



Dr. Jennifer Ross, *President*
Jenny Stepp, *Vice President*
Lauri Perdue, *Secretary/Treasurer,*
Public Member
Dr. Steve Nicholas, *Member*
Dr. John Nixon, *Member*
Marta Wilson, *Member*
Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, *Member*
Sara Pelton, *Member*

MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025 at 9:00AM

Teleconference

**Nevada Board of Examiners
For Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors
500 N. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 201
Las Vegas, NV 89107**

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 9:00 AM.
 - Board members present: Sara Pelton, Marta Wilson, Jennifer Ross, Lauri Perdue, Sheldon Jacobs, John Nixon (arrived 9:02 AM)
 - Board members not present: Jenny Stepp, Steven Nicholas
 - Staff present: Joelle McNutt
 - Board Counsel present: Senior Deputy Attorney General Henna Rasul
 - Members of the public: Michael Smith, Christine Salvo, Daniel Giudici (Flynn Giudici Government Affairs), Bradley Guye (Ethics and Boundaries Assessment Services, LLC), Danielle Cady, Amanda Rippee, Jaime Clemens, Kathryn Padmos, Sherry Matheny, Dorothy Paul

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. Legislative Updates (Advisement)

- Daniel Giudici: We weren't consolidated. So good news there. I can give a brief update on the whole session and then I'll give you an update on the bills that we were tracking for you. There was quite a bit of volume this session. There were 1,210 bills introduced. The Governor broke his record of vetoes from last session, issuing 87 vetoes this session. That was one of the holdups on SB 425. So, 556 bills became law. So, volume, budget deficits and deadlines were the main points of the session. One of the main sticking points early on was the Governor coming in over budget. That definitely slowed things down in the first couple of weeks and everybody had to adjust. It slowed LCB down in getting us language amendments. So, what ended up happening is a lot got pushed to the end and so there were a lot of hearings that took place really in the last three weeks session. SB 78 was one of the main concerns that consolidated the board with a number of other boards. There was also SB 425, which as initially written, did the same, consolidated the marriage and family therapist board with a number of other behavioral health boards.

SB 425 was Senator Donate's bill. That one was probably the most ideal situation that we were looking for from the board's perspective. After all the amendments, basically that was just providing administrative, legal, and accounting help to the Boards on an opt-in basis. Unfortunately, the Governor, as I said, threatened to veto that bill. So, we saw SB 78, it came through with a number of amendments. The final amendment had really stripped them of a lot of the powers they were looking for. So long story short, nothing ended up happening in terms of board consolidation. Technically the boards are still under B&I, but B&I did not get the funding that they requested. Essentially, they have funding for the deputy director and one other position through the end of the next fiscal year.

AB 163 was the counseling compact and that did pass, and Joelle was with Assemblymember Hafen testified on that bill. Joelle, you did a really great job there. AB 450, that one also passed. SB 266 was the student loan repayment for underserved communities and marriage and family therapists were left off of that. We were able to get them added. So, there's some monies there for folks that are practicing in underserved communities to get some student loan repayments. Finally, SB 434 was the bill that created a social worker apprentice registration. That one was kind of a funding bill where they were going to set up a program for social workers, and I know we were tracking that because we wanted something similar for marriage and family therapists. Since it involved funding, it did not pass.

- Jennifer: I just want to thank you for all the work that you did for our Board, our licensees, the public and close collaboration with Joelle. I know that this was really a bear of a session and we're really glad to have had your help.
- Joelle: We are truly grateful to you and Mendy.

