

BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 10, 2024

Members Present: Robert Charles (out at 2:20), Brenda Dennis, Kristina Groves, Crystal Krueger, Jose Luis Madera, Adalesa Meek, Dominic Miller, Diane Palacios, Teresa Peña (out at 11:40), Mark Shen

Members Absent: Leanette Henagan

Staff Present: Tobi Zavala, Executive Director; Mona Baskin, A.A.G.; Jarett Carver, Enforcement Manager; Allison Taylor, Operations Manager; Florencia Fragala, Investigations Manager

**1. Call to Order**

A meeting of the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners was called to order on January 10, 2025 at 9:00 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. November 1, 2024, general meeting minutes*

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the general meeting minutes for the November 1, 2024 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Dennis, Ms. Peña, and Mr. Shen abstained.

*B. December 13, 2024, general meeting minutes*

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to approve the general meeting minutes for the December 13, 2024 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Charles, Ms. Groves, and Ms. Peña abstained.

**4. Consent Agenda: review, consideration and action**

A. Cases recommended for dismissal

1. 2024-0353, Isabella Christopher, LMSW-22053
2. 2025-0061, Gianna Elms, LCSW-17211
3. 2025-0048, Sophia Greenrock, LCSW-21306
4. 2025-0113, 2025-0118, Suzanne Peterson, LPC-20316, LIAC-155237
5. 2024-0374, Nicholas Yardley, LMSW-22225

For consent agenda item 4(A)(1), Ms. Palacios disclosed she was affiliated with JFCS in the past, but can remain unbiased and vote on the case objectively.

Following discussion, Ms. Groves moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the consent agenda item 4(A)(1-3). The motion passed unanimously.

4. 2025-0113, 2025-0118, Suzanne Peterson, LPC-20316, LIAC-155237

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional and her attorney, Sara Stark, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following discussion, Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Ms. Krueger, to dismiss the complaint. The motion passed unanimously.

5. 2024-0374, *Nicholas Yardley, LMSW-22225*  
Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

Following discussion, Ms. Meek moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to dismiss the complaint. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. 2024-0377, *Ugochukwu Uche, LPC-13100*  
Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional and his attorney, Sara Stark, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following discussion, Ms. Dennis moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to dismiss the complaint with a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. *Brian Paneth, LMSW Applicant*

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

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

1. 2025-0056, *Kent Baumhover, LAC-22726*
2. 2025-0023, *Jeanette Devevo, LCSW-12401*
3. 2025-0037, *Jean Hornung-Starr, LCSW-3970*
4. 2024-0397, *Mary Straus, LPC-12508*

Following discussion, Ms. Groves moved, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to approve the consent agenda item 4(D)(1, 3, 4). The motion passed unanimously.

2. 2025-0023, *Jeanette Devevo, LCSW-12401*  
Ms. Zavala summarized the Board's investigation.

The complainant was present telephonically, however there were audio issues, and was unable to make a statement.

The professional was present and available if the members had questions.

Ms. Meek disclosed she has collaborated with the professional in a professional capacity, but she can remain objective.

Following discussion, Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to accept the proposed signed non-disciplinary consent agreement.

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

N/A

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

1. 2024-0390, Margaret Fugate, LCSW-12201, LIAC-11842
2. 2024-0375, Taylor Posso, LIAC-155233
3. 2025-0069, India Schiltz, LAC-20240
4. 2024-0376, Chelsey Valeri, LCSW-20968

Following discussion, Ms. Dennis moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the consent agenda item 4(F)(1-3). The motion passed unanimously.

4. 2024-0376, Chelsey Valeri, LCSW-20968
- Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

Following discussion, Ms. Krueger moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to accept the proposed signed disciplinary consent agreement.

	Robert Charles	Brenda Dennis	Kristina Groves	Leannette Henagan	Crystal Krueger	Jose Luis Madera	Adalesa Meek	Dominic Miller	Diane Palacios	Teresa Peña	Mark Shen
AYE	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAY											
Absent				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 opening a complaint for further investigation.

N/A

- J. Cases recommended for release from consent agreements.

1. 2023-0172, Ashley Curtis, LAC-22203
2. 2023-0081, Sandra Graham, LPC-13806 (Active Restricted)
3. 2024-0123, Robin Horn, LPC-17931
4. 2023-0148, Michael Kolasa, LMFT-15447
5. 2024-0042, Danna Peterson, LPC-17750
6. 2023-0149, Sharon Wright, LPC-20841

Following discussion, Ms. Krueger moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the consent agenda item 4(J). The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Palacios recused.

