

**MEETING MINUTES
TENNESSEE BOARD FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, AND
CLINICAL PASTORAL THERAPISTS MINUTES**

DATE: September 19-20, 2019

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Health Related Boards Conference Center
Iris Room, 665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

**BOARD MEMBERS
PRESENT:** Susan Hammonds-White, Ed.D. LPC/MHSP, Chair
Kimberly Speakman, LPC/MHSP
Shelly Steel, MFT
Howard Nelson, CPT
Jennifer Little, Consumer member

STAFF PRESENT: Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director
Sharonda Thompson, Board Administrator 2
Doris VanOvermeiren, Board Administrator 1
Nathaniel Flinchbaugh, Advisory Attorney
LaTonya Shelton, ASA 3

Dr. Hammonds-White called the meeting to order at 9:11. A roll call was conducted and a quorum was present. Staff also introduced themselves.

Minutes

The minutes were not approved at this time, but were deferred until Friday, September 20, 2019 in order to make corrections.

Office of Investigations Report

Ms. Lori Leonard, Disciplinary Coordinator, stated there are a total of twelve (12) open complaints for Licensed Professional Counselors and one complaint for Certified Marital and Family Therapists. There are seven (7) open complaints for Clinical Pastoral Therapists.

Office of General Counsel Report

Mr. Flinchbaugh briefly reviewed the conflict of interest policy. He stated that currently, the Office of General Counsel has three (3) open cases. There is one (1) Consent Orders ready for the Boards review. Mr. Flinchbaugh reported on the appearance at Government Operations regarding the rules packet with the ethical guidelines. The Government Operations committee gave a negative vote on the packet, especially on the Clinical Pastoral Therapist ethics rules and the rule packet was rejected. The rules will have to be resubmitted. Mr. Flinchbaugh

recommends having an unprofessional conduct section to be added to the rules. Mr. Flinchbaugh reported on the Interstate Compact Advisory Group and related he will be attending a meeting October 3 and 4 in person. He also spoke to the board regarding ADA compliance with exams which are given on-site. Dr. Hammonds-White questioned Mr. Flinchbaugh regarding the Codes of Ethics rejected by Government Operations and he replied he felt it would be best to submit separate rules packets for each profession under unprofessional conduct. He will put the rules for suicide prevention in one packet for all professions.

Consent Order

Suzanna V. Owens, LPC-MHSP license # 4550. Ms. Owens was employed as a community counselor at Fairhaven Treatment Center in Cordova, Tennessee. Ms. Owens began corresponding with a patient of Fairhaven and developed a close personal relationship from July 2017 until October 2017. Ms. Owens corresponded with the patient via phone calls, text messages, and Facebook. Ms. Owens met the patient at Starbucks four or five times. Ms. Owens resigned from her position at Fairhaven on March 20, 2018. Mr. Flinchbaugh informed the Board that this did occur before Ms. Owens was fully licensed. The discipline in the Consent Order states she will be Probation for six (6) months. During probation, Ms. Owens must complete a live boundary course within 6 months. Also, costs shall be assessed not to exceed \$1,000, payable within 24 months. Ms. Speakman made a motion to accept the Consent Order, seconded by Dr. Nelson. A roll call vote was held and all voted in the affirmative; the motion carried.

Agreed Citation

Abby Utter was issued an Agreed Citation for practicing on a lapsed license for four (4) months after the time she had available to renew. She was assessed a Civil Penalty in the amount of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) which is paid in full. Ms. Speakman made a motion to accept the Agreed Citation as written and Ms. Steel seconded. The motion passed.

Administrative Report

Ms. Thompson reviewed the Administrative Report stating there are two thousand five-hundred and sixty-six (2566) active Licensed Professional Counselors, of those, two thousand-four hundred and seventy-eight (2478) have the Mental Health Service Provider designation and four hundred fifty-two (452) are approved supervisors. There are currently two hundred sixty-four (264) temporary LPC/MHSP licenses. There are six hundred ninety-nine (699) active Licensed Marital and Family Therapists and one hundred seventy-one (171) temporary MFT licensees. Ms. Thompson said there are twenty-two (22) Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapists. Ms. Thompson stated that there have been sixty-three (63) newly licensed LPC's and seventeen (17) newly licensed MFT's since the May 31, 2019 Board meeting.

Board meeting dates for 2019:

December 6, 2019

Board meeting dates for 2020:

March 6, 2020

June 12, 2020

September 11, 2020

December 4, 2020

Newly Licensed

Ms. Steel made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve the following newly Licensed Professional Counselors with MHSP designation. The motion carried.

