

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

DATE: September 4, 2020

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Health Related Boards Conference Center
WebEx Virtual Meeting
Poplar Room, 665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

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

STAFF PRESENT: Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director
Semara Watkins, Board Administrator
Doris VanOvermeiren, Board Administrator 1
Nathaniel Flinchbaugh, Advisory Attorney

Due to gathering restrictions imposed by the Covid – 19 virus, it was necessary to conduct this meeting by WebEx, as a live stream. Ms. Wilkins read the required script into the record, noting all votes must be conducted by roll call. Ms. Wilkins called the roll to establish a quorum. All members were present. Another preliminary vote was taken to establish all members were able to hear each other and also that they had received meeting documents prior to the meeting. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted in favor; the motion carried. The meeting was turned over to Dr. Hammonds-White, Chair.

Dr. Hammonds-White called the meeting to order at 9:18.

Minutes

The minutes from June 5, 2020 were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Ms. Little, seconded by Ms. Speakman. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted to approve the minutes with corrections as noted. Motion passed.

Office of Investigations Report

Ms. Lori Leonard, Disciplinary Coordinator, stated she is monitoring three (3) licenses which are

on probation, (3) under board order and (2) under suspension. She further stated there are currently a total of twenty-three (28) new complaints for LPCs, three (3) new complaints for MFTs, and zero (0) complaints year to date for CPTs.

Legislative Report

Patrick Powell from the Legislative Liaisons office updated the board on bills that were passed this year.

Public Chapter 594

Department of Health Licensure and Accountability Act allows all HRBs to take action against a licensee that has been disciplined by another state for any acts or omissions that would constitute grounds for discipline in Tennessee. The law also expands available emergency actions, allowing actions beyond simply a summary suspension. The act also establishes that the notification of law changes to health practitioners can be satisfied by the online posting of law changes by the respective boards. This bill was passed on March 20, 2020.

Public Chapter 738

This deals with public records and prohibits a governmental entity from authorizing destruction of public records if the entity knows that they are subject to a pending public records request. An entity must contact their public records request coordinator to ensure that they are not subject to any pending public records request before they can authorize the destruction of any records. Records may still be disposed of in accordance with an established records retention schedule/policy as part of an ordinary course of business as long as the records custodian is without knowledge the records are subject to a pending request. This took effect on June 22, 2020.

The Telehealth Bill that took effect in August 2020 allows all licenses under title 63 and 68 to practice telehealth.

Office of General Counsel Report

Mr. Flinchbaugh stated that currently, the Office of General Counsel has six (5) open cases. One is ready for review today.

Executive order 59 extended the use of telehealth through September 30, 2020 for postmaster's pre-licensure individuals. Executive order 59 references Executive order 50 and 36.

Per the authority and permission of the policy of commissioner, policy number 20-1 has allowed any CE hours to count towards all required live CE hours until the end of year 2020. This was executed July 2020.

The telehealth bill that was enacted in August 2020 that allows licenses under title 63 and 68 does not include the postmaster's pre-licensure therapists. Once the executive order ends, the postmaster's pre-licensure therapist cannot practice telehealth under this bill. This bill does include the counselors that hold a temporary license.

Suspension of Stephanie Edmondson, license number LPC/MHSP 2470

Mr. Flinchbaugh submitted a consent order that was ready for review. Respondent engaged in inappropriate relationship with patient. The discipline in this matter is suspension until the completion of an approved professional boundary course. That course must be completed within 3 months of ratification of this order. Once proof of that course is received the suspension shall be stayed and the license will be probated for no less than one year. Respondent must have a practice monitor to review respondent's work no less than once per week. The monitor must report by the 5th of each month to the disciplinary coordinator that the respondent is compliant with all rules and regulations of this board. Upon completion of probation, respondents may petition the board for the license to be returned to an unencumbered status. The respond is going to be assessed one type A civil penalty in the amount of \$1000 that will be payable within 24 months and charged cost not to exceed \$1000 payable within 24 months.

A motion was made by Ms. Steel, seconded by Dr. Nelson to accept the order. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted in favor to approve the consent order. Motion carried.

