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MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023, at 9:00AM

Teleconference

**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).

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 9:02 AM.
 - Board members present: Steven Nicholas, Jennifer Ross, Lauri Perdue, Marta Wilson, Sheldon Jacobs, John Nixon, Hal Taylor, Jenny Stepp, Sara Pelton
 - Staff present: Joelle McNutt, Stephanie Steinhiser, Senior Deputy Attorney General Henna Rasul
 - Members of the public present: Alisha Ward, Dorothy Paul, Michael Litano, Anthony Lee, Erica Biro, Jennifer Calderon, Marina Meza, Melissa Fisher, Sydney Gambia, Tamara Hayden, Aiyyeimah Berry, Ana Hernandez, Sasha DeCania

Public comment is welcomed by the Board. Persons wishing to provide public comments remotely may access the meeting by telephone at (253) 215-8782 or through the electronic link posted on the agenda. Public comment will be limited to three (3) 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)

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)

- No public comment

3. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding review and approval of minutes from the June 23, 2023, meeting (For possible action)

- Motion to approve minutes from June 23rd: 1st Marta, 2nd Jennifer; No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.

4. 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 Approved Clinical Supervisor	University transcript showing 45-hour graduate-level supervision course	Mentor Signature of Supervisory Experience
Erica Biro	Yes	N/A	N/A
Anthony Lee	Yes	N/A	N/A
Keren Sclafani	Yes	N/A	N/A
Jennifer Calderon	Yes	N/A	N/A
Marina Meza	Yes	N/A	N/A
Deidre Jenkins	Yes	N/A	N/A
Charlotte Coniglio	N/A	Yes	Yes

- Steve: I do not want to take all of these as a slate because I have a couple of questions for Ms. Calderon. Ms. Calderon, where do you currently reside?
- Jennifer Calderon: I live in Los Angeles. I currently practice in Oregon, California and hold a license in Nevada.
- Steve: Do you currently have a caseload in Nevada?
- Jennifer Calderon: I do not.
- Steve: Please describe to the Board your intentions and your thoughts behind supervising licensed interns in Nevada when you're not practicing in Nevada.
- Jennifer Calderon: My intentions are to expand my practice into the state of Nevada and be able to work with agencies and support their need for supervision. I am able to travel to Nevada, specifically Las Vegas, to provide in-person supervision.
- Marta: I'm curious as to how many interns the states of Oregon and California allow their supervisors to have.
- Jennifer Calderon: I am not a supervisor in Oregon and the agencies that I work with in California, there is no limit.

- John: How have you educated yourself on Nevada laws as well as the ethical codes? What have you done to prepare yourself to supervise people in Nevada?
 - Jennifer Calderon: I have familiarized myself with all of those codes specifically. I'm a member of AAMFT and I am a supervisor in training with AAMFT. I've gone through almost a year and a half with regards to mentored supervision. So, I'm very familiarized with the local codes in the state of Nevada.
 - Steve: I do not see valid reason for us to deny based on the regs as they're currently written. I believe we can take them in a slate now.
 - Motion to approve Erica Biro, Anthony Lee, Keren Sclafani, Jennifer Calderon, Marina Meza Deidre Jenkins, Charlotte Coniglio as Primary Supervisors: 1st Jennifer, 2nd Hal; No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.
5. Board consideration of Consent Decree in the matter of Maureen Zelensky, Case No. NV20MFT005 and Case No. NV21MFT005 (For discussion/possible action)
- Stephanie: The facts included in Consent Decrees are undisputed facts. If you want to hear things, then you should have a hearing. In reviewing this and the upcoming agenda items, I want to remind you to stick to the four corners of the document. We cannot really offer more than what is included in the document.
 - Lauri: I have a question on number five, where the continuing education information is. Is there a deadline for that?
 - Stephanie: They're required to get it done during the terms of the probation.
 - Lauri: The probation is three years. Is there any opportunity to put a sooner deadline on that because we would want continuing education so that they move forward in a more positive direction sooner?
 - Stephanie: The Board can stipulate that, yes.
 - Lauri: I would defer to you experts in the field if this is something that's important. Like in number two, it states that within 45 days that the penalty fee be paid if there was a date that we could put, even if it was within the first year. Three years just seems like a really long duration of time.
 - Henna: We do have Ms. Zelensky's attorney on the line. If there are going to be any amendments made, she would have to agree to them as well.
 - Sydney Gambee: I'm the attorney for Ms. Zelensky.
 - Steve: What is a timeframe that would be more comfortable for you as a public member?
 - Lauri: I would say six months.
 - Jennifer: I agree, especially since we're looking at probation rather than suspension, if she will be seeing clients, I think those continuing education units need to happen sooner rather than later.

