



Janet T. Mills  
Governor

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL & OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION  
BOARD OF ALCOHOL & DRUG COUNSELORS  
76 NORTHERN AVENUE  
GARDINER, MAINE 04345

Anne L. Head  
Commissioner

**Board of Alcohol & Drug Counselors  
Public Board Meeting  
Friday, April 19, 2024**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Rogers, Board Chair  
Darlene Panzino, Vice Chair  
Lisa Williams  
Laurence Gross, Public Member

**STAFF PRESENT**

Katie Johnson, Assistant Attorney General  
Nicole Sawyer, Assistant Attorney General  
Mark Terison, Hearing Officer  
Kristina Halvorsen, Board Administrator  
George Morgan, Board Investigator  
Jessica Cirello, Professional Licensing Supervisor

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair, Robert Rogers, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Review and approval of the January 19, 2024 minutes.

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to approve the minutes as written.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

**ADJUDICATORY HEARING**

2023-ALC-19659 Brian Martin

**Hearing started at 9:11 a.m.**

Assistant Attorney General Nicole Sawyer withdrew ground 2 (Pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 6217-B(1), for the active use of alcohol or any other drug that in the judgment of the Board is detrimental to the performance or competency of a licensee of the Board).

A motion was made by Lisa Williams and seconded by Laurence Gross to grant immediate licensure as a CADC with 12 months of probation that will include: quarterly reports submitted to the Board from the supervising CCS; the applicant to abstain from alcohol and drugs; and the applicant to continue participating in self-help groups due to the finding, by preponderance, that the applicant has been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust based on the evidence provided.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Darlene Panzino to allow Board Chair, Robert Rogers, to sign this Decision & Order outside of a regular Board meeting.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

**Hearing ended 10:41 a.m.**

### **COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS**

2021-ALC-17643 and 2021-ALC-17673

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, citing 10 M.R.S. §8003(5-A0(A)(3) (conviction of crime to the extent permitted by M.R.S. Title 5, Chapter 341) and Board rules Chapter 8, Section 3(3)(D) (dual relationship), Chapter 8, Section 3(4)(A) (sexual misconduct with a client) and Chapter 8, Section 3(4)(E) (sexual misconduct with a current or former client of the licensee's employer), with a revocation of licensure due to the finding that the licensee hasn't been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

2023-ALC-18844

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

2023-ALC-19227

A motion was made by Lisa Williams and seconded by Laurence Gross to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

2023-ALC-19442 and 2023-ALC-19575

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Darlene Panzino to dismiss both complaints due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

### **COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS**

2021-ALC-17978 Quarterly Report Review

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Darlene Panzino to accept the report as submitted and direct Board staff to contact the supervisor and request separate reports for each supervision meeting for future quarterly reports.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

### **APPLICATION REVIEWS**

Initial Application: Alexander Coupe

A motion was made by Lisa Williams and seconded by Darlene Panzino to rescind the original preliminary denial and table this review until the applicant's deferred disposition is completed.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

Initial Application: Ashley Johnson

A motion was made by Robert Rogers and seconded by Lisa Williams to table this application review and direct Board staff to request additional information from the applicant.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

Initial Application: Debra York

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Lisa Williams to grant licensure.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

Renewal Applications: Erica Smith

A motion was made by Lisa Williams and seconded by Laurence Gross to table this application review until Board staff can gather additional information.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

### **DELEGATION ORDER REVIEW**

Continuing Education Noncompliance

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Lisa Williams to accept the continuing education noncompliance delegation order, with the minor grammar edit, and authorize Board Chair, Robert Rogers, to sign the final order outside of a regular Board meeting.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICER**

Complaint Officer

A motion was made by Robert Rogers and seconded by Darlene Panzino to elect Lisa Williams as the Complaint Officer.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, discussed recent updates to the Board of Alcohol & Drug Counselors' OPOR website pages. Kristina will email Board members the link to the updated website.

Kristina discussed the rulemaking process with Board members. Rulemaking will be added to the next agenda and on future agendas.

Kristina discussed recent Board staff hires who are in the training process.

Board members asked about the current Board member vacancies and suggested sending a mass communication to licensees about filling these vacancies. Kristina will check with Commissioner Head to see what options are available.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Lisa Williams and seconded by Laurence Gross to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**