Administrative Report

Ms. Watkins presented the Administrative Report stating there are two thousand eight-hundred and twenty-two (2822) active Licensed Professional Counselors, of those, two thousand four-hundred and thirty-three (2433) have the Mental Health Service Provider designation and four hundred sixty-seven (467) are approved supervisors. There are currently three hundred fifty-one (351) temporary LPC/MHSP licenses. There are seven hundred seventy-five (775) active Licensed Marital and Family Therapists and two hundred seven (207) temporary MFT licensees. There are currently twenty-three (23) Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapists. This was a short licensing period. Expiration dates during this period were extended by Executive Order due to COVID-19 resulting in no expirations during this period.

The next board meeting for 2020 is December 4, 2020.

2021 Board Meetings

March 5, 2021

June 4, 2021

September 3, 2021

December 3, 2021

Ms. Wilkins informed the board that in August the NBCC established the online LPC Jurisprudence exams and that applicants had already begun completing these. There are no limits to how many times an applicant can take this exam if they do not pass it the first time. The applicant must take and pass their national exams before taking the Jurisprudence exam.

File Review

Mary Mayorga's application to add the MHSP designation was presented for review. She is asking for an exemption of the required postmaster's supervision hours because she did not have any direct postmaster's supervision hours under an MHSP. Applicant had been licensed in Texas and held the

supervisor designation in Texas since 2001. Applicant obtained a doctoral degree from Texas in 2005. The board approved her practicum/internship that she completed for her doctoral degree in place of the postmaster's supervision under an MHSP.

A motion was made by Ms. Speakman, seconded by Dr. Nelson to accept the application for the MHSP to be added to the license. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted in favor to approve the doctoral practicum/internship hours. Motion carried.

Elizabeth McClurg's application for an LPC-MHSP license was presented for review because Ms. McClurg did not meet the Tennessee state law transcript/course requirements.

She currently holds a license in Texas. TCA 63-22-104 qualifications for licensure states an LPC must have 60 hours in Counseling courses in a master's degree. Applicant does not have 60 hours in counseling courses. Some of the courses the applicant does have do not match up to the board's course requirements. Ms. McClurg was asked to provide the board with a course syllabus so that courses that were taken could be evaluated by the description and not by the course title to check if the courses meet the board requirements.

Dr. Robin Lee volunteered to confer with Ms. McClurg in reviewing her coursework and help with recommendations. The board accepted Dr. Lee's suggestion and referred Ms. McClurg to speak to Dr. Robin Lee to see what courses she recommends that would fulfill the requirements and if any of her courses in question could satisfy T.C.A. and board requirements. Mr. Flinchbaugh informed Ms. McClurg that the board does not have the authority to overturn the statutory requirements and that Dr. Lee does not speak for the board, but that Dr. Lee knows the board's rules and regulations and is very good at helping students navigate the requirements. Mr. Flinchbaugh stated furthermore the board cannot sort this matter out and they are not ordering Ms. McClurg to speak to Dr. Robin Lee, but that Dr. Robin Lee is offering the help.

Justin Mickles consent order is being reviewed today as the applicant has not been able to provide proof of payment arrangements with Nebraska. The attorney for the applicant, Joe Wyatt has asked the board to approve clerical change of page 3 #10 of the consent order. Mr. Weyant stated that applicant did not have an attorney when this order was created by the Tennessee board and that the applicant did not know to inform the board that he is not going to enter into any sort of payment plans on the fines owed in Nebraska until he reaches a settlement amount with them. The applicant along with his attorney has challenged the Nebraska judgment and will be heading to the Tennessee Court of Appeals with it. The attorney requested the board to change subsection A of paragraph 10 to say that Mr. Mickles conditional license starts now and can maybe be revisited in 6-9 months. The entire appeals process will take 9-12 months. At that point Mr. Mickles will be forced to enter into the payment arrangements with Nebraska which would then be ordered by the Tennessee Court of Appeals. Mr. Weyant is seeking the board's permission to change this section of the agreement because Mr. Mickles settlement amount has not been fully liquidated under the law.

