



Tennessee Applied Behavior Analyst Licensing Committee

Monday, November 13, 2023

MINUTES

The Board meeting of the Tennessee Applied Behavior Analyst Licensing Committee was called to order at 9:12 a.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Amanda Spiess, Committee Chair on Monday, November 13, 2023.

Board members present: Amanda Spiess, Committee Chair
Catherine Terry, Consumer Member
Timothy Cripps, BCBA

Board member(s) absent: Elizabeth Ginder, BCBA
Ester Bledsoe, BCBA

Staff present: Candyce Wilson, Board Director
Elta Breen, JD, General Counsel
Katherine Trawick, JD, General Counsel
Dale Hill, Board Administrator

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

Richard Thomson, II – appeared before the Committee without legal representation. Mr. Thomson was recommended to appear before the Committee due to indications on his criminal background check. Mr. Thomson provided a thorough explanation to the Committee regarding his path to recovery and read aloud a letter of support from Dr. Brian Wind with the Tennessee Colleague Assistance Foundation (TCAF). Ms. Spiess motioned to approve the applicant for licensure contingent on the letter from Dr. Wind being received by the administrative office. Ms. Terry seconded the motion and it passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board will table the minutes to be reviewed at the next meeting.

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. Dorsey Luther presented the current complaints report for the Board. The Board had no questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Candyce Wilson presented the current administrative office report. The Board had no questions.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Ms. Trawick presented the report from the Office of General Counsel which included the following updates:

1. A review of the conflict-of-interest policy.
2. Currently there are no open cases against their licensees.
3. The Board currently has one (1) rulemaking packet on going and one (1) on hold.
4. A review of the licensure portability law which effects military members and their families.
5. There are two of licensees currently being monitored by the disciplinary coordinator.

Ms. Elta Breen provided a presentation on information she received during her attendance at the FARB Regulatory Law Seminar conference in September 2023.

REPORT FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE

Ms. Emily Godwin presented the Committee’s year end report with projections of future fiscal years. Additionally, a few fee reduction proposals were presented. Previously, the Committee approved to reduce their fees at an aggressive rate. However, with recent changes to the Department’s salary scale it is not recommended the Committee stick with such an aggressive reduction. With the current approved reduction, the Committee is projected to have a forty-five-thousand-dollar deficit and exhaust all cumulative carry-over funds by 2025. The Committee would quickly need to request rule changes to increase fees before exhausting their carry-over; and the time for a rule change is lengthy and the request to increase fees is historically harder to request and approve than it is to reduce fees.

The Committee reviewed all proposals and opted to follow a moderate approach. Ms. Spiess motioned to reduce the fees as follows:

Behavior Analysts:

Application Fee: Reduced from \$250 to \$50
License Fee: Reduced from \$100 to \$40
Renewal Fee: Reduced from \$300 to \$150

Behavior Analyst Assistants:

Application Fee: Reduced from \$150 to \$50
License Fee: Reduced from \$100 to \$15
Renewal Fee: Reduced from \$200 to \$100

Ms. Terry seconded the motion and it passed.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

James Meindel, TABA Representative

Dr. Meindel reports there are no updates or concerns to be reported by TABA at this time.

Correspondence

N. Lanier - The Committee reviewed correspondence received by e-mail to the administrative office. The email addresses a concern about getting insurance companies to recognize BCaBA certification and if there is anything the Committee could assist with on bringing more awareness to this issue. The Committee expressed not having a lot of information on the matter. However, it was enough information to determine that the Committee would not be able to make any recommendations or assist with insurance

concerns and that the matter would be more appropriately addressed through lobbying and negotiating rates with insurance companies.

Ratification of New Licensees

The Committee reviewed the list of newly licensed individuals since the last meeting. Ms. Terry motioned to ratify all names on the list. Mr. Cripps seconded the motion and it passed.

Consultant for Investigations

Ms. Spiess and Dr. Meindel have a recommendation of someone to consider as a consultant. Both will work towards submitting the individuals resume to the administrative office so the process can move to the next step. If we receive the resumes, then the office of investigations can review the names recommended. If they pass the check with that office, then the Committee will review the resumes at their next meeting and decide on whether to make a motion to select another consultant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

This meeting adjourned at 10:24am (CT).