



STATE OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
1740 WEST ADAMS STREET, SUITE 3600
PHOENIX, AZ 85007
PHONE: 602.542.1882 FAX: 602.364.0890
Board Website: www.azbbhe.us
Email Address: information@azbbhe.us

KATIE HOBBS
Governor

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2024

Members Present: Kimberly Bailey, Robert Charles, Dominic Miller, Adalesa Meek, Diane Palacios, Mark Shen Antwan Trotter

Members Absent: Mary Coonrod, Leanette Henagan

Staff Present: Tobi Zavala, Executive Director; Mona Baskin, A.A.G., Polly Knape, Deputy Director; Jarett Carver, Investigations Manager

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners was called to order on April 12, 2024 at 9:01 a.m. at 1740 West Adams Street, Boardroom C, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 with Ms. Meek presiding.

2. Roll Call

See above.

3. Minutes: review, consideration and action

A. January 12, 2024, general meeting minutes

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

B. January 12, 2024, executive session minutes/agenda item 7D

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

C. February 9, 2024, general meeting minutes

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

D. February 9, 2024, executive session minutes/agenda item 7D

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

E. February 9, 2024, executive session minutes/agenda item 12I

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

F. March 8, 2024, general meeting minutes

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

4. Consent Agenda: review, consideration and action

A. Cases recommended for dismissal

1. 2024-0113, John Clarizio, LMSW-19527
2. 2024-0055, Tyler Newton, LPC-7776T (closed-expired)
3. 2024-0038, Dawn Ramson, LMSW-16123
4. 2024-0020, Penelope Rivera, LPC-15213
5. 2024-0107, Annette Ruskin, LCSW-10157
6. 2024-0092, Lauren Valazza, LPC-15590

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to approve the consent agenda items 4(A)(1-6). The motion passed unanimously.

B. Cases recommended for dismissal with a letter of concern.

1. 2024-0071, *Melissa Cox-Pasqua, LPC-13764*

Following discussion, Ms. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to approve the consent agenda item 4(B). The motion passed unanimously.

C. Cases recommended for opening a complaint and dismissing with a letter of concern

N/A

D. Cases recommended for acceptance of a proposed signed non-disciplinary consent agreement.

1. 2022-0180, *Michael Fitzpatrick, LPC-21122*

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to approve the consent agenda item 4(D). The motion passed unanimously.

E. Cases recommended for opening a complaint and acceptance of a proposed signed non-disciplinary consent agreement.

1. *Oluchi Ojinnaka-Taylor, LPC Applicant*

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to approve the consent agenda item 4(E). The motion passed unanimously.

F. Cases recommended for acceptance of a proposed signed disciplinary consent agreement.

1. 2023-0132, *Kimberly Crooks, LISAC-15098*
2. 2023-0166, *Deanna Vance, LPC-10224*

Following discussion by members, Mr. Trotter moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to accept the proposed signed consent agreements. The motion passed unanimously.

	Kimberly Bailey	Robert Charles	Mary Coonrod	Dominic Miller	Leannette Henagan	Adalesa Meek	Diane Palacios	Mark Shen	Antwan Trotter
AYE	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
NAY									
Absent			X		X				

G. Cases recommended for opening a complaint and acceptance of a proposed signed disciplinary consent agreement.

N/A

H. Cases recommended for opening a complaint and denying for unprofessional conduct.

N/A

I. Cases recommended for release from consent agreements.

1. 2022-0113, *Elizabeth Andronic, LMSW-18534 (active-restricted)*
2. 2020-0124, *Roberta Appleton, LAC-17650 (active-restricted)*
3. 2023-0137, *Colleen Austin, LMSW-16092*
4. 2023-0058, *Eboni Fields, LPC-18562 (active-restricted)*
5. 2021-0122, *Arline Lemeshewsky, LCSW-3634 (active-restricted)*
6. 2023-0147, *Troy Love, LCSW-10449*
7. 2023-0191, *Sandra Ritter, LPC-17442 (active-restricted)*
8. 2024-0034, *Thomas Wood, LAC-22163*

For consent agenda item 4(I)(1), Ms. Palacios disclosed she knows the licensee in a professional capacity but is able to review and vote on the case objectively.

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Shen, to approve the consent agenda item 4(I). The

motion passed unanimously.

5. Administrative Hearings

Administrative Hearing Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3281 and 41-1092.07, the Board will conduct administrative hearings or consider related procedural issues in the following matter(s). During the administrative hearing, the Board may go into executive session to discuss confidential records pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) or to obtain legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3).

N/A

6. Formal Interviews

N/A

7. Complaints and other disciplinary matters: review, consideration and action

A. 2024-0270, 2024-0282, Stephanie Adler, LPC-21116

Ms. Zavala summarized the board's investigation.