Bacigalupa, Nichole
Baker, Heather L. White
Bugter, Darragh
Cannon, Kirsten N.
Dyer, Brooke Kathleen
Fiola, Jessica
Hahner, Tara Lynn
Hawks, Eryn
Hill, Lauren Ashley
Johnson, Christian
Keith, Corey
Lamb, Janet Ragan
Lee, Kasie Dr
Mcclintock, Christie Lynne
Mccormick, Taylor Layne
Monroe, Sarah
Perkins, Ashley
Robinson, Rachel Marie
Ryder, Danielle Laray
Shepard, Madison
Tatum-Sharp, Kayla Noel
Thompson, Pamela Jeanne
Williams, Wooldridge Mariah
Vaughan, Ava
White, Destiny Nichole
Turnage, Jaryn Davis

Ms. Steel made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson to approve the following newly Licensed Professional Counselors without MHSP designation. The motion carried.

Andersen, Elizabeth Martha
Arias, John Michael
Bartling, Diana K.
Bassham, Clayton James
Bradden, Jordan Destiny
Burge, Julie M.
Butler, Christina Sueanne

Callaway, Rebecca
Combs, Lauren Suzanne
Conley, Veronica
Drain, Elizabeth R.
Forgette, Erin Priscilla
Gaspie-Harris, Latisha
Glenn, Emily Elliott
Grizzard, Niketa Ann
Gunter, Erica Suzanne
Halsey, Katie Renee
Hamilton, Laura Claiborne
Hansford, Melissa Jane
Hatmaker, Janet L.
Johnson, Kathryn Elizabeth
Johnson, Melissa
Jones, Amanda M.
Mckissick, Kayla Ashlee
Mcredmond, Theresa F.
Medlin, Kelly Jean
Mooney, William C.
Owen, Sarah Leith
Prevost, Kate
Richardson, Jillian M.
Robbins, Kuwana Keshia
Singleton, Donna Jean
Stanfield, Kristine
Stocksdale, Susan Hollister Marsh
Thomas, Auslyn
Thomason, Samantha Gayle

Dr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Steel, to approve the following newly Licensed Marital and Family Therapists. The motion carried.

Bramwell, Jourdan Virginia
Bruce-Owenby, Mary Elizabeth
Chazen, Rachel
Cowart, David .
Elrod, Jenna
Gardenhire, Julie Ann
Gibson, Tina Spivey
Hazlewood, Jenna
Kishonthy, Edina
Mccollum, Nick
Mcgirt, Christian
Miller, Sally Lott
O'Nyon, Meghan

**Tegano, Rachel
West, Nicole Dana'
Woodruff, Kathryn**

Temporary Licenses

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve the following Temporarily Licensed Professional Counselors. The motion carried.

**Armstrong, Donna Marie
Baldwin, Sara Hancock
Barry, Anquanita Mrs
Clark, Lecretia Williams
Copeland, Candace L.
Corlew, Demetria Larese
Cornell, Vienna Eun
Cowan, Richard
Daverio, Marie
Deangelis, Michael Dominick
Ellingson, Kiley
Finch, Kristin Flow
Gunn, Rachel Nicole
Holder, Lisa Carol
Johnson, Kimberly Jasmine
Jones, Mary Elizabeth
Jordan, Marissa Lynn
Lee, Christiana
Leimbach, Mary Jo
Mallory, Kate Smith
McCormick, Carrie
Mcneil, Regina Kipenzi
Mills, Tonya G.
Mitchell, Charles Branton
Oberheim, Steven Tyler
Partlow, Anna
Pritchard, Natalie Renee
Rate, Emily Caroline
Riebl, Emma Langston
Rodgers, Coryn Nicole
Shelley, Ashley Monique
Tackett ,Stacey
Ubben, Rebecca McMahan
Voigt, Lea Marie**

Ms. Steel made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve the following Temporarily Licensed Marital and Family Therapists. The motion carried.

Birnholz, Susan Yasmin
Bishop, Kristen Seymour
Boswell, Haley
Campbell, Jacqueline Marie
Catlett, Kayla Danielle
Croft, Sally
Durham, Donna M
Elam, Jordan Craven
Flener, Emily Heather Ezell
Gilmore, Candice Nicole
Henderson, Ashley Grace
Johnson, Thomas Glenn
Kratzert, Emily Grace
Osborne, Jessica Ellen
Poole, Emma Servies
Roysdon, Baley Renee
Skinner, Mary Keith
Smith-Brown, Amelia Pernita
Thompson, Stephanie Yvonne
Thompson, Travis
Walden, Alyssa Anne

Reinstatement Applications

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson to approve the following reinstated Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Professional Counselor with MHSP. The motion carried.

