

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

Minutes – Open Session ,November 15, 2024, via Google Meet

Approved by the Board

Members	Non-Members
Winnie Moore, LCPC, <i>Chair</i>	Alexandria Langston, Licensing Manager
Sharon Bolden, LCADC, LCPC	Carla Boyd, AAG
Elizabeth Guroff, LCMFT	Shelly-Ann Barnes, Compliance Manager
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT	Hillary Alexander, LCPC President of LCPCM
Jeff Galecki, LCADC, LCPC, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Sharon Rendon-Hoyt, Compliance Admin.Specialist
Lisa Connors, LCPC	
Mark Donovan, LCADC, LCPC	
C. Scott Frazier, III, Consumer	
Karen Katrinic, LCMFT	
Sharita Sivels-Stevens, LCPC , <i>Secretary</i>	
Kimberly-Poole-Sykes, LCPC	

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

- I. Attendance taken. All Board members were present, and the quorum met.
- II. Review and Approve Open Session Minutes from October 18, 2024: Motion by Karen Katrinic and seconded by Sharon Bolden. Motion carried.
- III. Review and Approve the Agenda for November 15, 2024: Motion by Sharon Bolden and seconded by Karen Katrinic but to make an amendment to take off the December 20th meeting. Motion carried. Winnie wants to make an amendment to the meeting on December 20, 2024, we will not be holding a meeting that month. Karen motioned to approve the new agenda and seconded by Sharon Bolden.

IV. Reports

a. Chair: Winnie Moore, LCPC

- i. Reported that Matthew Karpus, the Executive Director that we had for the last five months, has resigned and is no longer with the Board. The Board is in the process of posting for that position. We also got approval and have scheduled interviews for a deputy ED for the board and interviews will be occurring next week. The Board is diligently seeking to ensure that the Board staff has all the staff members that it needs to efficiently carry out the board's duties.

b. Board Counsel: Carla Boyd

- i. No Report

c. Legislation/Regulations Committee: Karen Katrinic, LCMFT

- i. Continuing to coordinate the applications to be in congruent with the current regulations and we are working on the MFT regulations to be congruent with the current legislation. It is going well, and we are going to meet in December and hoping to present it to the next board meeting.

d. Credentialing Committee: Sharit Sivels

- i. Credentialing Committee Continue to meet and review applications.

e. Discipline Review Committee: Stacey Nelson

- i. Continue to meet and review cases.

V. Presentation (15 minutes)

Hillary B. Alexander, LCPC and Dr. Saunie Lynch Erin, LCPC – LCPCM

Hillary: is president of LCPCM asked if there was an interim executive director while there are plans to get someone else?

Winnie replied no there is not and that the board is basically handling the business until we bring on the deputy.

Hillary asked if they would be able to continue to have the ability to collaborate with the board.

Winnie said yes at least at a minimum once the board has a deputy on staff.

Hillary confirmed that they would not be meeting with the board on December 2nd and 3rd as planned.

Hillary Alexander: So, I was hoping that I was going to have two other board members here with me today. but they are not able to be here. Our legislative committee chair made a PowerPoint for me that if I am able to share my screen, would love to share with you all. I do not know if I can do that in Google Meet. I have no idea. Technology is not my friend sometimes. I will just share with you all by just saying it because I do not know how to make it work. So, for those of you who do not know, we represent thousands of clinical professional counselors here in the state of Maryland. and we advocate to enhance opportunities for professional growth, employment, clinical competency, legislative equity, all while ensuring the quality mental health treatment services that we provide are available and accessible to the people that we serve.

Hillary Alexander: so, our goal is interprofessional collaboration. and this can occur when professionals are able to share missions, goals, and objectives to enhance goals, values of our clients, families, and communities while respecting those contributions. we are hoping to be able to collaborate with the BOPC on of course continuing our monthly meetings mental health care crisis management AI and some legislative regulatory concerns that have been going on in our monthly meetings.

Hillary Alexander: we do hope to continue open collaboration and discussion on what is happening and how can we help create more visibility around issues and areas of concern that impact clinical professional counselors in the state. also hoping to be able to come together for some innovative solutions on any problems that might be emerging. we really want to help. Mental health care crisis management is an issue that we have been talking about for a few months. one of the major concerns that has been coming up is clinicians being able to cross state boundaries when clients are in crisis. Let us say you have a client who is going on vacation. they have a suicidal crisis. obviously, they can call 988.

Hillary Alexander: However, people are more likely to reach out to their individual therapist and kind of navigating the nuances of how we do that when we know that there are licensing prohibiting therapy across state lines kind of how to navigate that. there are some legal and ethical concerns that have been popping up. obviously again it's illegal to practice counseling across state lines unless you're licensed or have special permission in that state. definitely some ethical considerations that occur as well that we have been noticing we are not quite sure yet is the comp counseling compact going to be able to resolve these issues. so that was something that kind of we wanted to bring to light and hopefully have some more conversations about. another was AI pros and cons.

Hillary Alexander: we know that is a new technology that's starting to make its way into our field and there are some definite good things and some not so good things about that. LCPCM is going to be providing webinar training to our members very shortly. Actually, in January, we have a scheduled webinar event just to get more information and to inform practitioners about privacy concerns, does this technology meet the standards for HIPPA?

