms. Helmerick's application until further information has been received.

5. Annabelle Henrique (LSW)

Ms. Henrique appeared as requested to discuss her next examination attempt. She provided the Board with a study plan and discussed her plans in order to prepare for the examination.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Henrique's application to take the ASWB Master examination.

Viehweg/Adams
Motion carried 6-0-0 Justice not present.

6. Marlissa Pomplun (LSW)

Ms. Pomplun appeared as requested to discuss her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. Ms. Pomplun completed a pretrial diversion program. She is currently employed as a school social worker. The Board discussed her response and noted no concerns.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Pomplun's application by reciprocity.

Viehweg/Adams

Motion carried 6-0-0 Justice not present.

7. Windy Russ (LCSW)

Ms. Russ appeared as requested to discuss her background and the disciplinary action taken by the Alaska Social Work Board. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she did not complete the requirements for Alaska as she was no longer living and working in the State. Ms. Russ indicated that the complaint was an allegation of a dual relationship with a client. She discussed the complaint with the Board. She stated that she is currently working at Ireland Home Based services as a home-based therapist with DCS under supervision. The Board indicated that she needs to reach out to the Alaskan Board regarding the suspension, as there are matters outstanding with them that will need to be addressed.

Application tabled.

8. Jessica Tompkins (LSW)

Ms. Tompkins appeared as requested to discuss her next examination attempt. She provided the Board with a study plan and a request for accommodation to take the examination. She discussed her current work situation which is not social work related.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Tompkins' application to retake the ASWB Master examination.

Viehweg/Adams

Motion carried 6-0-0 Justice not present.

9. James Woodard (LMHCA and LAC)

Mr. Woodard appeared as requested to discuss his current employment. He indicated on his application that he is currently working as a therapist. Mr. Woodard is employed at a methadone clinic which only requires him to have a MATs certificate. He stated that he has been working as an OTP therapist doing individual, group, and case management work. The Board noted that on his application he listed his position as an LMHCA, and he stated that he completed that section incorrectly. He stated that he worked at the New Day Center until 2022 and then gained employment at the Methadone clinic. A supervisor signs off on his work and he does not diagnose. Mr. Woodard is currently working towards his doctorate degree. The Board stated that his temporary permits were placed on probation in 2021, but it does not appear he complied with the terms. He stated that he has no excuse for not complying, as he was trying to get things done. Mr. Woodard stated that it was unclear to him why he was placed on probation. The Board expressed concerns.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Woodard's application to sit for the NCE. Upon passing the examination his license shall be placed on

probation with the 2021 terms with the additional terms of: Probationary Order shall be signed by his employer, and he is required to take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence examination.

Richardson/Gardner

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Woodard's application to sit for the ADC examination. Upon passing the examination his license shall be placed on probation with the 2021 terms with the additional terms of: Probationary Order shall be signed by his employer, and he is required to take and pass the Indiana Jurisprudence examination.

Richardson/Justice

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present.

B. Reinstatement

1. Sara Kroh, LCSW, License No. 34006691A

Did not appear. She submitted an email that she is unable to travel due to distance and requested the Board to review her reinstatement as presented. The Board noted that she has submitted all continuing education requirements, and they do not note any concerns regarding her request.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to reinstate Ms. Kroh's clinical social work license.

Viehweg/Adams

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present

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

Did not appear. Ms. Sellers-Edmond's license expired in 2008. The Board noted that she has completed the continuing education required but that she has not taken and passed the ASWB Clinical examination, which would be required for her to reinstate. Ms. Sellers-Edmonds has discussed with Board staff that she does not wish to take the ASWB Clinical examination.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny Ms. Sellers-Edmonds application for reinstatement of her clinical social work license.

