



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure
35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

Anne L. Head
Commissioner

Minutes
Maine Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure
Monday, August 28, 2023 Board Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carolyn Silsby
Ellen Grunblatt
Holly Cavna
Joanne Grant
Jennifer King
Angela Blier

STAFF PRESENT

John Belisle, Assistant Attorney General
Rebecca Smith, Hearing Officer
Samantha Morgan, Assistant Attorney General
Kristina Halvorsen, Board Administrator
Cecile Sirois, Professional Licensing Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair, Jennifer King, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the minutes of June 26, 2023.

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to approve the minutes as written.

Vote: 6 in favor.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

2020-COU-17070 Hette Vellenga

The adjudicatory hearing started at 9:13 a.m. and ended at 12:08 p.m.
A motion was made by Joanne Grant and seconded by Holly Cavna that the evidence presented proved, by a preponderance, that allegation #1 occurred (10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5) for violating Board Rules, Ch. 8-A § 2(1)(A) by initiating or maintaining a dual relationship with a client which could reasonably be expected to impair or

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 76 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE

diminish the professional judgment, objectivity or effectiveness of the counselor).

Vote: 6 in favor.

A motion was made by Holly Cavna and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt that the evidence presented proved, by a preponderance, that allegation #2 occurred (10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5) for violating Board Rules, Ch. 8-A § 2(1)(B) by initiating or maintaining a dual relationship with a client which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of harm to or exploitation of the client).

Vote: 6 in favor.

A motion was made by Angela Blier and seconded by Joanne Grant that the evidence presented proved, by a preponderance, that allegation #3 occurred (10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5) for violating Board Rules, Ch. 8-A § 2(2) by exploiting relationships with a client for personal gain or financial advantage).

Vote: 6 in favor.

A motion was made by Holly Cavna and seconded by Angela Blier that the evidence presented proved, by a preponderance, that allegation #4 occurred (10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5) for violating Board Rules, Ch. 8-A § 4(2) by engaging in sexual activity as defined in Chapter 1, Section 1(19) of the Board's rules with a client during the counseling relationship or within five years following the last professional contact with the client).

Vote: 6 in favor.

A motion was made by Joanne Grant and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt for revocation of licensure.

Vote: 6 in favor.

A motion was made by Joanne Grant and seconded by Holly Cavna to impose a reprimand for each of the 4 violations.

Vote: 6 in favor.

A motion was made by Holly Cavna and seconded by Joanne Grant to impose \$1500 civil penalties per violation found (\$6000 total) to be paid within 1 year.

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 opposed: Angela Blier.

A motion was made by Angela Blier and seconded by Joanne Grant to allow Acting Board Chair, Jennifer King to sign the final decision and order when it is completed outside of a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Vote: 6 in favor.

COMPLAINT ITEMS

2022-COU-18503 Supervisor Approval

A motion was made by Joanne Grant and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to accept the proposed supervisor.

Vote: 6 in favor.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board Chair

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Angela Blier to appoint Jennifer King as Board Chair.

Vote: 6 in favor.

Vice Chair

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Jennifer King to appoint Angela Blier as Vice Chair.

Vote: 6 in favor.

Complaint Officer

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Jennifer King to appoint Holly Cavna as Complaint Officer.

Vote: 6 in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Holly Cavna and seconded by Joanne Grant to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Vote: 6 in favor.