A motion was made by Ms. Speakman, seconded by Dr. Nelson to add language to part 10A in the conditional license that states that applicant must present proof of a payment plan to pay any and all debt to Nebraska upon completion of appeal pending before the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Ratify New Licenses and Reinstatements

Reinstatement Applications

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson to approve the following reinstated licenses. The motion carried. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted to ratify the reinstated licensees. The motion carried.

CPC

Sharlene Williams #858

LPT

Ryan Fraser #57

LPC

Kendra Allen #2775

Jill Baird #3095

Justin Coggins #4046

Robert Golan #1847

Brooke Owens Keels #4130

Lisa Matthews #3692

Teresa Prendes-Walls #3070

Shelly Prevost #1835

Jennie Shea Raper #2056

Shawn Spurgeon #2490

Newly Licensed

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded Dr. Nelson to approve the new professional counselor licenses. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted to ratify the following new licensees. The motion carried.

LPC

Kristopher Debord

Adriene Dulaney

Natae Feenstra

Shaundreika Heyward

Rebecca Holloway

Jenny Hudson

Cynthia Hughes

Cherrie Lindsey

Becki Livingston

John Malone

Rosemary Maltese

Elisabeth Maynard

Dominique Miller

Paul Morrell

Christine Oaks
Suzanna Owens
Rachel Pacurari
Roela Redd
Necole Richardson
Stacey Shine
Tonya Stearns
Erin Swim
Shakira Thomas
Ashlee Barber

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded Dr. Nelson to approve the new professional counselor with MHSP designation licenses. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted to ratify the new licensees. The motion carried.

LPC-MHSP

Adam Breister
Julie Burge
Taira Burns
Tara Cook
Katelyn Couper
Rose Crouch
Courtney Edwards
Blake Feagans
Marta Goebel-Pietrasz
Megan Grant
Arlene Hable
Claudia Hallquist
Margaret Johnson
Johnna Kitts
Kimberly Koon
Markesha Woods
Phillip Nicholas
Christine Oaks
Jessica Partridge
Alexandrian Peek
Shandi Peters
Leigh Pitre
Candice Reid
Danilla Reyes
David Saunders
Marjorie Sita
Emily Snell
Melissa Simmons
Erin Swem
Olivia Taylor
Jacqueline Thomas

Elizabeth Turner
Fhalon Walker
Melissa Walker
Tiffani Wiles
Kelsey Wonderlin

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded Ms. Steel to approve the new professional counselor temporary licenses. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted to ratify the new licensees. The motion carried.

LPC-MHSP temps

Wesley Allen
Maria Appleberry
Alexandra Austin
Rebecca Bailey
Sophia Barringhaus
Tessa Benefield
Caroline Berl
Courtney Bevins
Ranjit Bhullar
Amanda Birdwell
Lauren Burgan
Crystal Carter
Caitlin Coile
Katelyn Dover
Isaac Evans
Teresa Fleming
Teryl Fleming
Rachel Gladys
Christy Hughes
Jennifer Henderson
Maggie Herman
Elizabeth Hester
Elizabeth Hiatt
Timothy Hollar
Jason Holtgrewe
Ainsley Hunt
Blakely Hunze
Jason Leaverton
Christian Lockhart
Jasmine Madden
Kelsey Maloney-Steiner
Katie Marble
Madeline Martino
Jessica Mattson
Ashley McGowan
Natalie McQuinn

James Moorehead

Ms. Steel made a motion, seconded Ms. Speakman to approve the new marital and family therapist licenses. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted to ratify the new licensees. The motion carried.

MFT

Krystal Alexander
Anthony Arneson
Jordan Hale
Sarah Helton
Veronica Holmes
Brandon Holt
Amy Howard
Aaron Karr
Micah Kieffer
Ashley Knight
Kaitlin Logan
Jesse Lott
Adam Luke
Allen MacEachern
Sheila McCabe
Natalie McCaughey
Kelsie McGlothlin
Eric Minton
Austin Murray
Meredith Olsson
Laura Prescott
Tammy Ricker
Helen Riley
Coryn Rodgers
Anne Schoenherr
Tassel Shanebrook
Lisa Stevens
Sandra Taylor
Andrea Watson
Khamaria Wright
Mary Yates

Ms. Steel made a motion, seconded Dr. Nelson to approve the new marital and family temporary licenses. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted to ratify the new licensees. The motion carried.

