



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

Friday April 4, 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 09:00 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
Howard Nelson, LCPT, LCSW

Board member(s) absent: Vacant, Consumer Member

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

Other Staff present: Judge Rachel Waterhouse

DECLARATORY ORDER CASE HEARING @ 9:00AM CT

Ms. Katherine Trawick, Advisory Attorney for the Board, represented the Board in the Declaratory Order case against Michelle Linzy. After hearing from both parties and witnesses, the Board revised the presented order within the finding of facts to read approval of the full MFT license due to circumstances outside of the petitioner's control and proof of due diligence in finding a supervisor for post-master's hours. Dr. Dalton made a motion to modify the order with the language presented to approve. Dr. Nelson seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE PRESENTATION BY SUZANNE HARTNESS

Ms. Hartness presented on findings of mental health services and the lack of resources surrounding mental health services. Within the presentation, Ms. Hartness stated that things such as Raki and psychedelic therapies have moved beyond the massage therapy and into other professions and the need for trainings and certifications for this type of work.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Ms. Katherine Trawick read aloud the Conflict-of-Interest policy as well as the public comment policy, she discussed the importance of both policies and the purposes. All Board members states there were no conflict of interest for the meetings contents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the Board meeting minutes for October 4, 2024, November 25, 2024, December 6, 2024, and January 9, 2025. Dr. Dalton stated that there were changes to be made, all of which were grammatical or spelling. Ms. Steel made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for all four meetings with the corrected grammatical notations. Dr. Nelson seconded, and the motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICANTS

Chad Kingery– Mr. Kingery was present in person for a review of his supervision hours and the proof of approved supervisor per Tennessee standards for the supervisors from Montana. Mr. Kingery explained his history with licensure in Montana where he owned a company and earned his independent-level license in March of 2024. Mr. Kingery had discussion with the Board how he earned his hours with Ms. Shelly May and Mr. Gary Kent, both supervisors from Montana. The Board in review determined that the hours with Ms. May were pre-practicum and practicum, these hours are not countable per Tennessee rules for independent-level licensure. The Board expressed that there were certain scopes of practice that the LPC only does not allow for, and that moving forward the hours needed to be able to obtain the full LPC/MHSP license are 325 Clinical hours, 408 Clinically related hours, 89.5 hours of supervision of which no more than 30.5 can be completed as group supervision. The hours the Board accepted were 1177 direct and 1092 indirect with 60.5 supervision total. The Board suggested that Mr. Kingery submit the application for a temporary license to allow for the time to earn the hours needed and to take the NCMHCE. Ms. Steel made a motion to accept his supervised documentation with the modifications stated in hours towards LPC/MHSP license when he applies to upgrade so long as the other requirements are met. Dr. Nelson seconded, and the motion passed.

Calley Gerber– Ms. Gerber was present in person for a review of her supervision hours and the proof of approved supervisor per Tennessee standards for the supervisor's from Colorado. All hours in Colorado were done with an LCSW, and the Board was concerned her supervisor had not been licensed for at least 5 years, and the lack of documentation for the proof of approved supervisor. The hours listed on the Colorado forms do not specify clinical verses non-clinical, and the supervision dates were too long ago to approve of. The Board discussed allowing the hours with Ms. Fiola to count as the license had been in place longer than required for the hours to be accepted. Dr. Dalton made a motion to allow the documentation from Colorado with Ms. Fiola to count 1100 direct and 636 indirect with 61 supervision total toward the LPC/MHSP license so long as all other requirements licensure requirements are met. Dr. Nelson seconded, and the motion passed.

Brianna Heitmann– Ms. Heitmann was present in person for a review of her post-masters hours while trying to add MHSP to license. Ms. Heitmann claimed she received a refusal to sign forms from the supervisor in question. The Board discussed some of the hours were completed after the LPC license was received and formal supervision ended according to a note from Driggs. The Board also asked if there was a supervisory agreement with the supervisor. Ms. Heitman stated when supervision was ending, she should have had enough hours but this is the part where she underreported to be fully transparent as to not

knowing if some of the hours of work would count. Dr. Dalton made a motion to approve hours submitted for application to add the MHSP designation. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

Victoria Budesá– Ms. Budesá was present in person for a review of her educational experience. The Board discussed the degree of dance movement therapy with an MFT focus being equivalent. The Antioch University of New England does have a COAMFTE degree, however the degree done was not the COAMFTE program however she took a lot of the same courses needed for that program. The Board determined that the transcript is one course shy of qualifying, Ms. Budesá needs a course in Human development and personality, as well as to rework the coursework summary form to replace psychopathology with systematic approaches. Ms. Steel made a motion to hold the current application open until 1/14/2026 to allow for the one course needed. Dr. Nelson seconded, and the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Brie Vogt- Was not present in person or via phone call. The Board discussed the documentation presented with a request to accept hours from a California supervisor who does not hold the AAMFT required certificate. Dr. Dalton made a motion denying the request as the submitted documents are not in compliance with TN requirements for supervised experience because of lack of AAMFT supervised credential and lack of supervised continuing education training. Ms. Steel seconded and the motion passed.

