

**Board of Alcohol & Drug Counselors
Public Board Meeting
Friday, May 15, 2026**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Rogers, Board Chair (remote)
Darlene Panzino, Vice Chair (remote)
Lisa Williams, Complaint Officer (remote)
Laurence Gross, Public Member (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Katie Warwick, Assistant Attorney General
Michael Tarr, Board Manager
Cecile Sirois, Professional Licensing Supervisor
Katy Getchell, Office Specialist I

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Robert Rogers, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the April 17, 2026 minutes.

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Darlene Panzino to approve the minutes after corrections to report 1 motion to include "*a violation of 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(1), for the practice of fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in connection with services rendered while engaged in the occupation or profession for which the person is licensed; and offer an interim consent agreement for suspension of license.*"

And correction to the Franklin Avery III motion to include "*statement from the applicant detailing their wellbeing plan.*"

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstained: Robert Rogers.

COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS

2024-ALC-19895

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Robert Rogers to dismiss with a Letter of Guidance, citing 32 M.R.S. §6203-A (2) supervision requirements. The letter is to stay in the licensee's file for 10 years.

Vote: 2 in favor, 1 abstained: Lisa Williams, 1 recused: Darlene Panzino.

2025-ALC-20770

A motion was made by Lisa Williams and seconded by Darlene Panzino to amend the preliminary denial to include additional grounds for denial, including the conviction of a crime to the extent permitted by Title 5, chapter 341 pursuant to 32 M.R.S. §8003(5-A)(A)(3) and failing to meet the 10-day notification of conviction requirement under 32 M.R.S. §8003-G. Duty to require certain information from applicants and licensees.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstained: Lisa Williams.

2026-ALC-21220

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to amend the consent agreement in the other pending case to include this case and the following violations pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5) for violating Board Rules Chapter 6, Appendix A, § IV(C), Chapter 6, Appendix A § IV(E)(4), Chapter 6 Appendix A, § IV(E)(5), and Board Rules Chapter 9, § 1, and that a hearing be fast tracked.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstained: Lisa Williams.

COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS

2022-ALC-18810 and 2024-ALC-20450 Supervisor Approval

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to approve the supervisor and remind the supervisor that pursuant to the consent agreement, reports are to be submitted monthly.

Vote: 4 in favor.

2024-ALC-20373 Reports

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to approve the reports as submitted, and request more detail in future reports as well as an explanation of why there was no meeting in February.

Vote: 4 in favor.

APPLICATION REVIEWS

Initial Application Reconsideration: Sean Duffy

Lisa Williams left the meeting.

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Laurence Gross to enter executive session pursuant to 32 M.R.S. §405(6)(E) for legal advice from the Board's Assistant Attorney General Katie Warwick.

Vote: 3 in favor.

Lisa Williams came back into the meeting.

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Laurence Gross to exit executive session.

Vote: 4 in favor.

A motion was made by Lisa Williams and seconded by Laurence Gross to rescind the preliminary denial and issue the license.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 opposed: Darlene Panzino.

Initial Application Re-Presentation: Philip Bartley

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Lisa Williams to preliminarily deny this application on the basis of 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(3), for the conviction of a crime to the extent permitted by M.R.S. Title 5, Chapter 341 due to the finding that this applicant hasn't been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of an adjudicatory hearing, with mandated 12 months of probation where the licensee's work supervisor will submit quarterly and final reports to the Board for review.

Vote: 4 in favor.

Initial Application: Sean Hopwood

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Lisa Williams to preliminarily deny the application as the applicant does not meet the educational requirements set forth in 32 M.R.S. §6214-C(2) and Board Rules, Chapter 4, Section 2.

Vote: 4 in favor.

Initial Application: Katelyn Peschier

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Darlene Panzino to table and request additional information on how supervision was completed prior to having been issued a license. Request that the applicant submit a supervisor affidavit form, from our website, completed by their supervisor for the supervised experience with the LADCA license. Also request information about the LADCA license to show comparability to Maine licensure.

Vote: 4 in favor.

Initial Application: Erica Pulsoni-Draper

A motion was made by Lisa Williams and seconded by Darlene Panzino to preliminarily deny the application as the applicant does not meet the qualifications set forth in 32 M.R.S. §6214-C(2) and Board Rules, Chapter 4, Section 2.

Vote: 4 in favor.

Initial Application: Heidi Wheaton

A motion was made by Laurence Gross to approve the application. There was no second to the motion.

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Robert Rogers to preliminarily deny this application on the basis of 10 M.R.S. §8003(5-A)(A)(2), and to offer a consent agreement, in lieu of an adjudicatory hearing, with mandated 12 months of probation where a Board-approved supervisor will meet monthly with the applicant and submit monthly and final reports to the Board for review. The supervision is to focus on Dual Relationships and Boundaries.

Vote: 4 in favor.

Reinstatement Application: Michelle McCauley

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to approve the application and send a letter to the applicant reminding them that they cannot use the license until employed at an agency as defined by 32 M.R.S. §6203-A(1).

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 recused: Robert Rogers.

BOARD MANAGER'S REPORT

Mike Tarr, Board Manager, let the Board know that the vacant positions within our unit have been posted and hopes to have them filled soon. Mike informed the Board that he has a new system for organizing the complaints and complaint process and that he will be cleaning them up.

Laurence Gross asked about receiving a summary of the Board Seats as listed currently. Mike Tarr said that he can provide that, but some seats may still show as expired. Mike said that a seat is not considered ended until the person resigns or is replaced.

Darlene Panzino asked how we change ability to address behavior. Mike Tarr stated that the Laws and Rules would define this and it would come with changes to Statute and Rules.

Laurence Gross asked if we have any Legislation to address cross licensing. Mike Tarr said that the Board will soon review other states for licensure by endorsement compatibility.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Erica Pulsoni-Draper stated that one of her listed courses has earned credits on another transcript and there are courses like the others mentioned that also have earned credits.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Vote: 4 in favor.