Harris ,Jennifer D.

Dr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Steel to approve the following reinstated Licensed Marital and Family Therapist. The motion carried.

Briggs, Justin Gregory

Art Therapy Issue

The board was given the application file of Ashley Beck who has a degree in art therapy. Dr. Hammonds-White wished to take up the issue of art therapy degrees and licensure as a professional counselor before having the board rule on Ms. Beck's application.

Dr. Hammonds-White read Tennessee Code Annotated 63-22-104 which states "has obtained a minimum of sixty (60) graduate hours in counseling or a closely related field and which includes a master's degree in counseling." The question is whether a degree in Art Therapy fulfills the statutory requirements for licensure. Ms. Speakman spoke to this issue stating the degree must be a degree in counseling. It has come to the board's attention that a very few applications having a degree in Art Therapy have been approved over the last eighteen (18) years. The question is what

is the intent of the statute, and whether the degree must be in counseling. The statute says “related field” but also states a degree in counseling. There are individuals who have been licensed with other degrees as well and some of these persons have taken additional coursework to obtain the professional counselor license. Ms. Speakman related that she was contacted by a licensee from Georgia who has a degree in psychology who has taken extra coursework and wants to be licensed in Tennessee. The issue is just not art therapy, but includes other types of degrees as well. Dr. Hammonds-White asked Mr. Flinchbaugh his interpretation of the issue and he stated the issue is whether an art therapy degree would qualify an individual for licensure and whether it would qualify an individual for National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) certification. The word counseling is not capitalized in the statute. If it (Art Therapy) is being accepted in other states it is possible it could be considered a suitable degree for this state. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated he cannot answer this question since it is a board decision. Dr. Nelson stated the core courses for the degree must be met. Ms. Steel referenced a transcript which had courses almost exclusive in art therapy but related to counseling such as “art therapy group”; “art therapy counseling”; “art therapy assessment”; and if this person practiced anything other than art therapy would they be practicing outside the scope of practice. Mr. Flinchbaugh opined this is where the “60 course hours in related subjects” comes. Ms. Speakman related she reviewed a number of files the previous week and the art therapy application were very narrowly constructed to art therapy courses while others were broader based. Dr. Nelson stated there are certifications in art therapy one can obtain. Mr. Flinchbaugh questioned whether art therapy is a certification approved by the NBCC. Dr. Hammonds-White stated this is an issue the board has struggled with for years and the question of what exactly is a counselor? She stated there is a “core” for licensing of counselors and wondered if those applications Ms. Speakman reviewed had the “core” courses. Ms. Speakman stated many of the applications she reviewed had these core courses added. Dr. Robin Lee related the conditions required for their credential. They are aligned with CACREP. Dr. Hammonds-White stated there have been times in the past where individuals have been licensed as counselors with degrees other than counseling. Dr. Peter Wilson from Trevecca University spoke about the fact that he has worked with individuals seeking licensure with degrees other than counseling and he has suggested they take other coursework to supplement what they already have, and that at time the recommendation is to start over with a counseling degree since adding courses to what they already have would be too overwhelming. Ms. Speakman spoke about having some type of document with which to use as guidance when reviewing files other than those with a degree in counseling. Ms. Wilkins asked Mr. Flinchbaugh whether the board could request an Attorney General Opinion whether a degree in art therapy could qualify an individual for a license as a counselor. Dr. Hammonds-White stated she did not want to ask for an Attorney General opinion. She stated she wanted the board to come up some form of guidance for the issue of how a master’s in counseling is defined and how a person who does not have a degree in counseling can be licensed. She further stated there is a consensus that certain core courses should be included such as treatment planning and use of the DSM. The counseling profession has changed during the last four to five years and is developing a professional identity as counselors, and how to find a way for a person with an alternative degree to identify themselves as counselors and how to define the criteria to become a counselor. Dr. Hammonds-White stated that what was done in the past should not be changed, but going forward the criteria needs to be defined. Ms. Steel stated as the board has evolved gaps in requirements have begun to appear and it is time to close the gaps. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated the coursework requirements are in the rules and this should be the guideline as to what the qualifications are. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated this is the board’s job to determine whether or not particular courses fit the required areas. Ms. Speakman spoke about the

coursework recommendations and whether or not clarifying language should be added to the rule. The applications for today will be reviewed on the rules in place now.