- Daniel Giudici: It was a team effort on our part. Joelle was a part of that team, and that's how we were able to get to these outcomes. So, I appreciate that. Thank you.
 - Joelle: The Counseling Compact bill did pass. It becomes effective on 1/1/2026. I worked with Assemblymember Hafen's Chief of Staff to change the effective date from 7/1/2025 to 1/1/2026 so that we could get through this renewal season and set our operating budget up for the next two years. We could then write regulations, set the fee and decide on the jurisprudence exam. I also wanted to bring to your attention SB257. That bill did pass, and it revises provisions related to autism. This bill created an opportunity for other health care professionals, besides psychologists, to diagnose autism. It defines health care professionals as those named in NRS 629, which we are. The bill language does specify that professionals do have to operate within their scope of practice. I feel it would be a good idea to agendaize this in the future to get the Board's position on whether diagnosing autism is within the scope of practice for an MFT or CPC. Does anyone have initial thoughts on that?
 - John: It is within our scope of practice to diagnose any disorder and that is driven by the DSM. In terms of scope of competence, it varies depending on the diagnostic category. Autism is very complex and may utilize testing instruments that require specialized training and because of the language of our licensing law which prohibits or excludes certain psychometric assessments, it creates a mine field.
 - Joelle: The bill becomes effective 1/1/2026 so we have some time to discuss it further.
4. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding review and approval of minutes from the May 2, 2025, meeting (For possible action)
- Motion to approve minutes from the May 2nd meeting: 1st Sheldon, 2nd Sara; John and Lauri abstain; Motion approved.
5. Board consideration of Consent Decree in the matter of Michael Smith, Case No. NV24CPC006 (For discussion/possible action)
- Henna: Once you receive the document, just focus on the sections that are the stipulated facts and conclusions of law and the stipulated adjudication, which is the agreed upon discipline. We'll begin at the bottom of page five.
 - Joelle: I wanted to let the Board know that Mr. Smith is here on the call and he also has prior discipline with our Board. That was taken into consideration in formulating the terms of discipline.
 - Motion to amend the proposed consent decree to include a three-year probation period with the ability to have Mr. Smith petition the Board after two years for review, to add three additional CEUs specifically in ethics, records and documentation and to submit quarterly reports from the supervisor for monitored practice: 1st Lauri, 2nd Sheldon: Jennifer opposes; No abstentions; Motion approved.

6. Board consideration of Consent Decree in the matter of Christine Salvo, Case No. NV24MFT006 (For discussion/possible action)
 - Motion to accept the proposed consent decree as written: 1st Marta, 2nd Lauri: No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.
7. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding presentation by Bradley Guye of Ethics and Boundaries Assessment Services, LLC (EBAS) for use in administrative actions taken by the Board (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt
 - Bradley Guye: I appreciate the opportunity to present to the Board today.
 - John: How are the assessments formulated?
 - Bradley Guye: All our scenarios all pre-created, so it comes out of a question bank. Every one of our scenarios comes from a prior board violation, so none of our scenarios are made up.
 - Marta: Would the assessment be tailored to be specific to our state laws and regulations or the national code of ethics?
 - Bradley Guye: I can confidently say that you're probably not going to get a scenario that is specific to MFT versus counseling or social work.
 - Henna: None of my boards utilize this and so I'd have to look into this a little bit more and I'd have to talk to my division about this.
 - Sara: What if we table this to give the opportunity to do more research.
 - This agenda item has been tabled.
8. Review/Decision regarding the following applicants who have petitioned the Board for approval of prior experience hours from out-of-state: (For possible action)

Applicant	Total Number of Hours	Prior Experience Form	State Verified Hours	Letter from Previous Supervisor
Amanda Rippee	1058	Yes	No	Yes

- Amanda Rippee: The state of Colorado does not require us to turn in hours like I do here.
- John: Can you ask your supervisor from Colorado if she would attest to these hours?
- Amanda Rippee: I certainly can.
- Joelle: The letter provided from the supervisor does have the dates of supervision included and the dates match up. Would you still like an additional attestation?
- John: No.

- Sara: I'm comfortable with these hours. I'm comfortable with the letter from the supervisor, two and a half years to accumulate the hours that she's reporting. Seems reasonable to me. I'm willing to approve these hours.
- Joelle: We do have precedent where we have approved hours without having them on state approved forms.
- Motion to approve hours for Amanda Rippee contingent upon signed acknowledgement of the hours by supervisor in Colorado: 1st Sara, 2nd Sheldon; Marta opposes; No abstentions; Motion approved.

9. Disciplinary Matter – Recommendation for Dismissal (For possible action)

- a. Case No. NV22MFT007
- b. Case No. NV23CPC001
- c. Case No. NV24CPC003

- Motion to dismiss Case Nos. NV22MFT007, NV23CPC001 and NV24CPC003: 1st Marta, 2nd Lauri; No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.

10. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding review of financial statements 3rd Quarter FY25 ending March 31, 2025 (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt

- Motion to approve financial statements 3rd Quarter FY25 ending March 31, 2025: 1st Lauri, 2nd Sara; No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.

11. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Board Budget for FY26 ending 06/30/2026 (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt

- Joelle: So, we have 3,247 fully licensed people. I deducted 20% of that number to account for people that are going to expire, retire, or people that want to go inactive. So that would be \$1,170,000 for all our renewals. Then I divide that in half for the first year of the two-year cycle. So that gave us \$585,000 in renewal income. I did put in an allowance to keep legislative services even though it is an off year. Certemy tripled our cost per year. It is based on our licensee count, and we have grown from 2,000 licensees to 5,232 as of May 2025. Lauri, is there anything you would like to add?
- Lauri: I have reviewed the budget, and everything looks in line and Joelle is typically a conservative budgeter. So, I feel comfortable moving this forward with Board approval.
- Motion to approve the Board Budget for FY26 ending 06/30/2026: 1st Lauri, 2nd Jennifer; No abstentions; Motion approved.

12. Nomination and election of Board Officers for the 2025 - 2026 fiscal year pursuant to NRS 641A.140 (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt

- Motion to nominate Jennifer Ross as Chair: 1st Lauri, 2nd Sara; No abstentions; Motion approved.

- Motion to nominate Jenny Stepp as Vice President: 1st Lauri, 2nd Sara; No abstentions; Motion approved.
- Motion to nominate Lauri Perdue as Secretary/Treasurer: 1st Sara, 2nd Marta; No abstentions; Motion approved.

13. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding results of the Executive Director's performance review (For discussion/possible action) – Jennifer Ross

- Jennifer: I am pleased to be able to summarize all the wonderful feedback. Fives across the Board with the only outlier being how you rate yourself. I was very pleased at seeing your acknowledgement of the things that you've done and the humility that you constantly demonstrate for us all being a work in progress. There's always room for growth and that's what makes you so good at what you do is not ever taking for granted how great you are. The Board overwhelmingly believes that you are going above and beyond. I would like to propose a 6% increase for merit that is separate from the 1.75% PERS increase that we have already voted on.
- Lauri: 6% fits very well in the budget, and I would like to go on record and say that I have known Joelle professionally for 25 plus years. I will tell you every time I sit on one of these calls, I reflect on the young Joelle that I got to work with and seeing her today. To see her growth and just the way in which she does her job. Humility was a great word that you used Jennifer, but just with expertise, with grace. We had some moments this year that were tough and Joelle handled it so well. She has a very small team with not a lot of people to partner with at her level to walk through those tough times. So, I always admire, Joelle, how you carry yourself in this role. And please, I would offer lean on us as much as you need us.
- Motion to approve a 6% salary increase for the Executive Director effective July 1, 2025: 1st Jennifer, 2nd Sara; No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.
- Joelle: I want to thank all the Board members. I appreciate those kind words and it's an honor and a pleasure to serve the Board. There are no words to express how grateful I am that legislation did not go through. Not only because we can make decisions that are best for the public as an autonomous unit that still has authority to do that, but for me to be able to still work for you.

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

- Jennifer: So, speaking of future agendas and meeting dates, I would like to propose that we add an initial discussion of NAC additions, changes, things we want to tighten up so that we can start thinking ahead to what we're to be able to workshop. So, I know Joelle, obviously the counseling compact is going to require some language. Sara, I know you had proposed looking at some of our fee structure. There are some things in the way our supervision language is worded that I think needs a little TLC and I imagine other members of the Board may also have things that they've had their eye on. So, if we can add to next meeting's agenda, just a discussion about priority areas that the Board might have.
- Lauri: I have a proposal based on how we walk through consent agreements.
- John: I propose a face-to-face meeting where Board members travel to be together.
- Jennifer: So, when do we want to meet again?

- Joelle: The third Friday in July would be July 18th.

15. Board member comments

- Sheldon: I know Dr. Ross is part of this collaborative to bring more clinical supervisors into our state. So UNR's Community Behavioral Health Collaborative and BEHere NV have successfully completed an inaugural clinical supervision training initiative, marking a significant step forward in addressing Nevada's mental health workforce development needs. This spring, sixteen licensed counselors from across Nevada completed a supervision course and the comprehensive course prepared participants to serve as primary supervisors for clinical professional counselors, MFTs and licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselors. The program extended across Nevada's diverse geographic landscape with participants representing urban centers like Reno, Sparks, Carson City, and Las Vegas, as well as rural communities throughout the state. This broad representation ensures that supervision services will be available to support emerging counselors in both metropolitan and underserved rural areas. And lastly, this partnership between UNR and BEHere. NV represents a proactive approach to strengthening Nevada's behavioral health infrastructure by expanding the pool of qualified clinical supervisors as the state continues to address mental health workforce shortages. Programs like this play a crucial role in ensuring that new counselors receive the quality of supervision necessary for professional development and public protection. So great job. Thank you.

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16. 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.

17. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.