



Tennessee Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marital and Family Therapists and Licensed Pastoral Therapists Meeting

Monday, February 3, 2025

MINUTES

The regular Board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marital and Family Therapists and Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapists was called to order at 09:08 a.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Kimberly Speakman, Board President.

Board members present: Kimberly Speakman, LPC/MHSP, Board President
Shelly Steel, LMFT
James Dalton, PhD, LPC/MHSP

Board member(s) absent: Vacant, Consumer Member
Howard Nelson, LCPT, LCSW

Staff present: Candyce Wilson, Board Director
Stephanie Rigney, Board Administrator
Katherine Trawick, JD, General Counsel

DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON RULEMAKING, HEARINGS, RULE AMENDMENTS, AND POLICIES

The Board reviewed the amendments suggested for rule chapter 0450-01 Professional Counselors by Ms. Kathrine Trawick. The discussion started with supervision and the qualifications to be a supervisor. Ms. Trawick stated that she had reached out to the Attorney Generals Office to discuss the Board's ability to require a temporary license, and the determination was that the Board can require it, however due to the current language in the statute it may not be enforced. Ms. Trawick continued to state that language surrounding the approved time for licensure for approved supervisors begins when the Board ratified the independent level licensure and not to include the temporary license. The review included changing the language in the rules to read LPC only candidates earning supervision can only claim up to 33 group supervision hours. The Board discussed restricting the number of supervisees that could be listed under a supervisor, and the availability to submit a waiver allowing more supervisees to be listed. Ms. Trawick brought up the potential need for a supervisor and supervisee agreement to be submitted to the Board. The Board continued the review with discussion about continuing education, that include a requirement to track the CEUs on the CE Broker platform. The Board discussed the section of discipline on a license and

amended the language around the disciplinary review. Dr. Dalton made a motion to approve of the LPC rules as drafted. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Ms. Katherine Trawick read aloud the Conflict-of-Interest policy and discussed the importance of certain parts of the policy. Dr. Dalton stated that he has knowledge of an applicant on the agenda due to the education the applicant had and has stated that he can be objective in the review of that application. No further questions were asked, the Board moved forward.

DR. HOYT EDWARD STONE–

Dr. Stone appeared in person for a review of his supervisory status as an MFT supervisor. When Dr. Stone approached the podium and stated that his name was wrong on the agenda, it was listed Howard Edward Stone, the correction should read Hoyt Edward Stone. Dr. Stone presented a statement to the Board and requested clarification that his training was in no way substandard, a correction to the rules aligning them with the statute to aide supervisors and supervisees in the process, as well as asking to be grandfathered in as a supervisor until such alignment is accepted while allowing the approval of the supervisees the hours earned with him toward licensure. Ms. Steel requested the specific reference to the rule that does not align with the statute, Dr. Stone stated the rules do not clarify that LPCs are not to supervise MFT supervisees. The Board discussed the importance of the rules not mimicking the statute and that the statute is the overall governing law, and that the only discrepancy to be found is past administration approving the hours that were clearly not to be accepted per TCA 63-22-115(a)(2). The Board discussed that the statement was made in the first meeting in which they were alerted to Dr. Stone as an LPC supervising MFT supervisees, that if anyone found themselves in that situation supervision is to immediately stop. Ms. Trawick stated this decision only applied to the supervision of MFT supervisees and had no bearing over his LPC supervisees. No vote needed at this time, the Board determined that a vote will be taken for each supervisee who requests approval of hours.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no meeting minutes to approve of, the Board moved forward with agenda items.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICANTS

William Courington – Mr. Courington was present in person requesting the Boars honor the education that had previously been approved with his previously held temporary MFT license 1881. Mr. Courington temp license expired on April 8, 2024 and thus required him to submit an application for independent level licensure, at which time the administrative office had rejected the education. The Board discussed the courses in which Mr. Courington had placed on his coursework summary, and how they meet or don't meet requirements. The Board discussed the two pathways in which they could proceed, requiring the additional 2 courses or allowing his education to stand as is due to the previous administration approving a temporary license. Ms. Steel made a motion to accept Mr. Couringtons educational course work. Dr. Dalton seconded, and the motion passed.