Ashley Beck

Ms. Speakman and members of the board reviewed the course summary worksheet of Ms. Beck. Ms. Beck was asked to come to the podium and stated she was aware of the qualifications before she began her program. She stated the courses she took try to meet both requirements. She stated she has taken extra courses to supplement. She stated she is regretful Florida State put the words “art therapy” in their course titles. She stated she is trained in different modalities. Ms. Speakman asked if Ms. Beck is in practice. Ms. Beck stated she works with vulnerable populations, but want the Tennessee license to be recognized. Ms. Speakman asked is Ms. Beck would feel comfortable performing counseling other than art therapy counseling. Ms. Beck stated she is trained in verbal counseling. If a client did not wish to do art therapy she would not make a client do so. Ms. Steel asked whether or not Ms. Beck is performing verbal counseling at this time. Dr. Hammonds-White if Ms. Beck was willing to take additional courses in order to become licensed in Tennessee. Ms. Speakman asked which course would count for treatment and treatment planning. Ms. Beck showed the board where this was on the summary sheet and was included in the practicums she took part in. Ms. Steel asked Ms. Beck to go through her courses and show in the syllabus, but Ms. Speakman stated this was what was on the worksheet. Dr. Hammonds-White stated that this should be put on hold until the board has time to match the courses with the syllabi. Ms. Wilkins alerted the board that course syllabi were loaded on the iPads should they wish to look at it and there was also a paper copy.

Hannah Foran

Ms. Foran has a master’s degree from Leslie University in expressive therapy with a specialization in art therapy and mental health counseling. It was noted Ms. Foran is not seeking MHSP designation. The board reviewed the transcript. Ms. Wilkins stated the transcript shows seventy-five (75) course work hours. Ms. Wilkins apologized for the missing course worksheet and had copies made and presented to the board. Ms. Speakman spoke about how some the courses listed on the worksheet were narrowly based and that this application was compared with a licensee and the degree and courses were the same. The question is whether the degree meets the statutory requirements. Ms. Steel stated she felt and asked the other board members if they felt the same. Ms. Foran will be asked to rework the sheet and it will be reviewed again.

Megan Edenfield

Ms. Edenfield has a degree from Lincoln University. The board reviewed the transcript and Ms. Steel remarked the courses met the requirements but the degree was in clinical psychology. Dr. Hammonds-White stated she has a problem with clinical psychology degrees being approved for professional counseling licenses. Clinical psychologists are not counselors. Ms. Speakman stated she took additional courses to meet the counseling requirements and there was an externship in psychology in Baltimore Maryland and she has worked at Youth Villages.

Dr. Robin Lee addressed the board as to professional identity and how someone with a degree in

social work or psychology might identify with the professional associations associated with their degree. She feels if someone can show they have had coursework or an affiliation with counseling that might make a difference. Dr. Hammonds-White wondered if someone with a degree in psychology would affiliate with the Tennessee Psychology Association or Tennessee Licensed Professional Counseling Association. Ms. Wilkins was asked to provide information regarding the type of license the supervisor had. Upon reviewing the supervision documents all supervision was conducted by a LPC/MHSP. Mr. Flinchbaugh asked who accredited the program and if it were American Psychological Association she would be better suited to a psychological assistant. One qualifies under one board; not multiple boards. After much discussion the board voted to allow Ms. Edenfield to withdraw her application. (At the board meeting held on October 28, 2019 Ms. Edenfield's application was reviewed a second time after the board administrative discussed allowing other types of degrees to be approved for licensure. A motion was made by Ms. Speakman and seconded by Ms. Little to rescind the motion to allow Ms. Edenfield to withdraw her application and to approve her for licensure. All voted in favor and the motion carried.)

Dr. Peter Wilson spoke regarding the licensure of individuals holding degrees in psychology in the past. He stated he is concerned about the above action. Ms. Speakman stated she struggled with this issue on this application; Ms. Edenfield took all three licensing exams. Ms. Steel stated the board struggles with issues like this and they need to take clear-cut precedence on applications such as these.

