

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

Minutes – Open Session April 17, 2020 via Google Hangouts Meet

Approved by the Board on May 15, 2020

Members	Non-Members
Risa Ganel, LCMFT, <i>Chair</i>	Kimberly B. Link, J.D., Exec. Dir.
Jeffrey M. Galecki, LCADC, LCPC, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Rhonda Edwards, AAG
Nicki Drotleff, LCMFT, <i>Secretary</i>	Danielle Vallone, Compliance Manager
Aparna Ramaswamy, Ed.D., Ph.D., LCPC, ACS Amanda Bechtel, LCPC, LCPAT, Absent	Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator
Michael W. Nettles, LCPC, Absent	Rachael Faulkner, LCPCM
Sharon Bolden, LCADC, LCPC	Willie Harris, Metro MFT
Sara Carlton, Consumer, Absent	
Mark Donovan, LCADC, LCPC	
C. Scott Frazier, III, Consumer	
Karen Katrinic, LCMFT	
Winnie Moore, LCPC	
Lynn Duffy, Psy.D., LCPC	

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

- I. Attendance, statement by Board Chair regarding statements by the public during meeting.
- II. Motion to approve the Agenda – Carried.
- III. Reports;
 - a. Chair – Reminder to board members to submit financial disclosures by April 30, 2020.
 - b. Board counsel – No report.
 - c. Executive Director:
 - i. Board sunset termination date extended for five years, bill passed both houses during the legislative session and awaits the Governor’s signature.
 - ii. HB448 Telehealth bill was signed by the Governor and will likely require revisions to the teletherapy regulations.
 - iii. SB766/HB1102 Maryland Music Therapist Act – did not get voted out of committee before session ended early due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency.
 - iv. Regulations for LCPC and LCADCs under consideration by the Secretary; Committee continues to work on revisions to LCPAT and LCMFT chapters.

- v. Staff is working in the office on a limited basis in order to perform essential tasks that cannot be accomplished from home such as opening the mail, depositing checks, and issuing licenses.
- d. Credentialing Committee: No report.
- e. Disciplinary Review Committee: Committee continues to meet monthly.
- f. Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee: Held a meeting on April 8, 2020. BAAC working on telehealth regulations.

IV. Old Business (Link):

- a. Open meeting was held on Monday, March 30, 2020 via Zoom wherein the Board discussed and voted to allow alcohol and drug trainees to provide teletherapy services under certain terms and conditions during the state of emergency only and to allow out of state clinicians to provide telehealth services to existing clients who have relocated or returned to Maryland during the state of emergency. Secretary Neall issued an Order to that effect on April 6, 2020. The Order is posted on the Board's website.
- b. Interstate compact for LCPCs: compact drafting team continues to work on the terms of the compact and expects to have draft for stakeholder comment this summer.

V. New Business (Link):

- a. Since the declaration of the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has received increased call and email volume regarding Medicaid billing, supervision, CEUs, interstate practice without a license, et. al. FAQs are posted on the website and are updated regularly.
- b. The ability for an applicant for licensure as a graduate professional counselor to sit for the National Counselor Examination (NCE) has been impacted by the pandemic response. The NCE is administered by the Center for Credentialing and Education at Pearson VUE testing centers. Pearson Vue closed its testing sites around the country due to the pandemic. Pearson VUE expects to re-open its centers tomorrow, April 16, 2020, and will adhere to physical distancing and other CDCs recommendations. The Board received one email inquiring as to whether the NCE could be offered online. The Board determined that the current situation does not support a recommendation for an order to allow for the issuance of a temporary or provisional license to accommodate graduates affected by the temporary closure of the testing sites. The Board will consider this issue again next month during Open Session.

- c. Online applications: MDH is under Phase II Level II Pandemic response. This means that employees must telework whenever possible. Board operations are dependent on receiving paper applications, correspondence, and fees via regular mail service. The Board does not have online applications and is not equipped to process payments by credit card. Further, staff are not permitted to access the licensing system from home. Therefore, staff is required to work in the office in order to receive applications and checks and to issue licenses and certificates. The impact on Board operations during this time illustrates the necessity of an online system for applications, payment, and issuance of licenses. The Board will continue researching available licensing platforms in order to improve its operations.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Nicki Drotleff, Secretary