

**Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure
Public Board Meeting
Monday, June 23, 2025**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer King, Board Chair
Angela Blier, Vice Chair (Remote)
Ellen Grunblatt
Lisa-Ann Henry
Carolyn Silsby, Public Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Holly Cavanaugh, Complaint Officer
Joanne Grant

STAFF PRESENT

Megan Hudson-MacRae, Assistant Attorney General
Samantha Andrews, Assistant Attorney General
George Morgan, Board Investigator
Cecile Sirois, Professional Licensing Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Jennifer King, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the May 19, 2025 minutes.

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

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 abstained: Jennifer King.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

Start 9:14 a.m. end 4:01 p.m.

2024-COU-20002 Rachel Avery

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt that there was not a preponderance of evidence that grounds exist to impose discipline upon the licensee pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5), for engaging in sexual activity as defined by Chapter 1 § 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 (Board Rules, Ch. 8-A § 4(2)).

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed: Angela Blier.

A motion was made by Ellen Grunblatt and seconded by Carolyn Silsby that there was not a preponderance of evidence that grounds exist to impose discipline upon the licensee pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5), for failing to completely and accurately document counseling provided to the client (Board Rules, Ch. 8-A § 5)).

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed: Angela Blier.

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt that there was not a preponderance of evidence that grounds exist to impose discipline upon the licensee pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5), for initiating or maintaining dual relationships with a client which could reasonably be expected to impair or diminish the professional judgment, objectivity or effectiveness of the counselor (Board Rules, Ch. 8-A § 2(1)(A)).

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed: Angela Blier.

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt that there was not a preponderance of evidence that grounds exist to impose discipline upon the licensee pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5), for initiating or maintaining dual relationships with a client which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of harm to or exploitation of the client (Board Rules, Ch. 8-A § 2(1)(B)).

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed: Angela Blier.

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Lisa Henry to allow the Board Chair to sign the decision and order without further board review.

Vote: 5 in favor.

A motion was made by Jennifer King and seconded by Carolyn Silsby to issue a letter of guidance citing Board Rules Chapter 8-A paragraph (1), (2), and (5.1). The letter of guidance is to stay in the file for 5 years.

Vote: 5 in favor.

COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS

2023-COU-19711

A motion was made by Lisa Henry and seconded by Carolyn Silsby to find that pursuant to Tile 5 §5302 that the licensee has not proven that there exists sufficient rehabilitation

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to warrant the public trust, to set the matter for hearing and offer a consent agreement in lieu of a hearing, with a warning, 1 year probation, supervision by a board approved supervisor who is vetted for at least 5 years, to focus supervision on ethics in practice, and for the supervisor to submit quarterly reports.

Vote: 5 in favor

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Penny Vaillancourt, Director introduced herself to the Board and informed them that we will be hiring additional employees soon. Penny also provided an update on the status of the licensing compact.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Vote: 5 in favor.