Barry Bryant

Mr. Bryant's application is for a temporary license as an LPC/MHSP with a degree awarded by Liberty University. He currently has a temporary license as a marital and family therapist. He is seeking temporary licensure as a professional counselor stating the coursework for both licenses is the same and wants to use the degree in marital and family therapy for professional counseling. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated in this situation the marital and family degree does not qualify him for the professional counselor. A motion to allow Mr. Bryant to withdraw his application was made by Ms. Speakman and seconded by Dr. Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Lisa May- KY Reciprocity

Ms. Wilkins refreshed the board's memory of the situation from the meeting in May. Ms. May has a TN LPC license and wishes to upgrade to MHSP status. She stated that she is eligible for reciprocity from Kentucky as she achieved five (5) years of licensure. She stated she practiced in Tennessee and Kentucky both, however she resides in Tennessee and most of her practice is in Tennessee. The board questioned whether the amount of practice in Kentucky met the qualifications for her to upgrade in Tennessee per the Reciprocity Agreement. Mr. Flinchbaugh reviewed the reciprocity agreement with the board opining the idea of the agreement was for someone relocating from Kentucky to Tennessee after having sufficient experience in Kentucky to fulfill the requirements for reciprocity. A call was placed to Ms. Mays who responded telephonically to questions from the board. Ms. Mays stated she had lived in Tennessee since 2014. She received her KY LPCC in 2013. She stated she had between 100-200 clients during 2013-2014 in east Kentucky in her agency. There was a variety of client types including those with depression, HDHD, adjustment disorder, anxiety and substance abuse. Dr. Hammonds-White asked what her intention for her license in Tennessee was and Ms. May stated she

ultimately wants to become a supervisor. Ms. Speakman asked how many clients in Kentucky she still maintains. Ms. May stated she has two clients in Kentucky she sees both in person and telephonically. Dr. Hammonds-White stated the board is trying to determine how much client involvement Ms. Mays has had during the prior five years. Ms. Mays stated she sees clients at her church and that her practice was more like life-coaching. The call was ended at the request of Dr. Hammonds-White. Discussion on the situation was held and Dr. Nelson made a motion to deny the upgrade to her license seconded by Ms. Steel. All voted in favor and the motion carried. A discussion was held about her practice at the church and whether or not a complaint should be filed. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated he could file a complaint and have the matter looked into.

Correspondence

The board reviewed a letter from **Suzanne Blackwood** requesting a one-year extension to obtain her supervision hours due to a hardship caused by caring for her invalid mother. Ms. Blackwood addressed the board personally stating her reason for the request. She stated she is very close to acquiring the hours, but still needs to take the NCMHCE and Jurisprudence exams. She also has a financial hardship. Dr. Nelson made a motion to grant an extension to November 9, 2020 seconded by Ms. Speakman.

Correspondence was received by **Diane Donovan-Vaughn** requesting a waiver of the AAMFT exam stating she has been practicing for many years in Nevada and when she was licensed the national exam did not exist. Mr. Flinchbaugh suggested the board follow along in reading T.C.A. 63-22-103 regarding reciprocity and endorsement. T.C.A. 63-22-106 was also reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Steel to waive the exam requirement seconded by Dr. Nelson if she has a master's degree in marital and family therapy. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Dave Baker sent correspondence to the board asking if his degree in school counseling would allow him to become licensed as MHSP in Tennessee. The board advised he needs to look at his information and take the courses required. Ms. Speakman stated she had a letter from him as well. He has additional coursework which allowed him to become licensed in Georgia and meets the requirements for licensure in Tennessee, but does not want to start the application process if there is no hope of being granted a license in Tennessee as a counselor. Ms. Wilkins expressed concern that other states are accepting these type degrees for licensure and Tennessee does not. Ms. Wilkins suggested the board read the first part of the email showing his courses. Mr. Flinchbaugh referred the board to T.C.A. 63-22-116 regarding reciprocity. The board stated they cannot make a ruling without a transcript and suggested he submit an application.

Aaron Kennedy wrote the board asking for an exception to be made on the clinical setting site regulation as he serves full-time on a pastoral staff, however there is not a licensed mental health professional on site. The board denied the exception to the clinical setting request. The maximum time for completing the supervision experience is four years.

Correspondence was received from **Sheree Jones** asked the board if she could pursue licensure based on a doctoral degree in counseling. The board stated this would be acceptable.

American Counseling Association Compact Proposal

The ACA has a proposal for an interstate compact. It is a three-phase process. Phase I will be

January-August 2020 and will focus on the development of the compact. Phase II will be September 2020-March 2023 and will focus on developing an online resource kit which will serve as the principle resource on the new compact. Phase III will be from April 2023-September 2023 which will be establishment of the commission that will provide on-going coordination of the compact.

This process has been out-sourced to National Center for Interstate Compact. Members for the advisory group have been identified and the first meeting will take place Washington, DC on October 2-4, 2019. Mr. Flinchbaugh will attend the meeting.

