

TENNESSEE BOARD OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS

DATE: April 7, 2017
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION: Health Related Boards Conference Center
Poplar Room, 665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Susan Cunningham, LADAC, Chair
Hilde Phipps, LADAC, Secretary
Major McNeil, Citizen Member
Karen Dennis, LADAC

STAFF

PRESENT: Latonya Shelton, ASA 3
Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director
Caroline Tippens, Assistant General Counsel
Nichelle Dorroh, Office of Investigations

Ms. Cunningham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. A roll call vote was conducted and all Board members were present.

Ms. Wilkins asked staff to introduce themselves: Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director; Latonya Shelton, ASA3 and Caroline Tippens, Assistant General Counsel.

Election of Officers

Mr. McNeil made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to elect Ms. Phipps as chair. The motion carried.

Ms. Phipps accepted the position.

Mr. McNeil made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to elect Ms. Cunningham as secretary. The motion carried.

Ms. Cunningham accepted the position.

Ms. Phipps thanked Ms. Cunningham for her service as chair to the Board for the past year.

Minutes

Upon review of the January 17, 2017 minutes Mr. McNeil made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Office of General Counsel (OGC)

Ms. Tippens stated there are no cases against Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors in OGC.

Ms. Tippens said the General Assembly is still in session and Senate Bill 489 by Representative Whitson and Senator Briggs enacted the “Kenneth and Madge Tullis, MD, Suicide Prevention Training Act” which affects Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors, Board of Social Work and Board of Occupational Therapists.

Ms. Tippens stated the bill will add two (2) additional hours of continuing education for licensees.

Ms. Cunningham said she is concerned over the additional hours and is leaning toward letting the licensee decide whether or not to take two (2) hours in suicide prevention continuing education.

Ms. Tippens said the Board made an effort to allow licensees take the suicide prevention continuing education by including the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network as an approved provider.

Ms. Wilkins said the Psychology Board did not take a position but the LPC Board wrote a letter opposing the suicide prevention continuing education.

Ms. Cunningham asked if the licensee must take the courses from the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network or if they could take it from any provider.

Ms. Tippens said, according to the bill, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will develop, in collaboration with the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, a model list of training programs.

Ms. Phipps said it is the Board’s position to allow licensees to take suicide prevention courses but not make it mandatory.

Ms. Tippens said the Board could send a letter to Representative Whitson and Senator Briggs.

Ms. Phipps said the letter should state that even though the Board supports and is aware of the concept of suicide prevention which is critically important; however, continuing education courses by the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network should not be mandated by legislation or rule.

Ms. Dennis made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNeil, to send letters to the sponsors of the bill. The motion carried.

Ms. Wilkins asked Ms. Phipps to compose the letter and send it to her to be placed on letterhead.

Ms. Tippens said the rulemaking hearing rules pertaining to eliminating the oral examination rule went to the Attorney General's Office on Oct 31, 2016 where it remain.

Office of Investigations

Ms. Dorroh stated her office is currently monitoring two (2) practitioners and there are four (4) open complaints.

Mr. McNeil asked what the complaints were.

Ms. Dorroh said the nature of the complaint is confidential and protected by statute. Ms. Dorroh said the severity of the allegation determines how long the complaint is reviewed.

Mr. McNeil asked what the procedures were for potential ethics violations.

Ms. Dorroh said the complainant should submit a complaint form, including all necessary information, which will be reviewed by the attorney and Board consultant to determine if the complaint is valid.

Administrative Report

Ms. Shelton said there are 429 licensees; four (4) level one applications; four (4) level two applications; and, five (5) reciprocity applications.

Ms. Shelton said ten (10) licenses have been issued; four (4) retired; six (6) expired; and, thirty-two (32) renewals. Ms. Shelton said sixteen (16) licensees renewed on-line for a total of fifty percent (50%).

Ms. Wilkins stated the next meeting is July 14, 2017.

Report from Catherine Benson

Ms. Wilkins said Ms. Benson has been out of the country and submitted an addendum to her report for the Board's review.

Ms. Cunningham said the report should be included in the rules discussion.

Ms. Wilkins suggested the Board review the addendum for discussion at the July meeting.

Mr. McNeil asked if anyone has been elected to the Board.