**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. 2025-0203, Maria Blair, LPC-21054*

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional’s attorney, Sara Stark, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Charles moved, seconded by Ms. Krueger, to accept the signed proposed consent agreement for the voluntary surrender of the professional’s license. The motion passed unanimously.

	Robert Charles	Brenda Dennis	Kristina Groves	Leannette Henagan	Crystal Krueger	Jose Luis Madera	Adalesa Meek	Dominic Miller	Diane Palacios	Teresa Peña	Mark Shen
AYE	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAY											
Absent				X							

Following further review, Mr. Charles moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to refer the case to law enforcement. The motion passed unanimously.

	Robert Charles	Brenda Dennis	Kristina Groves	Leannette Henagan	Crystal Krueger	Jose Luis Madera	Adalesa Meek	Dominic Miller	Diane Palacios	Teresa Peña	Mark Shen
AYE	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAY											
Absent				X							

*B. 2025-0077, Armando Grijalva, LPC-22964*

Ms. Zavala 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 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 2014 ACA Code of Ethics:
  - A.6.e. Nonprofessional Interactions or Relationships (Other Than Sexual or Romantic Interactions or Relationships)

The motion passed unanimously.

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

- The licensee shall be placed on probation for 12 months
- The professional shall receive clinical supervision twice monthly from a pre-approved independently licensed behavioral health professional
- Clinical supervision shall focus on transference and countertransference, self-care, work-life balance, behavioral health ethics, and ethical decision-making model.

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.

	Robert Charles	Brenda Dennis	Kristina Groves	Leanne Henagan	Crystal Krueger	Jose Luis Madera	Adalesa Meek	Dominic Miller	Diane Palacios	Teresa Peña	Mark Shen
AYE	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAY											
Absent				X							

C. 2025-0019, Lora Hudson, LCSW-21913

Ms. Zavala summarized the background information.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. Groves 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
- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(p), failing to conform to minimum practice standards as developed by the board as it relates to:
  - A.A.C. R4-6-1101, Consent for Treatment
  - A.A.C. R4-6-1102, Treatment Plan
  - A.A.C. R4-6-1103, Client Record
  - A.A.C. R4-6-1106, Telepractice

The motion passed unanimously.

Following further review, Ms. Groves moved, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to offer a consent agreement that stipulates the following:

- The licensee shall be placed on probation for 24 months
- The professional shall complete pre-approved continuing education in:
  - 3 clock hours in telehealth practices
  - 3 clock hours in Arizona documentation
  - 6 clock hours in suicide assessment and safety planning
  - 3 clock hours in law and ethics
- The professional shall receive clinical supervision twice monthly from a pre-approved independently licensed behavioral health professional
- Clinical supervision shall focus on documentation, treatment and assessment, continuity of care, behavioral health ethics, Arizona rules and statutes, suicide risk assessment, and safety planning
- Early release available after 12 months, at the recommendation of the clinical supervisor

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.

	Robert Charles	Brenda Dennis	Kristina Groves	Leanne Henagan	Crystal Krueger	Jose Luis Madera	Adalesa Meek	Dominic Miller	Diane Palacios	Teresa Peña	Mark Shen
AYE	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
NAY											
Absent				X						X	

D. 2024-0183, Jacqueline Kaplan, LCSW-13492

Mr. Carver summarized the Board's investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

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

- 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:
  - 1.06 (c) Conflicts of Interest
  - 1.06 (d) Conflicts of Interest
- A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(p), failing to conform to minimum practice standards as developed by the board as it relates to:
  - A.A.C. R4-6-1101, Consent for Treatment
  - A.A.C. R4-6-1102, Treatment Plan
  - A.A.C. R4-6-1103, Client Record

The motion passed unanimously.

Following further review, Ms. Krueger moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to offer a consent agreement for the voluntary surrender of the professional’s license, and if not signed remand the matter to a formal hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

	Robert Charles	Brenda Dennis	Kristina Groves	Leanne Henagan	Crystal Krueger	Jose Luis Madera	Adalesa Meek	Dominic Miller	Diane Palacios	Teresa Peña	Mark Shen
AYE	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
NAY											
Absent				X						X	

*E. 2025-0027, John Lare, LAC-19160, LIAC-15220*

Mr. Carver summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant appeared and addressed the Board.

The professional and his attorney, Kimberly Kent, appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to offer the professional a non-disciplinary consent agreement for 12 months for the completion of 3 clock hours in behavioral health ethics, 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.

*F. 2025-0047, Marie Tueller, LPC-16651*

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant was properly noticed, but failed to appear.

The professional appeared telephonically, her attorney, Sara Stark, appeared in person and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Charles, to order the professional to get a comprehensive psychological evaluation with a pre-approved Psychologist. The motion passed unanimously.