- Steve: Seems like we need to tighten the timeframe on the CEUs. So, let's work with a proposed amendment to this consent decree on the timeline of the CEU attainment.
 - Lauri: I'd like to propose that the CEUs are completed within the six first six months of the probation following the execution of the consent decree.
 - Henna: That is how the language would have to be amended. Ms. Gambee, are you okay with that?
 - Sydney Gambee: We are fine with the CEUs that are required by this consent decree being required to be completed within six months of the execution of the decree by the Board.
 - Motion to accept the consent decree with the amendment that states that the CEU requirement be met within the first six months in the matter of Maureen Zelensky, Case No. NV20MFT005 and Case No. NV21MFT005: 1st Lauri, 2nd Jenny; Abstentions: Sheldon; Motion approved.
 - Henna: Ms. Gambee, I will amend that portion of the consent decree and resend it to you for signatures. We have to have fresh signatures on those before the Board President signs it. It is effective today.
6. Board consideration of Consent Decree in the matter of Paula Releford, Case No. NV23MFT002 (For discussion/possible action)
- Motion to accept the consent decree as written in the matter of Paula Releford, Case No. NV23MFT002: 1st Jennifer, 2nd Jenny; Abstentions: Sheldon; Motion approved.
7. Board consideration of Consent Decree in the matter of Mason Schubert, Case No. NV23MFT005 (For discussion/possible action)
- Steve: I will facilitate this conversation, but I will abstain from voting as I was a supervisor for Mr. Schubert. What is the status of Mr. Schubert's license?
 - Stephanie: It's active, but this will be a revocation by voluntary surrender. So that will take place as soon as the consent decree is approved and executed.
 - Steve: What is the opportunity for Mr. Schubert to reapply in the future?
 - Stephanie: It's indicated in there prior to submitting an application for a new license to the Board. Do you see that part? Just to point out also, section three, there's the discussion about eligibility for license via endorsement, reciprocity that's indicated there as well.
 - Motion to accept the consent decree as written in the matter of Mason Schubert, Case No. NV23MFT005: 1st Marta, 2nd Sheldon; Abstentions: Steve and Jennifer; Motion approved.
8. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding approval of Alicia Ward's application for licensure as a MFT intern and consideration of intern hours accrued under previous license MI0136 (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt
- Joelle: Ms. Ward was an intern with our Board previously and she did have Board action. She would like to reapply. Her application is before you today to be considered as a new intern.