Ms. Wilkins said names have been submitted for consideration.

Ms. Shelton said there are five (5) Board members with three (3) open positions. Ms. Shelton said some Board members have expired but are held over until a new member is elected.

Ratify newly licensed/reinstated applications

Ms. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to approve the following newly licensed and reinstated applicants:

Newly Licensed

Level 2

Irene Bernard
Jason Ferrell
Jonathan Holiday
Tracy Mathews
Samantha Mitchell
Sonja Moore
Alan Roberts
Andy Young.

Level 1

Laurie Jenkins

Reinstated

William Holden
Shelean Overcast

The motion carried.

Correspondence

Ms. Tippens said she was requested by the Board, at the last meeting, to send a response to Richard Pitcock who submitted a letter regarding licensure.

Ms. Tippens said Mr. Pitcock is currently incarcerated but did not state in his letter his conviction. Upon investigation Ms. Tippens found Mr. Pitcock was convicted in Miami for transporting child pornography and possession of child pornography in December of 2015.

Ms. Tippens letter to Mr. Pitcock states that convictions for transportation and possession of child pornography constitute crimes against moral turpitude and informed him it is unlikely he will be granted licensure as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor in Tennessee.

Ms. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to send the letter as written. The motion carried.

Ms. Tippens said she also received a request from the administrative staff to respond to a letter from Charles Presley who is also incarcerated.

Ms. Tippens said Mr. Presley did not indicate his conviction and she was unable to obtain any information.

Ms. Tippens letter to Mr. Presley states that the Board may refuse to issue a license for those applicants who have been convicted of a felony or conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude. Ms. Tippens said the letter also informs Mr. Presley that the Board cannot offer him specific guidance as to which programs he should consider for licensure.

Ms. Dennis made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNeil, to send the letter as written. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Joseph Haggerty** stating he is completing the last several classes for his Master's Degree in Addiction Counseling and asking for guidance where he can obtain the remaining 250 hours of practicum.

Upon discussion the Board called Mr. Haggerty and Ms. Dennis asked him to contact her to discuss agencies in his area to obtain the hours.

Ms. Tippens informed Mr. Haggerty that the Board is not attempting to limit his travel and could obtain the hours at any location.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Christine Sexton**, licensed as a Level 1 Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselor, requesting to be upgraded to a Level 2 due to her level of education.

Ms. Sexton was present at the meeting and stated at the January meeting an applicant was upgraded from a Level 1 to a Level 2 without having any courses in a health related field and without having to take the Level 2 exam.

Ms. Phipps said the applicant in January did have health related courses which she highlighted in her transcript.

Upon review of Ms. Sexton's transcript Ms. Dennis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Ms. Sexton for a Level 2 license. The motion carried.

Discuss and take action regarding the number of hours for Level 1 and Level 2 applicants

Ms. Tippens reviewed her amendments to the rules stating on page five (5) she deleted the language "behavior health" and added "no fewer than twelve (12) hours credit in counseling related courses" under 3. (i) and (ii).

Ms. Phipps stated they also discussed deleting the language "an accredited institution of higher learning."

Ms. Wilkins stated other Boards requires out of country applicants to having their transcript reviewed by the World Education Services to determine if their credentials are equivalent.

Ms. Tippens said on page six (6) she added the language "no fewer than twelve (12) hours credit in counseling related courses under 2. (i) and (ii).

Ms. Tippens said on pages 6, 7 and 8 she deleted the language "behavior health related field."

Ms. Tippens said on page 7 she deleted the language "tennesseeanyttime" as there is a new website to obtain that information and will add the new address.

Ms. Tippens said on page 20 she deleted the yearly requirement of 15 hours of continuing education and changed it to 30 hours for two calendar years.

Ms. Tippens said on page 21 she added the language "TSPN (Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network" under 12. (2) (h)."

Ms. Tippens said on page 25 she changed the number of days licensees have to show compliance with all lawful requirements from "30" days to "60" days under (8) (e).

Upon review Ms. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNeil, to approve the amendments. The motion carried.

Ms. Tippens said the difference between the levels is the degree and the mechanism is to provide documentation from an institution of higher learning.

Ms. Cunningham said she would like clarification in the rules and asked if they could incorporate this language in the rules.