Raul De La Cruz – Mr. De La Cruz was present in person for a review of his education as well as the supervision hours submitted with the application. Mr. De La Cruz stated that he comes from another state where the requirements for supervision were not equivalent to those of Tennessee Board. The Board reviewed the file and the supervision from New Mexico and discussed the requirements for Tennessee's licensure. Dr. Dalton stated the importance of the supervision hours being with a Mental Health Service

Provider, as well as the need for verification of the supervisor's training to supervise. The Board requested that Mr. De La Cruz reach out to supervisor Atencio and get an updated supervision form to notate the supervision for only dates after he had held the LPCC license for 5 years. Mr. De La Cruz stated that he had struggled to get the hour clarification and proof from Mr. Atencio that he would meet Tennessee requirements. The Board continued to review the file with Ms. Livley-Brindley's supervision 1362/85, and the qualifying transcript submitted, and the remaining number of hours need to meet all requirements for licensure. The discussion continued with explanation of hours verified, and the need for a temporary license to earn the other hours needed toward licensure. Dr. Dalton made a motion to allow Mr. De La Cruz to withdraw his application and to apply the fees from this application toward the LPC/MHSP temporary application within the next 6 months. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

Holly Corwin – Ms. Holly Corwin was present in person for the review of her supervisor hours while she was working for Frontier Health under the supervision of Harry Spurling. Ms. Corwin stated that she has exhausted all options for reaching out to Mr. Spurling to get verification of hours earned. The Board reviewed all documents provided including a letter from Frontier Health verifying supervision hours (130) completed with Mr. Spurling in that facility. The Board discussed the 20 hours of supervision needed, reflecting on the number of clinical face to face hours needed to meet the supervision requirement. Dr. Dalton made a motion to approve of the 130 hours presented by Mr. Spurling, if the 200 clinical face to face and 20 supervision hours needed are complete and submitted prior to August 3, 2026. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

Dr. Dalton made a motion to allow Ms. Corwin to withdraw her application and if she submits a new application within one year to have her fees credited to the next application. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

Katrina Long – Ms. Katrina Long was present in person for the review of the indication on her background check. Ms. Long stated that she has been sober since 2009 and is passionate about the services she provides, feeling the things she has been through have given her an extra level of understanding and knowledge that is useful for her clients with addictions struggles. Ms. Steel made a motion to approve the application for Ms. Long. Dr. Dalton seconded, and the motion passed.

Hannah Sanchez – Ms. Hannah Sanchez was present in person for the review of an indication on her background check. After a review of the file, the Board determined that the administrative office can process and approve without Board approval.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Office of Investigations

Ms. Melissa Judd presented the report from the Office of Investigations. Ms. Speakman requested that the end of the year report show a break down of the number of complaints by profession and type.

Office of General Counsel

Ms. Trawick presented the report from the Office of General Counsel. The Board had no questions.

Financial Office

Ms. Wilson stated that there is not report for the Fiscal Office at this time, that the interim fiscal director would present a report at the April meeting.

Administrative Office Report

Ms. Stephanie Rigney presented the report from the Administrative Office that was processed for the January 10, 2025, meeting. The Board had no questions.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of New Licensees

The Board reviewed newly licensed individuals and reinstating licenses since the last Board meeting. Dr. Dalton made a motion to ratify and reinstate all licenses on the list. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

Correspondence

LuSheena Jones-Coofer – Ms. Jones-Coofer was present in person to request verification that her school psychology degree be accepted toward the application requirements. The Board members reviewed the transcripts that Ms. Jones-Coofer had provided and discussed the amount of courses she appeared to be short in order for the Board to accept it as a counseling degree.

