



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, November 15, 2024**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

Katie Warwick, Assistant Attorney General  
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 9:00 a.m.

**MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Review and approval of the September 20, 2024 minutes.

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

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

**COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS**

2022-ALC-18810 & Initial Application Review

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Robert Rogers to preliminarily deny the pending LADC application, set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, citing Board rules Chapter 8 § 3(3)(D) (dual relationship), § 3(4)(A) (sexual misconduct with a current client) or § 3(4)(B) (sexual misconduct with a former client) and § 3(4)(E) (sexual misconduct with client of licensee's employer), with: 24 months of probation that will include at least 1 hour of supervision a month with a Board-approved supervisor who will submit quarterly and final reports to the Board for review; and completion of 12 hours of continuing

education, 6 hours in dual relationships and 6 hours in ethics, in addition to the regular continuing education requirements for licensure, within 12 months.

**Vote: 2 in favor, 2 abstained: Darlene Panzino and Lisa Williams. Motion fails.**

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Darlene Panzino to preliminarily deny the pending LADC application, set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, citing Board rules Chapter 8 § 3(3)(D) (dual relationship), § 3(4)(A) (sexual misconduct with a current client) or § 3(4)(B) (sexual misconduct with a former client) and § 3(4)(E) (sexual misconduct with client of licensee's employer), with a revocation of the CADC license.

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

2023-ALC-19144

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Laurence Gross to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, citing Board rules Chapter 8 § 3(3)(D) (dual relationship) with: 1 year of probation that will include at least 1 hour of supervision a month with a Board-approved supervisor who will submit quarterly and final reports to the Board for review; and completion of a 40 hour CCS training course, in addition to the regular continuing education requirements for licensure, within 12 months.

**Vote: 3 in favor, 1 recused: Lisa Williams.**

2024-ALC-19791

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Robert Rogers to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and to issue a letter of guidance, citing Board rules Chapter 8 § 3(3)(D) (dual relationship) and (N) (client records), which will stay in the licensee's file for 10 years.

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

2024-ALC-20129

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to table this complaint to see if the licensee submits a renewal application for the CADC license.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

2024-ALC-20181

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

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

2024-ALC-20317

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Robert Rogers to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and to issue a letter of guidance, discussing compliance with consent agreement terms, which will stay in the licensee's file for 10 years.

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

### **COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS**

2020-ALC-16868 Consent Agreement Noncompliance & Renewal Applications Review

A motion was made by Robert Rogers and seconded by Lisa Williams to table these matters and direct Board staff to initiate a noncompliance complaint.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

2022-ALC-18440 Unfinished Business

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Laurence Gross to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, citing the conviction of a crime to the extent permitted by M.R.S. Title 5, Chapter 341, with: a revocation of licensure; and the direction to Board staff to report the nonrenewal of licensure during an open investigation to the NPDB and to flag the file in case a future application is received.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

2023-ALC-19659 Consent Agreement Noncompliance

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Lisa Williams to direct Board staff to initiate a noncompliance complaint.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

### **APPLICATION REVIEWS**

Initial Application: Leslie Leathers

A motion was made by Darlene Panzino and seconded by Laurence Gross to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(F) and 22 M.R.S. § 1711-C to discuss confidential health information.

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

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to exit executive session.

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

**Executive session 10:57 a.m.-11:06 a.m.**

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to preliminarily deny this application due to the finding that this applicant hasn't been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust 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.

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

Initial Application: Amanda Sherman

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to preliminarily deny this application due to the finding that this applicant hasn't been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust 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.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

Initial Application: Alexander Coupe

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Lisa Williams to approve the application.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

Initial Application: Andrea Barbee

A motion was made by Lisa Williams and seconded by Darlene Panzino to approve the application.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

Renewal Application: Laurie Cronin

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Darlene Panzino to approve the application due to the finding that this licensee has been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**

### **RULEMAKING DISCUSSION**

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, discussed the rulemaking process. Kristina will forward Board members recent legislation changes that directly affect this Board. Rulemaking will be added to future agendas. If Board members want Board staff to complete any research for rulemaking, they should contact Kristina.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, discussed the licensing dashboard created by Board staff that contains current licensure and application numbers and trends. Board members requested the data on how many CCS licensees also hold a CADC or LADC license.

Governor Mills announced today that OPOR's Commissioner, Anne Head, is retiring. Deputy Commissioner, Joan Cohen, will be the acting Commissioner. Governor Mills also announced she intends to nominate Ms. Cohen for the Commissioner role.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Laurence Gross and seconded by Darlene Panzino to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

**Vote: 4 in favor.**