- Steve: Ms. Ward, thanks for coming and being patient with us. If we could ask you a few questions, I'd appreciate that. My first question is, you were an intern between 2009 and 2015, so obtained an extension of your three-year internship. Did your two-term internship expire in 2015?
- Alisha Ward: Yes.
- Steve: You've already had a six-year internship where you accumulated over 4,000 hours.
- Alisha Ward: Correct.
- Steve: What kept you from obtaining full licensure back in 2015?
- Alisha Ward: Just test preparation anxiety and then just life events that were happening during that time.
- Steve: You did not complete internships. So technically those hours would've gone back to zero. You reapplied for another internship in what year?
- Alisha Ward: This year.
- Steve: You applied for another internship?
- Alisha Ward: Yes. Yeah.
- Steve: Under the assumption that you would be starting from zero, is that correct?
- Alisha Ward: I was not under that assumption but if that's what it needs to be then that's fine.
- Steve: Ms. Ward, what have you been doing with yourself in a professional capacity since 2015?
- Alisha Ward: I've been working as an intake counselor.
- Steve: Have you been taking any additional education or continuing ed in consideration of being a marriage and family therapist intern?
- Alisha Ward: I have not.
- Jenny: I have a question about what your internship is going to be. I see your contract here with your supervisor. What is your internship proposal?
- Alisha Ward: I thought my hours would apply, so I was planning on trying to finish it within the year. Being that I thought my only requirement was going to be the testing. So, I would have to go back to the drawing board and figure that out now that the hours don't apply.
- Steve: My opinion is that there has been zero continuing education or practice of marriage and family therapy for seven years. I'm comfortable granting a brand-new internship, but I'm not comfortable granting any of those hours sliding over, especially in lieu of one complaint with consent decree that was satisfied.

- Sheldon: Ms. Ward, what's driving you now in terms of wanting to pursue your intern license, wanting to see clients?
- Alisha Ward: I was going to go back to school to be a school counselor. I just hated to abandon something that I was passionate about that really meant a lot to me, and I just really didn't want to give up on that. I wanted to move forward with that. I wanted to see if I could try that again.
- Jenny: Going back to my original question then, it sounds like when you put in this application back in May, you were looking at CCSD?
- Alisha Ward: Yes.
- Jenny: Is that what you were going to be doing, or is that off the table now?
- Alisha Ward: If my internship is approved, I'd be working as a contractor for CCSD, working with children that have trauma.
- Marta: Is your primary supervisor who would be supervising you here? Is she here to speak to what your internship would look like?
- Sasha DeCania: I'm here.
- Marta: Could you tell me what her internship would look like, please?
- Sasha DeCania: Certainly. I meet with interns weekly. I have a two-hour group. I generally don't take more than five primary interns because I feel like that's plenty. If they need one-on-one, then I can certainly provide that at a different time. Interns are required to provide me with a list of active clients, their diagnosis, how they're treating them, individual, couple, family group, etc., and how long they've been in treatment. We work on staffing cases during that time, professional development. If an intern can have the opportunity at their site to record a session with approval of their site and approval of the client, we can review that together. Some sites that's easier to do than others. Those are the basic things that I do with my interns. We tend to spend some time working on test preparation, because a lot of interns are really struggling with being able to pass their exam. Most of my interns complete within two to three years.
- Steve: I'll ask a follow up question on that. What are your thoughts about transfer of any hours for Ms. Ward?
- Sasha DeCania: I have two thoughts. One, it's been a while since she's seen clients and she was not in a program or something else. At the same time, what a heartache to lose all that time, right? Most interns can count 500 hours from graduate school with signed documentation. So, what I would say to the Board is I would hope you would, in good faith, support this person in trying to get back into the field, that you would at very least accept 500 hours from her graduate school experience. I do think that she would need to take some time and be supervised while she's seeing clients, especially if she's going to be seeing a high-risk population like abused children in CCSD. I would say that she would have to complete some of those hours again and get out there and take some continuing education, even though that won't count towards her license. That would just count towards the training category. I would hope that she would at least get to count a portion of those hours. She was clearly supervised during that time.