Brooke Weesner – Ms. Weesner was present in person to request that the Board consider approval of the hours completed with Jeremy Miller and Amber Moyer. Ms. Weesner stated that her supervisors are denying her signed supervision forms due to her opening an LLC claiming that it was a violation of the rules, however she stated she did not see any clients under the LLC. The Board asked why the LLC was opened instead of just claiming the name, Ms. Weesner stated she did not know she could do that at the time. The Board discussed the timeline in which Ellie Mental Health knew that Ms. Weesner had the LLC name, Ms. Weesner stated she had a discussion with her manager prior to applying for the LLC about the name she wanted and what her ideas were. Then had follow up discussions in January and February of 2024 about the LLC, following these conversations in December of 2024 was termination based on the non-compete clause of her contract. The Board discussed the rules and how it pertained to this specific situation. The Board discussed the requirement of supervisors signing off on hours completed, and if they have concern, they can attach a letter to the Board with that information.

Laura Dodd - Ms. Dodd was not present to discuss the file with the Board. The Board discussed the request to allow 2-3 years to complete the additional 1100 hours still needed to complete the application's hour requirement due to health concerns. The determination was that it was too early to consider the extension, and that Ms. Dodd would need to come to the Board at a later date closer to the expiration of the temporary license with updated hour information.

Rulemaking, Hearings, Rule Amendments, and Policies cont.

MFT Private Policy – Ms. Melody Kline with the TNAMFT stated that at a previous meeting the discussion was that this was not needed as the change in the rules do not require a temporary licensure. The Board agreed that there was nothing more to discuss.

CPT versus clergy – The Board decided that Dr. David Thornton and Dr. Laura Kreiselmaier were not available for discussion, therefore it needed to be tabled until the next Board meeting.

Artificial Intelligence Policy - The Board discussed the AASCB sample policy, and decided the creation of a policy should be done between Ms. Speakman and Ms. Trawick.

Legislative Review – The Board discussed SB474 which prohibits any healthcare provider from asking about gun ownership. Ms. Melody Kline stated that the bill being approved would be problematic for therapists to determine if there is a potential threat to the client or others.

Counseling Compact – Ms. Speakman presented update for the compact and stated the Annual meeting for compact was to be held the week after and they would discuss the annual report, updates to the database, and a presentation with legal counsel on the states responsibilities.

Upcoming Conferences – Ms. Speakman stated that the NBCC was to have their conference on June 26-28, with travel the day before and the day after. Dr. Dalton made a motion to send up to 3 Board members and staff to go to the NBCC conference. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

Disciplinary Order(s)

Ms. Trawick presented the following orders from the Office of General Counsel.

Consent Order(s):

Joanne Christian - Ms. Christian – LPC/MHSP license #3315 -practiced on a lapsed license for a total of 10 months. The discipline in this order includes 8 Type B civil penalties in the amount of \$200 each for a total of \$1600 to be paid in full within 12 months, and the assessment of costs not to exceed \$250 and to be paid in full within 3 months of the issuance of the assessment of costs. Dr. Dalton made a motion to accept the order for Joanne Christian. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

Norma Cox - Ms. Cox - MFT license #1247 -practiced on a lapsed license for a total of 44 months. The discipline in this order includes 44 Type B civil penalties in the amount of \$200 dollars each for a total of \$8800 to be paid in full within 24 months, and the assessment of costs not to exceed \$250 and to be paid in full within 3 months of the issuance of the assessment of costs, and a reprimand. Ms. Steel made a motion to accept the order for Norma Cox. Dr. Dalton seconded, and the motion passed.

Agreed Order(s):

James Davidson - Mr. Davidson’s order was tabled for a later date.

Agreed Citation(s):

Ms. Rigney presented the following order from the Administrative Office

Travis Moore - Mr. Moore LPC/MHSP license #5321 – practiced on a lapsed license for a total of 2 months beyond the allotted 60-day grace period in the policy. Ms. Steel made a motion to accept the citation for Travis Moore. Dr. Dalton seconded, and the motion passed.

Petition(s) for Order Modification: - No petition for order of modification were presented at this meeting.

Order(s) of Compliance: - No orders of compliance were presented at this meeting.

Final Order(s): - No final orders were presented at this meeting.

Correspondence Cont.

MFT Supervision Policy - The Board reviewed and revised the language for MFT supervision that will be effective upon posting on the Board's website.

Dr. Dalton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.
Meeting Adjourned.