

State of Nevada
Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists & Clinical Professional

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Teleconference Location –
Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6475292787>

Nevada Board of Examiners
For Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors
7324 W. Cheyenne Avenue, Suite 10
Las Vegas, NV 89129

Please Note: The Board may (a) address agenda items out of sequence to accommodate persons appearing before the Board or to aid the efficiency or effectiveness of the meeting; (b) combine agenda items for consideration by the public body; and (c) pull or remove items from the agenda at any time. The Board may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person. (NRS 241.020, NRS 241.030).

Public comment is welcomed by the Board. Public comment will be limited to five minutes per person and comments based on viewpoint will not be restricted. A public comment time will be available prior to any action items on the agenda and on any matter not specifically included on the agenda prior to adjournment of the meeting. At the discretion of the President, additional public comment may be heard when that item is reached. The President may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and at his/her sole discretion. (NRS 241.020, NRS 241.030) Prior to the commencement and conclusion of a contested case or a quasi-judicial proceeding that may affect the due process rights of an individual, the Board may refuse to consider public comment. (NRS 233B.126)

Action by the Board on any item may be to approve, deny, amend or table.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Confirmation of Quorum. Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM.
 - Steve Nicholas, John Nixon, Sara Pelton, Marta Wilson, Erik Schoen, Hal Taylor, Sheldon Jacobs, Adrienne O'Neil were present.
 - Henna Rasul, Lynne Smith, Stephanie Steinhiser, and Joelle McNutt present.
 - Public members: Elizabeth Dear.

2. Public comment

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

Elizabeth Dear: I am concerned about Liberty University's Honor Code. A private university can have its own policies, and I am highly concerned as Liberty's contradicts both the AAMFT Code of Ethics and NBCC Code of Ethics

3. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding review and approval of minutes from August 21, 2020 meeting (For possible action)

Motion to approve last month's minutes made by Erik, Hal 2nd. Motion approved unanimously

4. Steve Nicholas petitions the board to review and discuss issues with Liberty University's Honor Code (For discussion/possible action)

Steve: discussion of the Liberty University Honor Code, they have a right to discriminate as a private university, however, this is in direct conflict of AAMFT and NBCC code of ethics as well as our mandate to know ourselves as professionals and check our biases.

Hal: if we look at these issues will it be limited to Liberty University or would we have to look at everyone's beliefs? There's no problem in talking about a specific university in scrutinizing what they are teaching, but I am hesitant with our involvement in managing belief systems overall.

Erik: agree on a personal level go after this, it is a CACREP accredited program so it gives them a pass on an academic review; if it wasn't that, we would have some wiggle room.

Steve: it is also in our statute that we uphold the ethics and this Honor Code is in direct conflict with those.

John: religion is a protected class, so we are making them more equal, the code of ethics applies to the practitioner, not the institution, if we dig into other religious schools will we find similar issues?

Marta: even when I was in school, we had several conversations regarding situations like this, you have to provide the best possible care and if you cannot, then you need to refer out, this is a very difficult situation, I am really interested in the discussion

John: there is variability in the faculty at institutions, those faculty members have their own individual beliefs and whether or not they choose to enforce those beliefs

Steve: I hold this in the same category as racial discrimination. It is sanctioning prejudicial practices

John: Our obligation is to train up to being able to work with all kinds of people and differing beliefs systems

Erik: is there a solution you had in mind?

Steve: I would object to the student signing their Honor Code, I would recommend an academic review and an interview to get their views on working within the codes of ethics.

Steve: this is a big issue and as a conscientious Board, we should be tackling these issues.

Marta: for supervisors we might want to consider trainings on these issues

Sara: can we draft a letter to Universities with Honor Codes that we're concerned about and put the burden on them?

Steve: I wonder if CACREP is aware of this Honor Code.

John: yes, those were specific cases where the student sued their school's department and ultimately the school's right to terminate the student was upheld.

Steve: Let's table this discussion and address this in our next meeting. Hopefully someone can contact CACREP and/or AAMFT on this issue in the meantime.