- Steve: Your thoughtful response is comforting and refreshing. I have no hesitation and acknowledge in those hours then.
- John: At UNLV, the minimum number of direct hours for practicum and internships is 280 hours.
- Steve: Thank you John. Board, is there any reason to not grant a new internship?
- Marta: I don't see any reason not to grant a new internship.
- Motion to approve Alisha Ward's application for licensure as a MFT intern: 1st Lauri, 2nd Sheldon; No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.
- Steve: Let's talk about previously accrued hours.
- Marta: I think her documentation shows hours accrued in the 4,000 range. Um, I'm just wondering if there's room to grant some of those previously accrued hours.
- Steve: I'm not comfortable approving too many hours. I think practicum hours are definitely possible, maybe even up to 500. There's been a seven-year gap, and there was an ethical violation with a consent decree that was satisfied during that window of time. So, I believe it would be appropriate for the public and for the intern's growth to largely get a new head of steam and start fresh and do something that is noteworthy and remarkable.
- Sara: I'm looking at the group hours. If we were to take the full 300 to accept them, that would be 50%, which we would accept from an out-of-state applicant.
- Steve: So, do you have a total in mind, Sara?
- Sara: I'm willing to accept 300 group hours.
- Steve: How about the direct hours from a graduate program?
- Sara: Oh, yes. So that would reduce the total to 2200, if we were to accept those 800.
- Sheldon: So, the 500 hours there with the practicum, and then I'm comfortable with the additional 300 hours of group for a total of 800 hours.
- Jenny: I am comfortable with the 500. The additional 300, I think, is generous. I'm comfortable with that, but I think that's probably where I would land and stop.
- Jennifer: I am in agreement with that and given the lack of recency in continuing education and any kind of practice hours that I do like the idea of allowing Ms. Ward to have the opportunity to get the practice hours and to be able to count new accrued hours for updated continuing education to bring her up to date with current practices. Um, so I'm also good with the 500 pre-grad practicum hours as well as 300 for group and I think where we would land.

- Motion to accept 300 group hours and 500 direct client hours obtained in graduate school, with documentation, from previous intern number MI0136 toward newly granted internship for Ms. Ward: 1st Marta, 2nd Lauri; No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.
9. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding approval of Tamara Hayden's reciprocity application for CPC licensure (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt
- Joelle: Your supporting documents include application information responses to the General Information showing that Ms. Hayden was previously licensed in Nevada from the years 2010 through 2020. That license is expired. She is reapplying through a reciprocity application with a valid, unencumbered license in Illinois. In her application materials she provided a reinstatement letter from the Office of the Inspector General. She was excluded from Medicaid programs and has been recently reinstated.
 - Steve: Okay. It wasn't renewed. I'm looking at the Attorney General's statement as to what the outcome of the case was. So then, Ms. Hayden, you went to Illinois, is that correct?
 - Tamara Hayden: Yes. I am a cancer survivor, and I believe that's in the letter. I grew up in Illinois and I went back here during COVID and I'm currently a school counselor here in a middle school. I've been doing my continuing education also.
 - Steve: You have an unrestricted license in Illinois?
 - Tamara Hayden: Correct. I'm duly licensed here as a School Counselor and an LCPC here.
 - Steve: Ms. Hayden, did you report to the Board office the Medicaid fraud case?
 - Tamara Hayden: I sent the letters into them. I wasn't practicing then at that time. I had a very aggressive and rare form of cancer, and I was in treatment.
 - Steve: I have some hesitation about reciprocity back into a state where you were convicted of Medicaid fraud.
 - Marta: What kind of work are you looking at doing if this application is accepted?
 - Tamara Hayden: I would be working at Human Behavioral Institute on Jones. I would move back to Nevada.
 - Steve: If you go back in time, knowing what you know now, how would that have gone differently?
 - Tamara Hayden: If I were to go back in time and knowing what I know now, I would've completely shut down the business and flew back to Chicago. I would have transferred all my clients to therapists and doctors that I know in the community. If I could go back in time, I would've done it differently. I, of course, didn't. I'm sorry. I didn't know I would get that sick. I'm very sorry for everything that happened. I couldn't practice for five years. I had everything reinstated.
 - Sheldon: I was going to ask you what you learned from all of this, and you answered that question for me just now.