Viehweg/Adams

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present

3. Sirena Wuerfele, LSW, License No. 33002745A

Ms. Wuerfele appeared as requested to discuss the reinstatement of her license that expired in 2004. She has taken and passed a state constructed examination in the state of Illinois but does not have the required forty hours of continuing education. The Board noted that she will need to submit a copy of her examination in order for the Board to determine if it is equivalent to the ASWB Master examination and an additional six hours of approved continuing education.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Wuerfele's reinstatement application pending review of her Illinois examination and submission of six hours of approved continuing education.

Viehweg/Adams

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present.

C. Licensure Pre-Approval

1. Juan Bullock (LMFTA)

Did not appear as requested. The Board reviewed his statement and supporting documentation as presented.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Bullock's background as presented.

Gardner/Justice

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present.

2. William Knight (LCSW)

Appeared as requested to discuss his request for review of his background. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He discussed his personal struggles which led to the events of his arrest. He completed a pre-trial diversion and anger management program. He stated that he is still in therapy, and his intension is to pursue his MSW degree.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Knight's background as presented.

Viehweg/Adams

Motion carried 6-0-0

3. Morgan Lambert (LCAC)

Did not appear as requested. The Board reviewed his statement and supporting documentation as presented.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Lambert's background as presented.

Adams/Justice

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present.

4. Daniel Moro (LSW)

Did not appear as requested. The Board reviewed his statement and supporting documentation as presented.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Moro's background as presented.

Viehweg/Adams

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present.

VI. DISCUSSION

The Board discussed 1099 employees and that some licensees who require supervision are working as 1099 employees. There has been a rise in correspondence of professionals wanting a clearer understanding of 1099 employment and obtaining clinical and supervision hours. The Board has rejected hours where they were obtained as a 1099 employee, but it is a common practice in the field for work. Jacy Rush, Office of Attorney General, stated that the AG's office is looking into holding a discussion and training session on this topic.

The Board members noted that they understand that some professionals are working as 1099 employees, and that they have to ensure proper supervision. The Board staff inquired what the Board would like to do for those who are using those hours to obtain their clinical license as it has been rejected in the past, and the IRS stance is that 1099 employment is considered independent practice. The Board stated that they are not arguing against the practice, but they would like to find out more information from the AG's office before continuing the discussion.

VII. APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

There were no applications for review.

VIII. FORMAL ADOPTION OF APPLICATION REVIEWS

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

Adams/Viehweg

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present

IX. CONTINUING EDUCATION SPONSOR APPLICATION REVIEW

A. Full Bloom Counseling

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve the CE Sponsor application.

Gardner/Viehweg

Motion carried 6-0-0 Karalis not present.

X. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Jacy Rush presented the report from the office of Attorney General.

She reported to the Board that they have had 10 new complaints opened within the past 30 days, 139 current open complaints, and they have closed 120 since the beginning of the year. Primarily the complaints against respondents were from Marion County followed by Allen County. The complaints were filed from complainant in Marion County followed by Lake County and outside the State/Country. The content of the complaints are unlicensed practice, professional malpractice, and unprofessional conduct. The average age of open complaints is 6.8 months and primarily against mental health counselors and clinical social workers.

There were 4 litigation cases closed in the past 30 days with 23 open litigation cases. The average duration of litigation cases is 5 months. Litigation has occurred outside of the State/Country. The current litigation charges are for lewd/immoral conduct followed by unlicensed practice. Primarily the charges have been filed against Mental Health Counselors.

The Board noted that they would like to see a report on the complaint trends that have been filed over the years. Ms. Rush stated that she can investigate providing that information.

XI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old/new business.

XII. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT

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

For April 2025 the Board received a total of 523 new applications of which 68 applied by reciprocity, issued 252 licenses, denied 65 applications for failing the examination, and abandoned 68 applications.

She stated that there are currently 2,997 pending applications. Of that number there are 1,450 applications pending because they have been approved to test and IPLA is waiting for examination scores to be reported back.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and having completed its duties, the meeting of the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board adjourned at 2:47 p.m. by general consensus.