The complainants were properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

Following discussion by members, Mr. Trotter moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to accept the signed proposed interim consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

	Kimberly Bailey	Robert Charles	Mary Coonrod	Dominic Miller	Leanne Henagan	Adalesa Meek	Diane Palacios	Mark Shen	Antwan Trotter
AYE	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
NAY									
Absent			X		X				

The Board took a break at 10:39 a.m., reconvening its public meeting at 10:50 a.m.

B. 2024-0046, Taylor Alvarado, LAC-21904

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional and her attorney, Faren Akins, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to offer the professional a non-disciplinary consent agreement for 12 months to include completion of 3 clock hours in Arizona documentation, 3 clock hours in behavioral health ethics, and completion of the 3 clock hour Arizona Renewal Tutorial and if not signed, to invite the professional to participate in a formal interview and, if not accepted to remand the matter to a formal hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Following further review and discussion by members, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to open a complaint on Deborah Johansen, the licensee's clinical supervisor. The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2023-0081, Sandra Graham, LPC-13806

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The professional appeared telephonically, her attorney, David Klink, appeared in person and addressed the Board.

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey to accept the proposed signed consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

	Kimberly Bailey	Robert Charles	Mary Coonrod	Dominic Miller	Leanne Henagan	Adalesa Meek	Diane Palacios	Mark Shen	Antwan Trotter
AYE	X	X		X		X	X	X	X

NAY									
Absent			X		X				

D. 2024-0171, Aimee Jarvis, LMSW-21981

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional and her attorney, Amanda Kuklinski, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to find the following violations:

- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(c)(ii), making any oral or written misrepresentation of a fact in any statements provided during an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by the board
- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(l), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession
- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(k), engaging in any conduct or practice that is contrary to recognized standards of ethics in the behavioral health profession or that constitutes a danger to the health, welfare or safety of a client as it relates to the following section of the NASW Code of Ethics:
 - 3.09(a) Commitments to Employers

The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion, Ms. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to offer the professional a consent agreement for the voluntary surrender of the professional’s license and if not accepted to remand the matter to a formal hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

	Kimberly Bailey	Robert Charles	Mary Coonrod	Dominic Miller	Leanne Henagan	Adalesa Meek	Diane Palacios	Mark Shen	Antwan Trotter
AYE	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
NAY									
Absent			X		X				

E. Myrio Jones, LMSW Applicant

Mr. Carver summarized the Board’s investigation.

The applicant appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Shen, to open a complaint based on the investigation. The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion by members, Ms. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to find the following violations:

- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(l), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession

The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion by members, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to deny the application for licensure based on the violation of A.R.S. § 32-3275(5) and A.R.S. § 32-3275(6). The motion passed unanimously.

	Kimberly Bailey	Robert Charles	Mary Coonrod	Dominic Miller	Leanne Henagan	Adalesa Meek	Diane Palacios	Mark Shen	Antwan Trotter
AYE	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
NAY									
Absent			X		X				

The Board took a break at 1:54 p.m., reconvening its public meeting at 2:02 p.m.

F. 2024-0033, Stephen Kittridge, LCSW-2786

Mr. Carver summarized the Board's investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Trotter, to dismiss the complaint with a letter of concern addressing the importance of appropriate application of HIPAA laws within behavioral health practice. The motion passed unanimously.

G. 2024-0018, Kimberly Kriesel, LPC-19252

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members to vote.

H. Stefan Leonides, LAC Applicant

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The applicant and his attorney, Michael Goldberg, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to open a complaint based on the Board's investigation. The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion by members, Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios to dismiss the complaint with a letter of concern addressing the importance of appropriate application of Arizona law, rule, and scope. The motion passed unanimously.

I. 2023-0129, Jennifer Lohmeyer, LAC-19254 (Interim suspension)

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The professional appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Trotter, to find the following violation:

- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(I), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession

The motion passed unanimously.

Following further review, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Trotter, to offer a consent agreement that stipulates the following:

- Stayed suspension
- The professional shall be placed on probation for 12 months
- The professional shall continue with current therapist twice monthly for 12 months with a pre-approved behavioral health professional
- The professional shall engage in biological fluid testing at a minimum of once monthly
- The professional shall continue with medication management as outlined by her prescribing psychiatrist
- The professional shall complete 3 clock hours of pre-approved continuing education in self care and compassion fatigue
- The professional shall complete 3 clock hours of pre-approved continuing education in transference and countertransference
- The professional shall complete 6 clock hours of pre-approved continuing education in substance use

and to approve the professional’s request for release from the interim consent agreement upon acceptance of a consent agreement, and if not signed the professional’s license will remain suspended. The motion passed unanimously.

