



STATE OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
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KATIE HOBBS
Governor

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

COUNSELING ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 10, 2025

Members Present Patricia Kerstner, Janet O'Connor
Telephonically:

Staff Present Elma Brambila, Assistant Director
Telephonically:

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Counseling Academic Review Committee was called to order on February 10, 2025, at 10:08 a.m. virtual with Dr. Kerstner presiding.

2. Roll Call

See above.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes

A. November 15, 2024, general meeting minutes

Based on the change in the composition of appointed committee members, there will not be a quorum to approve the minutes. The minutes will be maintained as draft minutes noting that there is not a statutory requirement for the committee to approve the minutes. A.R.S. § 38-431.01(C).

B. December 6, 2024, general meeting minutes

Ms. O'Connor moved, seconded by Dr. Kerstner, to approve the general meeting minutes for the December 6, 2024, meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Report from Chair

The Committee may go into executive session to discuss confidential medical 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).

None

5. Report from the Executive Director and/or staff

The Committee may go into executive session to discuss confidential medical 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).

A. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding the election of Secretary

Following review and discussion by members, Dr. Kerstner moved, seconded by Ms. O'Connor, to nominate Ms. O'Connor as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. O'Connor accepted the nomination.

B. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding the 2026 meeting calendar

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. O'Connor moved, seconded by Dr. Kerstner, to approve the 2026 Board meeting calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Assistant Attorney General's Report:

No report.

7. Supervisor exemption requests: review, consideration, and action

None

8. Applications for licensure: review, consideration, and possible action

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

Dr. Kerstner moved, seconded by Ms. O'Connor, to recommend to approve Sheri Mills and Firyal Zourob as Licensed Associate Counselors. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Kerstner moved, seconded by Ms. O'Connor, to recommend to approve the following 6 as Licensed Associate Counselors upon receipt of a passing score on the required exam.

Amanda Berman	Erika Eubank	Julia See-Teran
Jennifer Carriere	Mariana Solorzano	Sandi Janicki

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Kerstner moved, seconded by Ms. O'Connor, to recommend to the Board to deny the following 3 on their failure to establish that they meet the minimum licensure requirements.

Eddie Blakes Jr.	Laila Halaby	Regina King
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The motion passed unanimously.

Following review, members requested additional information on the following applications.

Karielis Jusino Suarez	Obsidian DeLeau	Elbera Velasquez-Rodriguez
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B. Appeals

1. Amanda Berman, LAC Applicant

Members reviewed the information submitted in support of the appeal.

Members agreed the applicant meets minimum requirements.

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

A. College of New Jersey: Masters of Arts in Counseling

Members reviewed the information submitted in support of the educational program.

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. O'Connor moved, seconded by Dr. Kerstner, to find the curriculum deficient. The motion passed unanimously.

B. College of New Jersey: Masters of Arts in Counseling: Emphasis in Substance Abuse
Members reviewed the information submitted in support of the educational program.

Following review and discussion by members, Ms. O'Connor moved, seconded by Dr. Kerstner, to recommend to the Board to deny the program as the courses appear to be missing the substance abuse content. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Future agenda items

11. Call for public comment

No one was present to respond to the call for public comment.

12. Establishment of future meeting dates

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at 1740 West Adams St., Board Room B, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

A. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding rescheduling the March 14, 2025, and April 25, 2025 meetings.

Tabled

13. Adjournment

Ms. O'Connor moved, seconded by Dr. Kerstner to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Janet Lee O'Connor, EdS
Janet Lee O'Connor, EdS (Mar 17, 2025 12:07 PDT)

Janet O'Connor
Secretary

03/17/2025

Date