Hillary Alexander: and what are some of the potential issues that a client might incur through the use of AI technology and while we understand it can improve accessibility to mental health care reduce stigma maybe the opportunity for 247 support I've heard of a lot of clinicians wanting to

use AI for documentation those can be very positive things but there are a lot of possible cons that we definitely want folks to be aware of and I don't know if the board has been having discussions about the use of AI, how that might be incorporated into our regulations. but I do think it is something to think about and to talk about. regulatory and legislative issues. we are talking about reciprocity of standards of care, credentialing mental health professionals, practicing in emergency situations again and out of state.

Hillary Alexander: and then LCPCM does continue to work with legislators and lobbyists on the legislative agenda. that is my PowerPoint. I do not know if this is my first time attending your meeting. I do not know if there's Q&A kind of what other expectations or conversations, we are able to have today.

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: Basically since you are presenting, you asked questions early on, ask questions of the board of those questions and now this is an opportunity for board members to ask you some questions and get some clarification on some of the topics that you indicated that LCPCM was and continue to work on. So, any board members have any questions for Hillary?

Karen Katrinic -BDCOMM-: Just second what Wendy said that the monthly meetings would be great and all of the things that you brought up are important and we would also of course want to talk about them too. So, we appreciate you bringing

Hillary Alexander: Thank you, Karen.

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: Right. Especially the AI piece too. I can say up that we have not started having those conversations but we need to and if LCPCM are aware of any legislators or delegates that's already starting those conversations even in their meetings please when we start back meeting again share that information because we all need to be working and being cognizant of the implications

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: of AI in the field and how we are going to navigate this technology as we move forward. so, we appreciate you definitely bringing that to the forefront. And is the compact going to solve any of the problems about crossing state lines? That is a good question. Lisa, would you like to speak on that? Lisa Connors was working with Matthew prior to his leaving with the counseling compact.

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: So, I do not know what type of conversations are going on in those meetings as it relates to that cross state.

Hillary Alexander: Mhm.

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: Even looking for a special provision for crisis across state lines might be something we might want to look at...

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: if it is not already being looked at. Lisa,...

Lisa Connors -BDCOMM-: still yes, I am here.

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: are you present?

Lisa Connors -BDCOMM-: Can you hear me?

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: Yes, ma'am.

Lisa Connors -BDCOMM-: So, let me just share with everyone as far as the compact. I just want to make it clear there is no future right now is it is not in sight right now because there is still a lot of things that is going on behind the scenes. we are still continuing to meet a part of the compliance committee.

Lisa Connors -BDCOMM-: right now, we are just trying to navigate what that is going to look like across each state because there are going to be some compliance issues and what is each state planning to do. How is that going to be handled? We did have someone come in and give a presentation from the American psychological association just to kind of look at some of the things that they have done in the past to see if that is something that we can integrate into the compact. So right now that's really what we're working on and I think it's almost like the cart before the horse because we really need to have those pieces in place because once it launch and then people start to trickle in we have to have some checks and balances and right now we don't have the checks and balances.

Lisa Connors -BDCOMM-:

Lisa Connors -BDCOMM-: So, as far as the compact, if I can probably give you a date that we probably will officially launch, probably it is going to be maybe the mid to latter part of 2025. It might even be 2026 at the rate that we're going right now. So, they are not looking to handle some of those issues that you are talking about. Right now, this is new for everybody, and we really know, and we are seeing that there is already going to be some fallout with a couple of things and so we probably will not know what we need until we actually launch. And so right now we are just looking for who is planning to launch first, what are some of the issues that they think they may come across and one once one state starts to launch, they are hoping that other states can kind of model after the first state.

Hillary Alexander: Thanks, Lisa.

Lisa Connors -BDCOMM-: So that is what we are looking to do right now. So that is my little report. Thank you.

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-:

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: Thank you, Lisa. anyone else have anything for Hillary or even to provide any information on some of the topics she indicated that they were interested in that LCPCM was interested in. Thank you, Hillary, for coming. you got some things cooking. So, We appreciate LCPCM always for their support and their encouragement and we will again like I said start the monthly meetings again as soon as possible and...

Hillary Alexander: Thank you, Winnie.

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: so, we can continue our collaboration and the good work that you all are doing in support of the board. So, we appreciate you. miss there is any miscellaneous from

anyone that we did not cover. so, the next the December board meeting will be cancelled. We will not be having a meeting in December. we are going to use that day to get some hearings done and so that's why we're cancelling the December meeting.

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-:

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: So, we will see all of you back hopefully in 2025. Blink our eyes and we will be seeing 2026. So do not blink anyone. Okay? we don't want to have a wrinkle in time as they say. So, we appreciate you all for coming. So, I would now ask for a motion to adjourn the open session. Okay. Okay.

Sharon Bolden -BDCOMM-: I motion.

Stacey Nelson -BDCOMM-: I second it.

Karen Katrinic -BDCOMM-: My

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: Any opposition to a journey? All right. Thank you all again for coming and we look forward to seeing you all in January. Take care and be safe.

VI. Other/ Miscellaneous: No

VII. Next Meeting January 17, 2025, at 10:30am (Virtual

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.



Sharon Rendon-Hoyt,
Compliance Administrative Specialist