

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING BOARD

Minutes

June 17, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Mr. Jon Ferguson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Professional Licensing Agency Room W064, Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, and by Zoom and declared a quorum in accordance with Indiana Code § 25-14-1-12(a).

Board Members Present:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Vice Chair
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW
Kimble Richardson, MS, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC, MHC 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
Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member

Board Members Not Present:

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky, LCAC, LCSW, Board Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, LMFT Section Chair

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.

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 8-0-0

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes for review.

IV. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

A. Probation

There were no probation appearances.

B. Renewal

1. Mandi Barger, LSW, License No. 33999502A

Ms. Barger appeared via zoom to discuss her renewal and positive response.

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

- Indefinite probation for the duration of the criminal probation
- Employer must sign a copy of the Final Order and submit
- 1 appearance before the Board prior to requesting withdrawal of probation status.

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 8-0-0

Ms. Barger agreed to the terms.

2. **Lance Corral, LCAC, LMHC, License No. 87001371A, 39002248A**

Mr. Corral appeared as requested to discuss his renewal and positive response.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to renew Mr. Corral’s clinical addiction counselor license pending receipt of probation completion order and copy of his assessment by July 22, 2024.

Adams/Justice
Motion carried 8-0-0

3. **Laura Dekkar, LSE, License No. 33010420A**

Ms. Dekkar did not appear.

4. **Angelina Hernandez, LMHCA. License No. 88001684A**

Ms. Hernandez appeared via zoom to discuss her renewal and positive response.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to renew Ms. Hernandez’s mental health counselor associate license on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for the duration of the criminal probation
- Provide a copy of her evaluation, and follow all recommendations
- Employer must sign a copy of the Final Order and submit
- Quarterly appearances before the Board while on probation
- Notify the Board if there are any changes to her criminal case.

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 8-0-0

5. **Kevin Jones, LCSW, License No. 34009845A**

Mr. Jones appeared via zoom to discuss his renewal and positive response.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to renew Mr. Jones’ clinical social work license on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for the duration of the criminal probation
- Employer must sign a copy of the Final Order and submit
- 1 appearance before the Board prior to requesting withdrawal of probation status.

- Provide a copy of his evaluation, and follow all recommendations

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 8-0-0

6. Abram Sinn, LMFT, License No. 35001932A

Mr. Sinn did not appear.

7. Mallorie Will, LSW, License No. 33009904A

Ms. Will appeared as requested via zoom to discuss her renewal and positive response.

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

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 8-0-0

C. Reinstatement

1. Janine Dell, LMHC, License No. 39002411A

Ms. Dell appeared via zoom to discuss the reinstatement of her license which expired in 2020.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to reinstate Ms. Dell's mental health counselor license.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 8-0-0

2. Kristin Erdei, LCSW, License No. 34006161A

Ms. Erdie did not appear.

D. Application

1. Tafadzwa Banda (LMHCA)

Mr. Banda appeared as requested to discuss his application. The board discussed unlicensed practice and missing educational requirements. The board discussed documentation he needed to submit to complete his application.

Mr. Banda's application was tabled pending further documentation.

2. Mark Blackstad (LMHC)

Mr. Blackstad appeared as requested to discuss his application. The board expressed concerns that he has been practicing as a counselor since 2016 without a license. The Board discussed the educational requirements he needs to complete to meet licensure.

Mr. Blackstad's application was tabled, and the Board directed staff to file a Consumer Complaint due to the unlicensed practice.

3. Alicia Espinoza (LSW)

Ms. Espinoza did not appear.

4. Michelle Foraker (LMHC)

Ms. Foraker appeared via zoom as requested to discuss the discipline against her Florida license.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Foraker's mental health counselor application.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 8-0-0

5. Mary Gunn (LCSW)

Ms. Gunn appeared via zoom as requested to discuss her supervision hours. The Board explained how supervision hours are earned in order to be licensed.

Ms. Gunn's application was tabled.

6. Elisha Hendricks (LSW)

Ms. Hendricks appeared as requested with her supervisor Ashley Michalski, HSPP, LCAC. The Board discussed concerns with an independent contractor as an LLC under supervision. The board advised that Ms. Hendricks will need to submit corrected forms.

Ms. Hendricks' application was tabled.

Dr. Karalis left at 1 pm.

7. Christine Hicks (LCSW)

Ms. Hicks appeared as requested to discuss her supervision hours and graduate coursework. The Board advised that she needs to show completion of a psychopathology course.

Ms. Hicks' application was tabled.

8. Atasha LaFever (LAC, LCACA)

Ms. LaFever did not appear.

9. Laura Lamar (LAC)

Ms. Lamar appeared as requested to discuss her experience and supervision hours.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to switch Ms. Lamar's clinical addiction counselor application to the addiction counselor associate and approve her to test for Level II.

Adams/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

10. Megan Mejia (LMHCA)

Ms. Mejia appeared as requested to provide clarification on her work history.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Mejia's mental health counselor associate application and to sit for the NBCC NCE examination. Upon passing issue her license on probation for practicing without a license with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than 3 months.
- Employer must sign a copy of the Final Order and submit
- Take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence exam.
- 10 hours of CEUs in ethics or licensure.
- Follow all the statutes and rules for the profession.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

11. Jennifer Millar (LMFT)

Ms. Millar did not appear.