Dr. Hammonds-White stated this is not the only portability proposal. Her question is whether or not more years being licensed makes an individual a better counselor; what is the research that supports this? The AASCB proposed five (5) years of licensure for portability. Others propose three (3) years of licensure/practice. Dr. Nelson stated licensees must show proof of continuing education and this supports the idea the practitioner is qualified. Ms. Steel asked whether this would depend on the degree earned (art therapy, etc.) Dr. Hammonds-White stated this proposal is for professional counselors only and not the other professions. Ms. Speakman stated she is concerned about professional identity. Mr. Flinchbaugh spoke referencing the Nurse Licensure Compact and how it is structured. If a nurse meets certain criteria in the home state they may qualify for a compact privilege, but this is up to the home state. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated he has many questions and will have additional information after he has a conference call on September 26, 2019. It will take a statutory change for Tennessee to adopt any compact agreement. Ms. Steele questioned why someone would not have to pay for a license in a compact state. Mr. Flinchbaugh said that would depend on how the compact would be set up. He further questioned how the board might like the compact set up. Dr. Hammonds-White stated this had implications for telehealth. Dr. Hammonds-White spoke about the legislation in Arizona allowing any licensee in another state could come to Arizona and be licensed there. Dr. Peter Wilson addressed the board stating he is concerned this would take legislation to have this occur. Ms. Speakman stated there are other proposals as well. The board stated to Mr. Flinchbaugh they would prefer an arrangement similar to the Nurse Licensure Compact. There is some concern this proposal is tied to the ACA and whether or not it would be tied to the ACA Code of Ethics.

Portability and Telecounseling Solutions

This was written by West Virginia. This proposal suggests that telecounseling would be considered to take place at the business location of the counselor and the state in which the counselor's business is located is the jurisdiction of record. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated this probably would not be a good practice idea as jurisdictional laws go back many, many years. If a client were to be injured in another state it could present problems.

They also suggested that there be a shared database of all licensure information which would be maintained by American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB.) Mr. Flinchbaugh stated the board of nursing has a system such as this. Mr. Flinchbaugh will get further information which he will bring back to the board. Ms. Speakman stated this has been talked about for years and AASCB is working on a proposal for this. She thinks they had a recent meeting to get this set up and now have the technological experience to do this.

They also presented an issue with endorsement and presented two (2) options. Option 1 applies

primarily to long time licensees who may not have taken an exam. The applicant must have maintained a license at the highest level for five (5) years and is not currently under investigation by any regulatory board. Option 2 applies to licensees who do not meet criteria for Option 1 and applies to applicant who meets current standards for endorsement or the applicant has maintained a license level for independent practice for two (2) year and must fulfill other requirements. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated there is no way in Tennessee to know if a person is under investigation as administrative personnel are not advised of this. Tennessee has a confidentiality law for investigations and cannot disclose whether or not someone is under investigation. The licensee can share this information but the department cannot.

National Counselor Licensure Endorsement Process (NCLEP 2.0)

This is the proposal that was endorsed by the AASCB, ACES, AMHCA, and NBCC. There are two (2) options. Option I supports the continuation of the complete review process currently utilized by a state. Option 2 offers a streamlined version review, accepting evidence of required experience previously reviewed by another licensure board and educational requirement previously reviewed. The applicant has been actively licensed for at least three (3) years, is currently in good standing with no pending disciplinary action. Completed a jurisprudence exam and undergone background checks as well as one of the following: Has maintained a license to practice independently that was awarded on or before December 31, 2014; possesses the National Certified Counselor credential; or possesses a graduate-level degree from a CACREP program awarded on or before January 1, 2014.

Discuss Jurisprudence Exam

The professional counselor jurisprudence exam has been in need of revision and this has been discussed for several years with the NBCC. This has not been a successful process to date. Ms. Wilkins discussed how the current LPC exam is administered. She further gave information as to how other boards in Unit 1 administer their exam. Some are open book; some are mailed to the applicant and the applicant can take it on their own time. One board turned it into continuing education. Dr. Hammonds-White expressed a need to establish a task force to examine the issue. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated if this would be a formal process and actually write the exam then it would need to be sunshined so input could be gained from the public. Ms. Wilkins informed the board about the type of questions the psychology board uses and the type of questions the MFT exams contains. Ms. Speakman questioned Mr. Flinchbaugh about the ADA requirements if the board administered the exam and this would have to be accommodated. Dr. Hammonds-White stated she felt having someone come to Nashville is very burdensome and a testing center would be more convenient. Ms. Speakman said she liked the idea of a testing center but wondered about having a proctored exam, possibly a supervisor. Dr. Hammonds-White stated she doesn't feel the board has a clear idea of what type of exam is wanted. Dr. Robin Lee addressed the board regarding the process. Dr. Peter Wilson suggested a university environment might be an option for administering the exam. Dr. Robin Lee, Dr. Peter Wilson, and Dr. Diane Bradley will get together and come back to the board with suggestions. Ms. Wilkins stated during her six and one half years with the health related boards she has administered hundreds of exams and has never had a request for ADA accommodations. She further stated that any request could be handled with little trouble on the part of administrative staff.

