

Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists

Board Meeting Open Session – May 15, 2026

10:30AM - Meeting Minutes

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Attendees

Board Members	Board Staff
Sharita Sivels-Stevens, Board Chair, LCPC	Tomiloba Olaniyi-Quadri, Executive Director
Ingrid Mazziotta, LCADC	Victoria Stinson, Deputy Director
Kimberly Poole-Sykes, LCPC	Melia N. Ritchie, Board Counsel
Lisa Connors, Ph.D., LCPC	Alexandria Langston, Licensing Manager
Mary Blackwood, LCMFT	Breya Graves, Compliance Assistant
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT, ATR-BC	Janice Isaac, Licensing Coordinator
Winnie Moore, LCPC	Katrina Hunter, Office Secretary
Elizabeth Guroff, MA, LCMFT	Myisha Maybin, Compliance Investigator
Terri Johnson, LCADC	Olanrewaju Adebona, Administrative Specialist
Luisa Wayman, Consumer Member	Sandra Boxley, Licensing Coordinator
	Shelly-Ann Barnes, Compliance Manager
	Trevor Smoot, Administrative Assistant
	Nusrat Tusi, Executive Administrative Assistant

Stakeholders and Members of the Public in attendance:

Amanda Link
Beth Schlein
Dana Madden
David Coogan
Howard Ashkin

Kim Wireman
Lindsey Kramer
Mariana Izraelson
Markeeta Jones
Neisha Price
Nicole Daniels
Samantha Hardesty
Tasha Peniche
Ted McCadden
Zakiyyah Holmes.

Meeting Called to Order at 10:32AM by Board Chair Sharita Sivels-Stevens.

The Open Session Meeting for May 15, 2026, was offered virtually.

Statement of COMAR Regulation 10.01.14.02.02 - *The public attendance states except in instances when a public body expresses public testimony, questions, comments or other forms of public participation or when public participation is otherwise authorized by law. A member of the public attending an open session may not participate in the session.*

Attendance Call by Board Chair Board Chair confirms that the Board has a quorum for today's meeting.

Sharita Sivels-Stevens, Board Chair, LCPC
Ingrid Mazziotta, LCADC
Kimberly Poole-Sykes, LCPC
Lisa Connors, Ph.D., LCPC
Mary Blackwood, LCMFT
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT, ATR-BC
Winnie Moore, LCPC
Elizabeth Guroff, MA, LCMFT
Terri Johnson, LCADC
Luisa Wayman, Consumer Member

Review and Approve the Board Meeting Minutes from the April 17, 2026, BOPCT Open Board Meeting.

- Motion to Approve: Sharita Sivels
- Motion is Seconded: Kimberly Poole-Sykes
- No Oppositions
- **The Motion is Approved.**

Review and Approve the Board Meeting Agenda for the May 15, 2026, Board Meeting.

- Motion to Approve
- Motion is Seconded
- No Oppositions
- **The Motion is Approved.**

Board Chair Report

The Chair introduced new consumer Board Member Luisa Wayman, appointed by the Governor's office. A motion was made to add a Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee (BAAC) announcement section to the regular agenda.

- Motion to Approve
- Motion is Seconded
- **Motion Carried.**

Board Counsel Announcements & Reports

Melia Ritchie reminded the Board that the June meeting will be held one week early on June 12, 2026, due to the Juneteenth holiday.

Executive Director's Report

- **Pilot Testing New e-Application System:** A pilot test with the LBA group begins June 15, 2026. The Board will stop accepting paper applications on June 20, 2026. Full system launch for all license types is July 1, 2026.
- **Staffing/Leave:** The Executive Director will be on leave from May 15 to June 10, 2026. Deputy Director Victoria Stinson will handle board responsibilities.

Legislative and Regulations (Legs & Regs) Updates

The Board reviewed and voted on three legislative concept papers for the upcoming year:

1. **Board of Physicians/Commission Proposal:** Collaborative process for new licenses. Motion to approve: Sharita Sivels; Second: Luisa Wayman. **Approved.**
2. **Telehealth Proposal:** Reinstating the 6-month temporary license requirement for oversight. Motion to approve: Sharita Sivels; Second: Kimberly Poole-Sykes. **Approved.**
3. **Statute Updates (ADT Title):** Proposal to update the term "Trainee" to a more professional title (e.g., Associate or Technician). Motion to approve concept paper with authority to committee to finalize terminology: Sharita Sivels; Second: Stacey Nelson. **Approved.**

Credentialing Committee

Applications received from April to May 8, 2026:

- 51 LCPC
- 47 LGPC
- 42 LBA
- 23 ADT
- 7 CSC-AD
- 5 CAC-AD
- 3 LG MFT
- 2 LCADC
- 1 LCPAT
- 1 LG PAT.
- 21 Supervisor applications; 26 Out-of-state applications.
- **Total Active Credentials:** 15,972 (includes 7,616 LCPC and 1,871 LBA).

Disciplinary Review Committee

Since the last meeting, 63 cases were reviewed. 53 cases were closed with no action or non-public discipline.

Counseling Compact Update

Louisiana has joined as the fourth state. The Rules Committee is currently addressing standards for professional signature lines for those practicing with privileges.

Old/Miscellaneous Business

The Alcohol and Drug subcommittee has resumed monthly meetings to review regulations and applications.

Adjournment

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **June 12, 2026, at 10:30 AM (virtual)**.

Motion to adjourn made at 11:15 AM.

Motion to adjourn Seconded.

No objections.

Motion carried..

The Open Session adjourned at **11:15 AM**. The Board then convened in closed session.

Meeting Duration: 49 minutes