Hal: please make it clear if you contact these agencies, make it clear that you are not speaking on behalf of the Board

5. Review/Decision regarding the following licensees who have petitioned the Board to be Primary Supervisors for Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) and Clinical Professional Counselor (CPC) Interns: (For possible action)

Supervision Applicant	AAMFT Approved Supervisor/Supervisor Candidate or CCE Approved Certificate/ Supervisor Course	Transcript of 45-hour Graduate-level Supervision Course	Mentor Signature of Supervisory Experience	Mentor Contract
April Lang-Barroga	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
Kimberly Landero	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
Nora Alvarez	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
Jinu Niki	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes

Motion to approve all four Primary Supervisor applications made by Erik; Marta 2nd. Motion approved unanimously.

6. Sara Pelton petitions the board for approval of an 11th Intern for Primary Supervision (For discussion/possible action)

- Sara: I have one intern who is testing and there would be only a couple of weeks of overlap
- Marta: we have historically allowed this if it is only for a short period of time, especially since these were more seasoned interns. So, there is a precedent for this type of action.
- Hal: we might want to consider how seasoned the supervisor is in these circumstances. What if your current intern does not pass the exam?
- Sara: there will be another one likely finishing in February
- Steve: The concern is are we unduly burdening a supervisor to approve more than 10 primary interns.
- Sara: my case load is very light right now
- Adrienne: we should monitor this on a case by case basis
- Erik: supervisors that I know, are very ethical up north and so they are not using it as a profit center. We, as a board, will review these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Motion to approve Sara Pelton having an 11th intern made by Steve; John 2nd. Motion approved unanimously with Sara Pelton abstaining.

7. Erik Schoen petitions the board to discuss managing out-of-state providers treating Nevada residents during COVID and the possibility of creating an in-house registry for long-term oversight (For discussion/possible action)

Erik: it seems that the Governor has issued a directive when COVID began that allowed people that have a professional license to be able to practice in NV while the directive is in place. As part of the directive, professionals are supposed to notify the Board that they are most affiliated with to notify that board. It raises the question as COVID lingers on, that we may need a monitoring list, maybe this is an informal list that the Board office keeps.

Steve: I do not see that we need to take action on this since it is an administrative task.

Hal: if we look historically at Hurricane Katrina, what controls do we exert over them, something that requires a time limit and a mandatory registration. There is a situation that I am aware of that there is a couple in a long-distance marriage, they decided to see a MFT in the other state. I don't like the idea of people driving around operating in my state without us knowing about it, especially when it is services within this Board's purview

John: is there a mechanism of feedback to the Governor's office?, Lynne can you reach out to the neighboring Boards to see what they are doing now?

Erik: draft a letter to the interim healthcare committee: we have had X many people that have contacted our Board to provide services over the course of time and also keep a registry

Steve: we want the registry to record what state they are licensed in and are they in good standing

Adrienne: what regulations can we put in place for the future?

Hal: they have to be licensed somewhere in good standing, it ought to be statutory at some point, for emergency situations, the guidelines are very basic, like are you licensed

8. Report from President (Advisement)

No new reports, pardon my absence last month

Hal: Steve, can you talk to us about what you have been doing recently?

Steve: my research historically has been in suicide prevention research and has received attention from the state and local government. I work with the Department of the Interior responding to firefighters in the field and transitioning out of fire season. Because this is in a federal capacity I do not need to worry about licensing, tough stuff, I am honored to be a part of it.

9. Report from Complaints Investigator (Advisement)

Nothing specific, new complaints coming in has slowed, working on older ones

10. Report from Treasurer (Advisement)

Working through reports and have online access to credit cards now

11. Report from Executive Director (Advisement)

Six-month reporting was in mostly email form, hardly any foot traffic. We need people to know that there are 700 other licensed interns all sending in reports at the same time so we will acknowledge receipt of your hours but please give us a couple of days. We are uploading final data to Certemy planning to go live with applications in October. There are issues with testing companies, especially the NCMHCE administrator

12. Report from Senior Deputy Attorney General Henna Rasul (Advisement)

Nothing to report

13. Discussion regarding future agenda items and possible future meeting dates:

- a) Friday, November 20th @ 9:00 AM (Public Meeting)

b) Friday, December 18th @ 9:00 AM (Public Meeting)

14. Public comment.

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)
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No public comments.

15. Board member comments

No board member comments.

16. Adjournment (For possible action)

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 AM.