	Kimberly Bailey	Robert Charles	Mary Coonrod	Dominic Miller	Leanette Henagan	Adalesa Meek	Diane Palacios	Mark Shen	Antwan Trotter
AYE	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
NAY									
Absent			X		X				

J. 2024-0025, Amy Montgomery, LPC-21411

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional and her attorney, Flynn Carey, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following further discussion, Ms. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to offer the professional a non-disciplinary consent agreement for 12 months to include the completion of 3 clock hours continuing education surrounding working with individuals involved in family law and highly contested court cases, 3 clock hours of continuing education in Arizona documentation, 3 clock hours of continuing education in behavioral health ethics, and 6 clock hours of continuing education of family systems, and if not signed, to invite the professional to participate in a formal interview and, if not accepted to remand the matter to a formal hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Following further review and discussion by members, Ms. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to open a complaint on Marie Tueller, the professional’s clinical supervisor. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Benjamin Moore, LMSW Applicant

Mr. Carver summarized the Board’s investigation.

The applicant appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to open a complaint based on the Board’s investigation. The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion by members, Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to find the following violation

- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(I), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession

The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion by members, Mr. Shen motioned, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to deny the application for licensure based on the violation of A.R.S. § 32-3275(5) and A.R.S. § 32-3275(6). The motion passed unanimously.

	Kimberly Bailey	Robert Charles	Mary Coonrod	Dominic Miller	Leanette Henagan	Adalesa Meek	Diane Palacios	Mark Shen	Antwan Trotter
AYE	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
NAY									
Absent			X		X				

L. 2024-0049, Karina Rivera, LAC-22040

Mr. Carver summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to find the following

violations:

- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(k), engaging in any conduct or practice that is contrary to recognized standards of ethics in the behavioral health profession or that constitutes a danger to the health, welfare or safety of a client as it relates to the following section of the ACA Code of Ethics:
 - A.8. Multiple Clients

The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion, Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to offer a consent agreement that stipulates the following:

- The professional shall be placed on probation for 12 months
- The professional shall complete 6 clock hours of pre-approved continuing education in couples counseling and relationships to include multiple roles
- The professional shall complete 6 clock hours of pre-approved continuing education in behavioral health ethics to include the ACA code of ethics and decision making models

and if not signed, to invite the professional to participate in a formal interview and, if not accepted, to remand the matter to a formal hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

	Kimberly Bailey	Robert Charles	Mary Coonrod	Dominic Miller	Leannette Henagan	Adalesa Meek	Diane Palacios	Mark Shen	Antwan Trotter
AYE	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
NAY									
Absent			X		X				

The Board took a break at 12:06 p.m., reconvening its public meeting at 12:40 p.m.

M. Ronald Ruanto, LMFT-15456

Ms. Zavala summarized the background information.

The professional appeared telephonically and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to open a complaint for further investigation. The motion passed unanimously.

N. 2023-0063, Michael Smith, LPC-19290 (Revocation under review)

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The professional appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Charles moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to affirm the lifting of the stayed revocation. The motion passed unanimously.

	Kimberly Bailey	Robert Charles	Mary Coonrod	Dominic Miller	Leannette Henagan	Adalesa Meek	Diane Palacios	Mark Shen	Antwan Trotter
AYE	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
NAY									
Absent			X		X				

O. 2024-0024, Diana Vigil, LPC-0805

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional and her attorney, Flynn Carey, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to dismiss the complaint.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Assistant Attorney General's Report: Mona Baskin, A.A.G.

N/A

9. Applications for licensure and educational programs: review, consideration and action

A. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding applications for licensure Counseling

Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to deny 4 applications based on a failure to pass the required examination, and 1 application based on a failure to meet minimum requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

Marriage and Family Therapy

Ms. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to deny 1 application based on a failure to meet minimum requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

Social Work

Ms. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to deny 17 applications based on a failure to pass the required examination and 1 application based on failure to meet minimum requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

Substance Abuse Counseling

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to deny 3 applications based on a failure to pass the required examination and 1 application based on failure to take the required exam. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding applications for educational programs

N/A

10. Report from Chair

A. Summary of current events

No report.

11. Report from the Treasurer

A. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding February financial report

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to accept the February financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding March financial report

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Bailey, to accept the March financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Report from the Executive Director and/or staff

A. Update on Board members and appointments

Ms. Zavala provided an update on vacancies and pending appointments by the Governor's office.

B. Update regarding the 2024 Sunset Audit by the Arizona Auditor General's Office

Ms. Zavala provided an update on the 2024 Sunset Audit by the Arizona Auditor General's Office. She reminded the members the audit remains confidential but if there are any procedural questions she is available.

C. Discussion regarding Dominic Miller's attendance at the board member training through the Association of Social Work Board's

Mr. Miller provided an overview of key takeaways and expressed the training was beneficial as a new board member.

D. Update on legislation

Ms. Zavala provided an update on pending Legislation and HB2473 and SB1173 which were signed by the Governor this month.

13. Request for extension of inactive status: review, consideration and action

N/A

14. Future agenda items

None

15. Call for public comment

No Comments

16. Establishment of future meeting date(s)

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at 1740 W. Adams St., Boardroom C.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Trotter moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Diane Palacios
Secretary/Treasurer

Date