- Hal: I can certainly understand some of the concerns that were brought up earlier, but there are some extenuating circumstances with regards to medical but it's something to take into consideration. We are looking at a gross misdemeanor, not a felony, and a letter of reinstatement from the Office of the Inspector General in D.C. in January of this year. For the purposes of the Inspector General's Office, this is resolved. I think the fact that it's resolved at this point, there weren't further matters, is something which I take into consideration.
- Marta: This is a quandary, but I look at it like this. It was resolved, restitution was made and there's no formal complaint before us as a Board.
- Motion to approve Tamara Hayden's reciprocity application for CPC licensure: 1st Marta, 2nd Hal; Steve opposes; No abstentions; Motion approved.

10. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding review of financial statements 4th Quarter FY23 ending June 30, 2023 (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt

- Joelle: We did not have any anomalies. The standard reports are here for review: balance sheet, profit & loss and bank transactions report. This will close out the last fiscal year.
- Motion to approve the financial statements 4th Quarter FY23 ending June 30, 2023: 1st Lauri, 2nd Jenny; No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.

11. Review, discussion and possible action regarding regulation changes, including but not limited to, the regulations resulting from the Governor's Executive Order 2023-003 (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt

- Joelle: You have in your supporting documents the regulations that were approved by the Board and were included in the Governor's report that was submitted by May1, 2023. We now have to go through the formal regulation change process to have those removed. I wanted to put this on the agenda to see if there is anything else that you would like to include in the regulation change.
- Steve: So, this is our open window to push those final ones over the goal line, but then add any other considerations. It seems to me that we've talked a bit lately about supervisors and supervision. I remember the residency requirement concept. That would be interesting to reconsider for supervision.
- Jennifer: I think there is a lack of clarity whether or not interns are required to have a secondary for the entirety of their internship.
- Marta: There is a concern that keeps coming up with interns working at agencies where they are overworked, underpaid, undervalued and they are exhausted.
- Steve: So, no action needs to be taken on this agenda item. Great discussion.

12. Report from President (Advisement)

- Steve: No report.

13. Report from Treasurer (Advisement)

- Lauri: We are moving right along. We will need to make some adjustments to the budget because the State wants to move the office to a different location.

14. Report from Executive Director (Advisement)

- Joelle: I provided the productivity spreadsheet so that you can see how many applications we received and how many licenses were issued. So, by the end of this month, we will be over 500 licenses issued for the year. I included in your supporting documents the communication that I've received thus far from the Department of Business and Industry. To Lauri's point on budget revision, we will need to revise the medical insurance category for PEBP. Legislation passed that impacted the cost and contribution of members. As of July 31, 2023, we have of 3,326 licensees including 1,545 MFTs, 940 CPCs, 403 MFT interns, and 438 CPC interns.

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

- Henna: No report.

16. Discussion regarding future agenda items and possible future meeting dates

- Steve: We are looking at October 20th and November 17th.

17. Board member comments

- Marta: A big thank you to Stephanie and Henna for the work they are doing with complaints and keeping us current.

18. 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)

- No public comment.

19. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Meeting agendas are available for download at the Nevada State Board of Marriage Family Therapists & Clinical Professional Counselors website: <http://marriage.nv.gov>. Anyone who needs the agenda or supporting materials for this meeting is invited to call or email Joelle McNutt at (702) 486-7388 or mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov. The agenda and supporting materials may be provided by email or can be arranged to be picked up in person. This agenda has been sent to all members of the Board and other interested persons who have requested an agenda from the Board. Persons who wish to continue to receive an agenda and notice should make a formal request to Joelle McNutt at mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Joelle McNutt at (702) 486-7388 or mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for special arrangements made after this time frame cannot be guaranteed.

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State of Nevada Administrative Website: <https://notice.nv.gov/>

State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors: 7324 W. Cheyenne Ave. Suite #10 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129

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