Lindsay Luttrell- Ms. Luttrell was present in person and needed to leave, she was present via a phone call. Ms. Luttrell requested to review Georgia hours and get an extension of time to complete the remaining hours needed. Ms. Luttrell and the Board discussed the number of hours needed to complete the 3000/150 post-masters hours required for licensure in Tennessee, and the proof that was presented for approved supervisor from GA. The Board suggested reviewing the rules and policy to make sure to maintain the correct clinical setting. Dr. Dalton made a motion to allow a one-year extension from today. Hours submitted from Jenny Reynolds be counted as acceptable as long as they are verified by supervision CEUs and those hours need to be counted from 01/01/2021 until 4/4/2026. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

Kylie Ellingson- Ms. Ellingson was present via phone call and was requesting an exemption of the in-person CEUs required for her 2-year CEU period due to being in a remote area. Ms. Ellingson states she currently has 22 CEs for her current 2-year cycle and that she has 2 conferences later in the fall she could attend to meet the requirement. The Board discussed the new drafted rules and how the CEs change and how the in-person requirement will change. The Board decided that Ms. Ellingson will need to attend the Pennsylvania conference or West Virginia conference to earn the in-person CEUs, and if an issue beyond the control of Ms. Ellingson should occur, she is to resubmit to the Board.

DISCIPLINARY ORDER(S):

Agreed Order(s): Mr. Peter Zettersten presented the order below.

James Davidson – LPC/MHSP (temp) #4662- Mr. Davidson was the practitioner for client J.S. from July 7th, 2021- June 23rd , 2022 while he was employed at Heal and Hope Counseling services, the services started as couples therapy then changed to just J.S. as the husband began seeing Mr. Davidson’s supervisor for services. During this time of services Mr. Davidson had sent conversation messages via non encrypted email such as Facebook Messenger, sent a mass email of targeted therapeutic topics to his

client roster without protecting the information of the members thus exposing his clients email addresses, forwarded emails from J.S. to his supervisor then forwarded the response from the supervisor back to J.S. and failed to protect J.S.'s confidentiality. The actions listed violated the ethical responsibility of confidentiality. Mr. Davidson had sent a friend request to J.S. on Facebook, and messaged J.S. on Facebook messenger about instances during therapy concerning her laughter, this violated his ethical duty of counseling role relationships. The discipline for this order includes 1 year of probation, completion of 6 additional hours of Board-approved Continuing Education within 6 months, 1 Type A civil penalty totaling \$1000 dollars to be paid within 12 months and costs not to exceed \$1200 dollars to be paid within 12 months. Ms. Trawick asked if Mr. Davidson has a current or active license, Ms. Rigney clarified that the LPC/MHSP Temporary license expired in January 6th of 2025 and an extension was requested on January 27th of 2025. No new application of any kind had been submitted. The Board discussed with Mr. Davidson the facts in the order presented and Mr. Davidson stated he still agreed to the order. Ms. Steel made a motion to approve the Agreed Order for Mr. James Davidson. Dr. Nelson seconded, and the motion passed.

Agreed Citation: Ms. Candyce Wilson presented the order below.

Sharon Sitler – LPC/MSHP #2119- Ms. Sitler's LPC/MHSP license expired on August 31st, 2024, upon receipt of the reinstatement application the administrative office notated that Ms. Sitler had been practicing on a lapsed license for a period of 2 months beyond the 60-day grace period offered by the Board to renew the license. The discipline for this order includes 2 civil penalties for \$100 dollars each totaling a payment of \$200 dollars. Dr. Dalton made a motion to approve the agreed citation for Ms. Sharon Sitler. Dr. Nelson seconded, and the motion passed.

Departmental Reports

FINANCIAL OFFICE: Ms. Wilson presented the report from the financial office for the fiscal year end 2024 and the midyear report for 2025. Ms. Wilson discussed the need for the Board to review the information and to make a discussion at the next Board meeting as to the Counseling Compact fee to be put into place, as well as the administrative work that will go into the Counseling Compact. The Board discussed the possibility for privileges to be expensive for providers who are applying for multiple states, the amount of work for the administrative office. Ms. Speakman has stated if there are specific questions regarding the compact fees to email Ms. Wilson and that information can be presented at the next meeting.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of New Licensees

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

Ms. Trawick asked the Board to consider two-day meetings, and to discuss this topic at the next meeting.

MFT Verification of Supervised Post-Masters Experience form

Ms. Wilson stated that at the previous meeting the Board had approved of the MFT Supervision Policy contingent on the MFT post-masters supervision form that she believed to be ready to be reviewed. Ms.

Melody Cline of the TNAMFT proposed that in the top instruction change the language “all supervisors must report all successfully completed hours” to reflect “all supervisors must report all completed hours.” Ms. Cline continued to request that a check box just above the dates of supervision to reflect “has or has not met clinical competencies.” Dr. Dalton made a motion to accept the MFT verification of supervised post-master experience form with the modifications Ms. Cline had suggested. Ms. Steel seconded, and the motion passed.

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