	Robert Charles	Brenda Dennis	Kristina Groves	Leanne Henagan	Crystal Krueger	Jose Luis Madera	Adalesa Meek	Dominic Miller	Diane Palacios	Teresa Peña	Mark Shen
AYE	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAY											
Absent				X							

The Board took a break 10:05 a.m., reconvening its public meeting at 10:16 a.m.

G. Kristen Vasosaust, LPC Applicant

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The applicant appeared telephonically and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Madera moved, seconded by Ms. Groves, 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

	Robert Charles	Brenda Dennis	Kristina Groves	Leanne Henagan	Crystal Krueger	Jose Luis Madera	Adalesa Meek	Dominic Miller	Diane Palacios	Teresa Peña	Mark Shen
AYE	X		X			X	X				X
NAY		X			X			X	X		
Absent				X						X	

The motion passed with Ms. Dennis, Ms. Krueger, Mr. Miller, and Ms. Palacios opposed.

Following discussion by members, Mr. Madera moved, seconded by Ms. Groves, to open a complaint. The motion passed with Ms. Krueger and Ms. Palacios opposed.

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

- The professional shall be placed on probation for 24 months
- The shall complete pre-approved continuing education in:
  - 3 clock hours in HIPAA compliance
  - 3 clock hours in behavioral health ethics.
- The professional shall receive clinical supervision twice a month with a pre-approved independently licensed behavioral health professional for 24 months.
- Clinical supervision shall focus on boundaries, self-care, Arizona rules and statutes, and confidentiality.
- Early release available after 12 months at the recommendation of the clinical supervisor.

and if not signed, to deny the application based on a finding of unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3275 (A)(5) and A.R.S. § 32-3275 (A)(6). The motion passed unanimously.

	Robert Charles	Brenda Dennis	Kristina Groves	Leanne Henagan	Crystal Krueger	Jose Luis Madera	Adalesa Meek	Dominic Miller	Diane Palacios	Teresa Peña	Mark Shen
AYE	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
NAY											
Absent				X						X	

H. 2025-0104, Shayna White, LMSW-20754

Ms. Zavala summarized the Board’s investigation.

The complainant appeared telephonically and addressed the Board

The professional appeared and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Shen moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to offer the professional a non-disciplinary consent agreement for 12 months for the completion of 3 clock hours in behavioral health ethics, 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.

*The Board took a break at 11:40 a.m., reconvening its public meeting at 12:13 p.m.*

**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. Madera moved, seconded by Ms. Krueger, to deny 4 applications based on a failure to pass the required examination, 5 applications based on a failure to take the required examination, and 1 application based on a failure to meet minimum requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

*Marriage and Family Therapy*

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

*Social Work*

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Krueger, to deny 18 applications based on a failure to pass the required examination, and 6 applications based on a failure to take the required examination. The motion passed unanimously.

*Addiction Counseling*

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

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

*1. South Mountain Community College, Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Sciences*

Following a brief description by Ms. Zavala, Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to approve the educational program.

**10. Report from Chair**

*A. Summary of current events*

No report.

**11. Report from the Treasurer**

*A. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding December financial report*

Tabled.

**12. Report from the Executive Director and/or staff**

*A. Discussion regarding conflicts of interest for Board and committee members as well as staff*

Ms. Zavala provided a summary of the conflicts of interest training for Board members.

*B. Discussion regarding complaint reviews*

Ms. Zavala provided a reminder that all Board members are required to read all Board reports and the report assigned to them, they are expected to lead the discussion. Ms. Zavala also reminded them of the importance of memorializing the conduct if discipline is taken.

*C. Update of the rulemaking process*

Ms. Zavala provided an update in regards to the rulemaking process and next steps.

*D. Update on Joint Legislative Budget Committee*

Ms. Zavala provided an update on the next steps for the Join Legislative Budget Committee.

*E. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding Ms. Zavala's salary*

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously and the Board went into executive session at 1:52 pm, reconvening its public meeting at 2:18 pm.

Ms. Meek represented that Ms. Zavala demonstrated exceptional performance in her role as Executive Director, takes great pride for the results of the audit, and acted as a fit leader.

Ms. Dennis acknowledged how recognized the Board is because of Ms. Zavala.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palacios, to authorize an increase for Ms. Zavala of up to 19%.

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

N/A

**14. Future agenda items**

- Discussion regarding the phone system.

**15. Call for public comment**

N/A

**16. Establishment of future meeting date(s)**

*The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at 1740 W. Adams St., Boardroom C.*

**17. Adjournment**

Ms. Palacios moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

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Diane Palacios  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Date