



Janet T. Mills  
Governor

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL & OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION  
BOARD OF COUNSELING PROFESSIONALS LICENSURE  
76 NORTHERN AVENUE  
GARDINER, MAINE 04345

Anne L. Head  
Commissioner

**Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure  
Public Board Meeting  
Monday, October 28, 2024**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jennifer King, Board Chair  
Angela Blier, Vice Chair (remote)  
Holly Cavna, Complaint Officer (remote)  
Ellen Grunblatt  
Carolyn Silsby, Public Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Joanne Grant

**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 9:07 a.m.

**MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Review and approval of the September 23, 2024 minutes.

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

**Vote: 5 in favor.**

**COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS**

2024-COU-20250

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to preliminarily deny the pending application based on the applicant not meeting the educational requirements for licensure, specifically Board rules Chapter 5 (3)2(A) (pastoral theology and psychology), Chapter 5 (3)2(B) (testing and measurement or research methods)

and Chapter 5 (3)2(D) or (3)2(E) (studies in a clinical area or professional ethics) and Chapter 5 (3)2(F) (clinical pastoral education), and due to the applicant's unlicensed practice, and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, with: a warning; 12 months of probation, upon the issuance of a license, with a qualifying supervisor who will submit quarterly and final reports to the Board; and the completion of the missing educational courses (that can be approved by Board Chair, Jennifer King, outside of a regular Board meeting) which need to be completed within 2 years of the fully executed consent agreement and failure to do so will result in the denial of the application.

**Vote: 4 in favor, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.**

The Board also directed Board staff to file a complaint against the applicant's supervisor for aiding the applicant's unlicensed practice.

**Vote: 5 in favor.**

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, discussed rulemaking sessions have been scheduled and the Board will continue the rulemaking process.

There is still a vacant pastoral counselor Board member position. Kristina reported that the Governor's Office currently has an application for this open position.

Kristina provided the current licensure numbers and discussed the current application processing times and the continued increase in new applications.

Board members discussed barriers for mental health treatment and licensees including billing, insurance and licensing fees. Board staff will research other states' licensing fees, license terms and continuing education requirements and bring the information to the Board.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dennis Noonan reported he is looking forward to the Board discussing the pastoral counselor licensure requirements. Dennis appreciated how the Board handled today's complaint case as the Board raised a number of issues that he would have brought up himself.

Dennis discussed his concerns with the current supervision requirements for conditional pastoral counselors, including out of state supervisors and telesupervision. Dennis reported that 5 years experience for supervisors is not enough. Dennis believes that conditional pastoral counselors should have to be supervised by a licensee who has a background in pastoral counselor education or has significant supervisory experience. Dennis also noted that there are not currently any licensees in Maine that meet his proposed requirements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Holly Cavna to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

**Vote: 5 in favor.**