12. Lakeitha Patterson (LSW)

Ms. Patterson appeared via zoom to discuss her 8th attempt at the ASWB master examination.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Patterson's social work application to take the ASWB master examination.

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 7-0-0

13. Bonnie Payne (LMHCA)

Ms. Payne appeared as requested to discuss her education. The board advised her of the documentation she needs to submit.

Ms. Payne's application was tabled.

14. Marcelene Robinson (LCACA)

Ms. Robinson appeared as requested to provide clarification on her work history. The Board discussed unlicensed practice.

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

- Indefinite probation for no less than 3 months.

- Employer must sign a copy of the Final Order and submit
- Take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence exam.
- 10 hours of CEUs in ethics or licensure.
- Follow all the statutes and rules for the profession.

Adams/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

15. Maria Robiedo-Pedraza (LCSW)

Ms. Robiedo-Pedraza did not appear.

16. Melinda Schwartz, LSW, License No. 33012214A)

Ms. Schwartz appeared at her request to discuss her supervision hours. She requested the Board to consider her circumstances for grandfathering as she graduated in 2009.

No Action taken. Ms. Schwartz does not have a current application on file, and the grandfathering time period is no longer in effect. The board informed her she must count new hours from the start of her LSW license.

17. Morgan Smith (LMHCA)

Ms. Smith appeared as requested to provide clarification on her work history. Previously appeared at the May 20, 2024 meeting. The Board discussed her job duties and unlicensed practice.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Smith’s mental health counselor associate license on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than 6 months.
- Employer must sign a copy of the Final Order and submit
- Take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence exam.
- 10 hours of CEUs in ethics or licensure.
- 1 appearance before the Board prior to requesting coming off probation
- 1 supervision report to be submitted prior to requesting coming off probation
- Follow all the statutes and rules for the profession.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

18. Mary White (LMFT)

Ms. White appeared via zoom as requested to discuss the discipline that occurred against her California license.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. White’s marriage and family therapy application.

Harner/Justice
Motion carried 7-0-0

V. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

A. Scott Peterson, LMHC, License No. 39001409A

Cause No. 2020 BHSB 0009

Re: Petition For Reinstatement

Parties Present:

Respondent was present

Ryan Eldridge, Deputy Office of Attorney General

Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)

Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW

Kimble Richardson, MS, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC

C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC

Andrew Harner, MSW, LCSW

Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW

Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member

Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about April 1, 2024 Mr. Peterson requested the reinstatement of his license which was Suspended on or about December 21, 2022. Mr. Peterson discussed his willingness to follow the Board's requirements and requested that the Board restore his license to at least a probationary status.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny Mr. Peterson's petition for reinstatement due to not completing any requirements as specified in the suspension order and practicing without a license.

Richardson/Harner
Motion carried 8-0-0

A motion was made and seconded to file a complaint against Mr. Peterson for his unlicensed practice from 2022 to 2023.

Harner/Justice
Motion carried 8-0-0

VI. PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

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

Cause No. 2024 BHSB 0023

Re: Proposed Settlement Agreement

Parties Present:

Respondent was present with counsel James Goldberg

Whitney Cooper, Deputy Office of Attorney General

Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, (Hearing Officer)
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW
Kimble Richardson, MS, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC
Andrew Harner, MSW, LCSW
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member
Jacqueline Eitel, RN, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about June 11, 2024 a Proposed Settlement Agreement was reached between the State and Ms. Mitchell with the following terms:

- Indefinite Suspension for no less than nine (9) months
- In three (3) months preceding her requesting reinstatement of license, Ms. Mitchell must complete a Fitness for duty evaluation completed by an HSPP
- Must keep the Board up to date with her contact information
- Must not violate any statutes or rules for the profession.

The State and Ms. Mitchell have agreed upon the facts of a dual relationship violation, and requests that the Board accept the Settlement.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to accept the Proposed Settlement Agreement in the matter of Ms. Mitchell.

Viehweg/Richardson
Motion carried 8-0-0

VII. NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEFAULT

There were no Notices of Proposed Default.

VIII. DISCUSSION

Doug Boyle, Communication Director of the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency, provided a Legislative update to the Board. Discussed the changes being implemented that will hopefully speed up the licensure process. He noted that the major delay has been the education review of the applications.

Cindy Vaught, Board Director, noted that since May 1, 2024 the Board has received 500 applications for LMHCA and approved 470 of them for the exam. She also noted that since May 1, 2024 the Board has approved 945 people for their national exam and received 1000 applications for the Board.

The Board discussed the Bowen Center Playbook.

IX. APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

There were no applications for review.

X. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ryan Eldridge presented the report. The Board discussed if there is a way to see if there have been trend changes with the complaints by reviewing the data over 5 years, as that could help with education in the profession.

XI. FORMAL ADOPTION OF APPLICATION REVIEWS

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

Viehweg/Richardson
Motion carried 7-0-0

XII. CONTINUING EDUCATION SPONSOR APPLICATION REVIEW

1. Barbara Brugler

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

Harner/Viehweg
Motion carried 7-0-0

XIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no new/old business.

XIV. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT

Cindy Vaught, Board Director, gave her report to the Board. She noted that the 2024 renewal went smoothly, and currently the Board has 2, 500 practitioners approved to take their exam.

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 3:57 p.m. by general consensus.

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

Date