Ms. Tippens said the Board would have to agree and discuss the language they wanted included.

Ms. Phipps asked if there should be a fee.

Ms. Wilkins suggested the Board charge a minimal fee of \$25.

Ms. Tippens said applicants take either a level 1 exam or level 2 or MAC exam pending on the level of licensure they are seeking.

Ms. Wilkins suggested deleting the \$30 licensure endorsement fee.

Ms. Wilkins suggested preparing a form titled Licensure Upgrade Form for an applicant who is upgrading to a Level 2. Ms. Wilkins said the applicant must submit the application and take either the Level 2 exam or MAC exam.

Ms. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNeil, to approve the licensure upgrade form. The motion carried.

Ms. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to charge a \$50 upgrade fee. The motion carried.

Ms. Dennis made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNeil, to delete the \$30 licensure endorsement fee. The motion carried.

Ms. Cunningham requested that the Board discuss the domain hours.

The Board reviewed the letter from Kathryn Benson, LADAC Clinical Consultant, regarding the number of curriculum hours applicants are required to obtain for licensure.

Ms. Tippens said the changes need to go on page 5 under Rule 1200-30-01-.04(c) under education.

Ms. Tippens said the eight (8) domains are in the statute and doesn't think the Board needs to require additional education needs.

Anita Wilson, QCS/Level 2 LADAC stated she conducts eight (8) domain classes and in putting the twelve (12) cores in the eight (8) domains it takes about thirteen (13) sessions.

Ms. Tippens asked Ms. Wilson to submit a letter explaining the eight (8) domain classes she offers and the number of hours for each domain.

Toby Abrams, Level 2 LADAC, asked if they could review what Ms. Benson submitted to be compared to what Ms. Wilson is submitting for the next meeting.

Ms. Abrams said forty (40) hours in counseling pales to five (5) to seven (7) years of counseling. Ms. Abrams said drug addiction is getting worse and throwing more money into courses is not helping licensees.

Ms. Tippens said this issue needs to be discussed further in-depth.

Michele Squires, QCS/Level 2 LADAC/QCS said when she does the eight (8) domain training she informs students that the eight (8) domains are included in their entire education.

Upon discussion, Ms. Dennis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to table the discussion until the next meeting in order to receive input from supervisors and licensees. The motion carried.

Ms. Squires said the new application is a lot shorter and there are a couple of areas confusing to the applicant.

Ms. Wilkins stated they are launching an on-line application process and had to eliminate some of the pages in the application. Ms. Wilkins said the jurisprudence exam has been taken out and upon receipt of the application, applicants are sent the exam.

Ms. Squires said the notarized documents were taken out.

Ms. Wilkins stated there is no way to notarize an on-line application.

Application Review

Upon review of the reciprocity application of **Michael Webb**, at the January meeting, Mr. Webb was asked to submit documentation that he had a current license in Indiana, which he submitted for today's meeting.

Ms. Dennis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Mr. Webb for a Level 1 licensure through reciprocity. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Darin Chapman**, Ms. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNeil, to approve Mr. Chapman to sit for the Level 1 written exam. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Diane Conley**, Ms. Phipps made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNeil, to approve Ms. Conley for a Level 2 licensure through reciprocity. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **John Grazack**, Ms. Phipps made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Mr. Grazack to sit for the Level 1 exam. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Jessica Hirsch**, Ms. Dennis made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNeil, to request additional information from Ms. Hirsch regarding her education. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Dwayne Howard**, Mr. McNeil made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cunningham to approve Mr. Howard to sit for the Level 2 written exam. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Eboney Dillard**, Mr. McNeil made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Ms. Dillard to sit for the Level 2 written exam. The motion carried.

Upon review of the reinstatement application of **Claudyne Jefferson**, Mr. McNeil made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to reinstate Ms. Jefferson's license. The motion carried.

Review, discuss and consider approval of continuing education programs

Upon review of the application package of **William Saulsberry** with Memphis Recovery Centers, Inc. to provide alcohol and drug abuse education and training, Ms. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNeil, to approve Mr. Saulsberry as a continuing education provider. The motion carried.

With no other business to conduct, Mr. McNeil made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adjourn at 12:26 p.m. The motion carried.

These minutes were ratified at the July 14, 2017 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Board meeting.