Dr. Laura Kreiselmaier asked the board if the director could revise the Clinical Pastoral Therapist jurisprudence exam to reflect the changes in the statute. A motion was made by Dr. Nelson to allow the director to remove obsolete questions from the CPT exam seconded by Ms. Steel. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Dr. Hammonds-White advised the board that South Carolina and North Carolina are interested in reciprocity agreements such as that of Kentucky and asked that the board attorneys contact each other regarding this issue. Dr. Chris O'Rear asked whether or not pastoral therapists would be included. Ms. Steel inquired about having this for marital and family therapists.

CACREP

Dr. Wilson reported on the number of schools in Tennessee who are now CACREP and there are now 22 schools credentialed with several in process of becoming credentialed. A high percentage of schools in Tennessee are CACREP. Dr. Ron McDonald of Memphis Theological Seminary addressed the board stating this would be a burden as they designed their program according to the state standards. Dr. McDonald was informed CACREP only applies to professional counselors. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated there is no limitation in the statute which would impact Tennessee requiring CACREP degrees. The board discussed a timeframe for implementing CACREP. Mr. Flinchbaugh opined there was no statutory restriction against this implementation. It was discussed enough time would need enough time for students to complete their program. Dr. Robin Lee stated the NBCC deadline for the NCC is 2023. Dr. Hammonds-White stated she felt 2025 would be a reasonable timeframe.

Supervisor Designation

Ms. Wilkins related having problems receiving documentation of supervisor's qualifications, particularly for marital and family therapists. She wondered if this could be a qualifier added on a MFT license. Ms. Steel this could pose problems if a supervisor decided not to be any longer. It was decided this was not actually feasible. Dr. Diane Bradley stated this could be a problem for a supervisor-in-training. Ms. VanOvermeiren stated she felt this was feasible. Ms. Steel made a motion to add this to the license seconded by Dr. Nelson. Ms. Speakman asked whether or not supervisors are providing proof of the required three (3) hours of supervision. Ms. Wilkins stated we work on an audit system and sometimes this documentation is not always available. Possibilities were discussed about ways to solve this issue; possibly putting an expiration date of the supervision on the certificate.

Discussion of Rule Amendments

Mr. Flinchbaugh reported to the board on the recent rule packet voted on by the Government Operations committee. The packet contained the suicide prevention continuing education rule as well as ethics rules for each of the three (3) professions. The committee did not approve the packet so these rules will have to be rewritten. The board voted to approve the rule on suicide prevention as previously written. Mr. Flinchbaugh discussed that the ethics packet for clinical pastoral therapists was the rule most concerning to the committee. Ms. Robbie Hutchens spoke about the ethical code for clinical pastoral therapists. She stated their code is very different from other ethical codes for counseling professions. She stated there are many problems that could

potentially occur if a code of ethics is no longer in the rules and replaced with a code of conduct. Ms. Hutchens stated the association would want to be a part of the discussion. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated he feels the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics would be appropriate for the professional counselors and suggested resubmitting the rule on that, and state reasons why this is important. He suggested licensees appear before the committee in the future in support and justification of keeping the ethics code. A motion was made to keep the 2014 Code of Ethics of the American Counseling Association in the LPC rules was made by Ms. Speakman and seconded by Dr. Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion passed. The board stated reasons for the justification of this rules and the ethics code stating the code has had much input into this code and the use of this code throughout the world supports the protection of the public by using an agreed-upon code of ethics that professional counselors use and identify by. If not adopted there are many ramifications that could occur and it may be much more difficult for Tennessee counselors to move to other states, as well as other reasons. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated this justification would work for the January 1, 2015 AAMFT Code of Ethics for marital and family therapists as well. Dr. Nelson motioned for adoption of the January 1, 2015 AAMFT Code of Ethics seconded by Ms. Steel. All voted in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Flinchbaugh related the issues the Government Operations Committee had with the clinical pastoral therapists ethical code presented. The committee was concerned that some terms were undefined. Dr. Hammonds-White asked that this be tabled until Mr. Chris O'Rear was present for the discussion.

