

The Board of Professional Counselor and Therapists

Attendance - January 21, 2021

Open Meeting - Minutes

Members	Non-Members
Nicki Drotleff, LCMFT, <i>Chair</i>	Tony Torain, Executive Director
Winnie Moore, LCPC, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Shelly-Ann Barnes, Acting Compliance Manager
Sharon Bolden, LCADC, <i>Secretary</i>	Lillian Reese – Legislative/Regulation Coord
Jeffrey Galecki, MS, LCADC, LCPC	Rhonda Edwards, AAG
Sara Carlton, Consumer	Alexandria Langston – Licensing Specialist
Michael Nettles, D.Min., LCPC	Janice Isaac – Licensing Specialist
C. Scott Frazier, III, Consumer	Tawana Brown – Licensing Specialist
Karen Katrinic, LCMFT	Anna Sullivan – Licensing Specialist
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT	Sandra Boxley – Licensing Specialist
Kimberly Poole-Styles, Rh.D., LCPC	Barbara Tanner - Investigator
Elizabeth Guroff, LCMFT	
Mark Donovan, LCPC	

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:30 a.m. at which time she established that there was a quorum.

It was moved by Karen Katrinic and seconded by Sharon Bolden that the minutes of December 17, 2021, be approved.

It was moved by Scott Fraizer and seconded by Sharon Bolden that the agenda be approved.

The Chair's report is as follows:

1. In the last open meeting of the Board, the Chair had asked for Board Members who would serve as technical resources for the licensing staff. Where there are questions about the professional requirements for application, the licensing staff would be able to seek the advice of the board member. It was noted that Karen Katrinic had volunteered to serve in the role for the MFT licensing specialist.

Sharon Bolden volunteered to serve in this role for the Alcohol and Drug license specialist and for the Professional Counselors license specialists

2. The Chair raised the issue of licensees who are approved supervisors using the designation of "S" in displaying their credentials. She noted that the Board does not recognize such designation as it is not a licensee. She asked that supervisors stop using this.
3. The Chair wanted to make sure that everyone was made aware of the "No Surprise Act." This federal law was enacted to protect consumers from being more than they expected in dealing with healthcare workers. Healthcare workers are being charged with providing a good faith estimate for services rendered or to be rendered. It is a very important piece of legislation for out of network providers.

The Chair recognized the Executive Director the administrative report and the following was discussed:

1. The Executive Director gave an update on the ransomware attack on the digital systems of the Maryland Department of Health. He informed that the website was operational after about two weeks. He informed that staff members were suing their personal laptops (the laptops that were issued at the beginning of the pandemic could not be used because they had been connected to the network through VPN) and hotspots. Approval of web materials were now being done by DoIT. The IT staff has reactivated the cash log, the mail log and we are able to license people. The major problem at this point is that background checks are being logged in manually, which is time consuming. The staff is to be commended for their flexibility in our attempt to keep the business of the Board running.
2. The licensing period has been extended to February 15, 2022 to allow licensees additional time to get their renewal done.
3. The Executive Director reminded the Board members that they needed to take the Open Meetings Act training, if they have not done it, and provide a copy of their certificates of completion to the Board office to be filed in their folders.

4. At the request of the Appointments Office, the Executive Director reminded Board members that their Financial Disclosure filings are due before April 30, 2022.

The Chair called on Board Counsel (Rhonda Edwards) and there was no report.

The Chair called on the Compliance Manager (Shelly-Ann Barnes) and there was no report.

The Chair called on the Credentialing Committee (Sharon Bolden) and there was no report.

The Chair called on the Legislative/Regulations Committee (Karen Katrinic):

1. The Legislative/Regulations committee led the Board in ratifying 10:58:08 MFT as amended.
2. The Legislative/Regulations committee let the Board in ratifying regulation 10.58.17 Art Therapists
3. The Legislative/Regulations committee let the Board in a discussion of the Infrastructure Bill. It was noted that the bill gave the Governor the authority to appoint the Chair of the Board and the Executive Director, and the Health Secretary would maintain oversight over these two positions.
 - a. Nicki Grotleff – The Secretary is holding quarterly meetings with the Board Chairs and this legislative proposal has been discussed as a means of strengthening the relationship between the Boards and the Secretary.
 - b. Lillian Reese – Other Boards are discussing sending a letter to the Office of Governmental Affairs expressing displeasure with the proposed bill. She noted that this Board may want to look at it to see the points that they are making. The Bill has not dropped, yet.
 - c. Rhonda Edwards – The Board Counsel Group has been discussing this legislation and possible responses. They have not circulated their thoughts yet.
 - d. Kim Link – The genesis of this idea comes from the amount of negative feedback that the Governor gets from legislators about the Boards as they relate the frustration of their constituents. He has been frustrated with his inability to do anything about the complaints. He wants to help the Boards do a better job of serving the public, but at this point has no real power to help. It should be noted that the Governor appoints the Executive Director and Chair of the Board of Physicians.
 - e. Jeff Garlecki – One of the ways that the Governor/Secretary can help is by helping the Boards get an electronic licensing system. This is what is needed.

- f. Rhonda Edwards – Encouraged Board members to share their thoughts with the Legs and Regs Committee. There is still some question about what “infrastructure” actually means. There is much room for the politization of the running of the Boards. IT concerns have been raised for years and should be addressed in this discussion. Given the recent ransomware attack, the legislators have the Board’s IT issues in view.

The Chair called for a report from the Discipline Review Committee. Winnie Moore reported that the committee had met at 9:00 a.m. and had gotten several cases resolved.

The Chair noted that the next Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee meeting will be held on January 26, 2022

There was no Old Business

There was no New Business

Under FYI, it was noted that the next Board Meeting would be held on February 18, 2022

It was moved by Karen Katrinic and seconded by Mark Donovan that the meeting be adjourned.

Submitted by Tony W. Torain, Executive Director