



Janet T. Mills
Governor

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

Anne L. Head
Commissioner

**Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure
Public Board Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON

Jennifer King, Board Chair
Angela Blier, Vice Chair
Holly Cavna, Complaint Officer
Joanne Grant
Ellen Grunblatt
Carolyn Silsby, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT

Megan Hudson-MacRae, Assistant Attorney General
Kristina Halvorsen, Board Administrator
George Morgan, Board Investigator
Jessica Cirello, Professional Licensing Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Jennifer King, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the minutes of October 23, 2023.

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

Vote: 6 in favor.

COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS

2023-COU-18962

A motion was made by Ellen Grunblatt and seconded by Angela Blier to dismiss this case due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and issue a letter of guidance, citing Board rules Chapter 8-A (2) (client relationship) and Chapter 8-A (2) 4 (clarifying roles), which will stay in the licensee's file for 2 years.

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 76 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

2023-COU-18994

A motion was made by Joanne Grant and seconded by Angela Blier to dismiss this case due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and issue a letter of guidance citing Board rules Chapter 8-A (3) 2 (potential for harm), which will stay in the licensee's file for 2 years.

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

2023-COU-19120

A motion was made by Ellen Grunblatt and seconded by Angela Blier to dismiss this case due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

2023-COU-19332

A motion was made by Angela Blier and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to dismiss this case due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and issue a letter of guidance, citing Board rules Chapter 8-A (2) (electronic communication) and Chapter 8-A (2) 1A (dual relationships), which will stay in the licensee's file for 2 years.

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

2023-COU-19518

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Joanne Grant to accept the proposed Consent Agreement.

Vote: 6 in favor.

A motion was made by Angela Blier and seconded by Joanne Grant to take break at 10:46 a.m.

Vote: 6 in favor.

Meeting resumed at 11:15 a.m.

2023-COU-19634

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Joanne Grant to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a Consent Agreement, in lieu of a hearing, with a warning, citing M.R.S. 32 §13861-A (1) A (substance use), Board rules Chapter 8 A (4) 6 (practicing under the influence), Chapter 8 A (3) 5 (failing to seek appropriate professional assistance for licensee's own personal problems) and Chapter 8 A (3) 6 (failing to seek peer consultation), with 12 months of probation, to begin once the licensee returns to practice, which will include: mandated clinical supervision, with a licensed LCPC, LMFT, LCSW, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, LADC or CCS that has been in good standing for at least the last 5 years and doesn't currently have a professional or personal relationship with the licensee, for 1 hour a month and in-person supervision for at least 6 out of the 12 months, and the supervisor will submit quarterly and final reports to the Board for review; the licensee continuing to follow all treatment recommendations, including individual counseling and Crossroads, for the duration of the probation period or until recommended discharge, as evidenced by the provider submitting quarterly and final reports regarding the licensee's treatment attendance and progress towards treatment goals; limiting the licensee's practice to in-person only for the first 6 months; the licensee will notify Board staff of any employer changes or start of employment within 15 days of the change; and the Board will review the licensee's progress at the end of the probational period.

Vote: 3 in favor, 2 opposed: Angela Blier and Ellen Grunblatt and 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

A motion was made by Holly Cavna and seconded by Angela Blier to take a break at 1:05 p.m.

Vote: 6 in favor.

Meeting resumed at 1:31 p.m.

COMPLAINT ITEMS

2022-COU-18503 Quarterly Reports Approval

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

Vote: 6 in favor.

APPLICATION REVIEWS

Renewal Application: Sarah Marks

Board action is no longer needed due to recent submissions by the licensee.

Request for Partial Supervised Work/Supervision Hours Waiver: Lara Feinstein

A motion was made by Holly Cavna and seconded by Angela Blier to approve the partial hour waiver request.

Vote: 6 in favor.

A motion was made by Joanne Grant and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to amend the meeting's agenda and review a Decision & Order edit next.

Vote: 6 in favor.

2020-COU-17070

A motion was made by Ellen Grunblatt and seconded by Holly Cavna to correct the typographical error on the initial conditional licensure date on the Decision & Order.

Vote: 6 in favor.

RULEMAKING DISCUSSION

The rulemaking discussion was tabled for future rulemaking specific meetings.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, discussed the active Board staff recruitment and hiring process. Kristina will forward current licensure numbers to Board members in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public member, attorney Ken Lehman, stated that it was useful to listen to the Board's thoughtful discussions on Board matters today.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Angela Blier and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Vote: 6 in favor.