(At this time Ms. Little had to leave the meeting.)

Discussion for suggestions for amendments to the rules for marital and family therapists. Due to issues with documents and miscommunication between staff and the board regarding copies sent out, Ms. Wilkins suggested the board adjourn the meeting and come back the following day, September 20, and take up the rules discussion. Motion was made by Ms. Speakman to adjourn to Friday, December 20 at 9:00 a.m. seconded by Dr. Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Meeting on September 20, 2019

The board reconvened at 9:00 a.m. Present were Dr. Susan Hammonds-White, Dr. Howard Nelson, Ms. Kim Speakman, and Ms. Shelly Steel. Ms. Jennifer Little was absent. A quorum was present.

Minutes

Minutes from the September 19, 2016 meeting were reviewed after revisions had been made. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dr. Nelson seconded by Ms. Steel. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

File Review

The file of Ms. Ashley Beck who applied with a degree in Art Therapy was further discussed. Ms. Speakman stated she and Dr. Hammonds-White discovered eight (8) courses that needed to be completed before she could be licensed. A motion was made by Ms. Speakman seconded by

Dr. Nelson to allow Ms. Beck to withdraw her application in order to obtain the courses necessary seconded by Dr. Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Rules

Clinical Pastoral Therapists – Code of Ethics

Mr. Flinchbaugh reminded the board about the concerns stated from the Government Operations Committee that in the CPT ethical code presented had no definitions for “social justice” and “cultural competence” which were parts of the rules presented and they recommended removal of these sections. Mr. Flinchbaugh gave the board copies of codes of ethics used by several other states for guidance. Discussion ensued with the board and members of the profession. It was suggested the members of the profession and those from the association gather over lunch and come back later in the day with recommendations.

Marital and Family Therapists

The board reviewed the suggested changes from the task force. Many changes and amendments throughout the chapter were presented and discussed by the board. After the conclusion of the discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the proposed amendments and send the rules to rulemaking. The draft rules for Marital and Family Therapists will be sent by Mr. Flinchbaugh for internal review and ultimately a rulemaking hearing will be held at a regularly scheduled meeting of the board.

Clinical Pastoral Therapists – Supervision

Discussion was held concerning the Rule 0450-03 regarding supervision. The change in T.C.A. 63-22-201 authorizes the board to determine the qualifications of an approved supervisor. The change in the rules will be discussed at a future date. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated he would draft a policy regarding this until complete revision of the rules has taken place. Total hours of supervision would total two hundred seventy (270) hours. One hundred thirty-five (135) of this total must be under the supervision of a board approved Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapist supervisor and the remaining one hundred thirty-five (135) may be under the supervision of a licensed professional counselor with mental health service provider designation; licensed clinical social worker; licensed psychologist; licensed psychiatrist; licensed marital and family therapist; or certified psychoanalysts or psychotherapists approved by the ACPE. The supervision must be one on one or one on two. A program will be designed to provide for training on new supervisors, and those who are already approved will be grandfathered in.

Clinical Pastoral Therapists – Return to Ethics Issue

The CPT group conferred during the lunch break and reported back to the board they liked the ethics used by the state of Maine which were presented to the board as an example with minimal changes. A motion was made by Dr. Nelson and seconded by Ms. Steele to accept the proposed ethics rule changes as presented with modifications. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

The board continued discussing amendments to the body of the rules for clinical pastoral

therapists. Due to a change in the statute, many changes were deletions of obsolete parts. Some new changes were, however made when necessary. After the discussion was concluded a motion was made by Ms. Speakman to accept the modifications as presented and amended to send the rules to rulemaking seconded by Dr. Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Election of Officers

Ms. Steel made a motion to elect Dr. Hammonds-White to continue as president of the board seconded by Ms. Speakman. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Ms. Steel made a motion to nominate Ms. Speakman as vice-president of the board seconded by Dr. Hammonds-White. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Ms. Speakman made a motion to nominate Ms. Steel as secretary of the board seconded by Dr. Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Officers are: President – Dr. Susan Hammonds-White; vice-president – Ms. Kimberly Speakman; and secretary – Ms. Shelly Steel.

Special Called Meeting

The board voted to call a special meeting to discuss changes to the professional counselor rules. The date of November 8, 2019 was chosen. (This date was later changed to October 28, 2019.)

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Nelson seconded by Ms. Steel. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Dr. Hammonds-White thanked all parties who attended and put in so much work to amend the rules.

Ratified by the Board for Licensed Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists on January 3, 2020.