MFT Temps

Elizabeth Armstrong
Menan Assefa
Rachel Collins

Calli Cox
Rachel Darter
Robert England
Gregory Fischer
Mandy Gleaves
Daneille Gray
Anna Hamilton
Tonya Haynes
Katia Hurt
Aimee Keedy
Sherry Lovin
Joshua Lund
Sarah May
Jennifer Mortimer
Jonathon Nixon
Michelle Norvell
Mary Owens
Megan Richardson
Lauren Riley
Mark Schmahl
Beth Siller
Ronald Smith, Jr.
Sean Taylor
Elizabeth Thomas
Erin Tillson
Ashley Townsend
Lisbeth Vance
Eugenia Yelen

Correspondence

Mr. **Randall Phillips** provided the board with an update on the creation of the online MFT Jurisprudence exam and requested the board to assign the appropriate individuals to form a small task force to create the exam questions. The new online Jurisprudence exam will be like the one that the Dental Board already uses for their online Jurisprudence exam.

A motion was made by Shelly Steel, seconded by Dr. Nelson to approve a task force to design the online MFT Jurisprudence exam. This task force will include Randall Phillips, Mr. Flinchbaugh, Ms. Wilkins, Dr. Nelson and/or Ms. Steel at different times.

Correspondence was received from **Dr. Brent Hutchinson** with Davis House Child Advocacy Center requesting that the board approve an onsite supervisor that is not on site, for his employee, Rachel Gladys who currently holds a temp license. The supervisor, Anita Pringle works next door at The Refuge Center and is willing with the board's approval to supervise Rachel Gladys as her onsite supervisor upon board approval. The board did not approve this supervisor who does not work for the Davis House business and is not in the building for a least 20 hours a week to supervise the employee at Davis House.

Elizabeth Vigus requested an extension of the four-year time period because she was doing some

administrative work for a period of time and was not accruing clinical hours. Her temp license expired at the end of August. She began accruing hours March 2016.

A motion was made by Ms. Speakman, seconded by Dr. Nelson to approve a one-year extension. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Lindsey Kromer requested an extension of the four-year time period requirements to complete the NCMHCE exam and the TN Jurisprudence exam. She began accruing clinical hours March 2015. She has completed all of her required supervision and passed her NCE exam. Ms. Kromer does not currently hold a temporary license and has not applied for a license. The board decided that the hours 2015-2016 cannot be counted but that Ms. Kromer can have a six-month extension to complete the exams.

A motion was made by Ms. Speakman, seconded by Dr. Nelson to approve the six-month extension. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Robbie Hutchens from the Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy has voiced concern to the board for their pre-licensed Marriage and Family therapist to practice telehealth once the Tennessee Executive Order expires. Dr. Hammonds-White responded to Ms. Hutchens by saying that the pre-licensed therapist is encouraged to apply for a temp license because due to state law the pre-licensed therapists cannot practice telehealth without a license.

Nathaniel Flinchbaugh gave an update on the drafting of the ACA Compact. LPC-MHSP will have access to this interstate compact law if it is passed in November 2020 by legislation. The LPC, CPT, and the MFT will not have access to the ACA Compact. It will be different than the nursing compact whereas there will not be an automatic practice privilege. One will have to apply for the practice privilege which will be a separate application. There are some other restrictions as well. Once ten (10) states have signed on, the compact comes into existence. Tennessee will have to adopt it. Your home state would be where you physically reside, that would be the state where you hold your license. The practice state would be whatever state you apply to have a practice privilege in.

Adjourn

With no other Board business to conduct Ms. Speakman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Little. A roll call vote was taken, and all voted in favor. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Ratified by the Board on December 4, 2020.