



Ohio Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board Counselor Professional Standards Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Members Present: Joe Geig, Butch Losey, Jerry Strausbaugh, Tonya Schaeffer
and Sue Pohler

Staff Present: Bill Hegarty, Yolanda Berry, Rena Elliott, Rachel Randall,
Margaret Ann Adorjan and Tracey Hosom

Guests Present: Michael Lewis, OCA

Call to Order: Joe Geig called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m.

Discussion and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Butch Losey motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Sue Pohler seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of March Minutes

Jerry Strausbaugh motioned to approve the March minutes. Tonya Schaeffer seconded. Geig abstained as he was not present for the March meeting. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve Applications Licensed by Staff From 3/11/22 – 5/10/22

Yolanda Berry reported 51 Licensed Professional Counselors and 115 Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors were licensed by staff since the last Board Meeting. Butch Losey motioned to approve the applicants licensed by staff from 3/11/22 – 5/10/22. Sue Pohler seconded. Motion carried.

Application Coordinator's Report

Yolanda Berry reported that 131 Counselor Trainee applications and 59 Training Supervision Endorsements were processed since the last Board meeting.

Review of Endorsement Applications and Out-of-State Coursework

The CPSC reviewed coursework and endorsement applications during their work session.

Correspondence

a. Dominique Ater, LPC – Hardship Request

Dominique Ater is an LPC seeking to advance her license to LPCC however there is no LPCC-S within her company to provide supervision. She has sought outside supervision but is currently unable to afford the cost and requesting that an LISW-S be able to provide training supervision due to the hardship of locating an LPCC-S. The CPSC recommended that Dominique Ater research supervisors that will provide remote supervision which may be more cost effective. Butch Losey motioned to deny the hardship request of Dominique Ater. Tonya Schaeffer seconded. Motion carried.

Remediation Plans

a. Amanda Duffy

Amanda Duffy's plan for remediation is to purchase the most recent practice exam and study guide from <https://www.tests.com/nce-national-counselor-practice-exam> and to use these tools to help prepare to retake the exam in Fall of 2022 or Spring 2023. Jerry Strausbaugh motioned to accept the remediation plan of Amanda Duffy. Sue Pohler seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

a. Marietta College Letter

The CPSC reviewed a letter from Michael A. Williams, Sr., PhD, LPC of Marietta College which was in response to the Board's request to provide details of their decision to suspend the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. The program had been previously authorized by the Board while the college pursued CACREP accreditation. The current status of the program is that they are not enrolling students into the Fall 2022 term and are unsure when, if at all, enrollment will resume. The students (2) who will be ascending to year two of the program will continue courses as scheduled and will be slated to graduate on time in May of 2023. The courses they will take in the 2022-23 academic year, will be taught as scheduled except for changes in assigned faculty, namely, Williams who will be teaching 4 courses per regular term. The students currently enrolled are Abigail Jordan and Rylie Wahl. These students have only received verbal notification due to the course of their program continuing as scheduled. Tonya Schaeffer motioned to recognize current the two students at Marietta College to be approved to sit for the Licensed Professional Counselor licensure exam. Jerry Strausbaugh seconded. Motion carried.

b. 2022 Counseling Regulatory Board Summit 8/3/22 – 8/5/22

The 2022 Counseling Regulatory Board Summit will be a hybrid event held on-line and in person in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Jerry Strausbaugh expressed interest in attending and will communicate his availability to Brian Carnahan.

c. NBCC Contract

After a review and brief discussion, the CPSC approved entering into the contract with NBCC.

Investigation Report – Bill Hegarty

Bill Hegarty thanked the Investigative Liaisons for their work on cases and reminded the CPSC of the counselor denial hearing scheduled for tomorrow. No hearings are scheduled for July. The

following cases were reviewed by Joe Geig and recommended for closure as they did not lead to formal discipline.

CA2021-6972	Standard of Care	Close with a caution.
CA2021-6994	Impairment	Close with a caution.
CA2021-7004	Standard of Care	Close with a caution.
CA2021-7005	Improper Recommendations	Close with a strong caution.
CA2021-7006	Mandated Reporting	Close with a caution.
CA2021-7064	Standard of Care	No violation found.
CA2021-7116	Sexual Harassment	Close with a strong caution.
CA2021-7134	Standard of Care	No violation found.
CA2021-7140	Confidentiality	Close with a general caution.
CA2021-7187	Non-Sexual Boundaries	Close with a caution.
CA2021-7189	Standard of Care	Allegations not substantiated.
CA2021-7215	Competency	No violation found.
CA2021-7246	Non-Sexual Boundaries	No violation found.
CA2022-7687	Standard of Care	Close with no violation.

Joe Geig motioned to close the cases he reviewed for the reasons identified. Tonya Schaeffer seconded. Motion carried.

The following cases were reviewed by Tonya Schaeffer and recommended for closure as they did not lead to formal discipline.

CA2021-6579	Non-Sexual Boundaries	Close with a strong caution.
CA2021-6832	Record Keeping	Close with a strong caution.
CA2021-6864	Standard of Care	Close with a caution.
CA2021-7032	Sexual Harassment	Allegation not substantiated.
CA2021-7066	Standard of Care	Close with a strong caution.
CA2021-7010	Documentation	No violation found.
CA2021-7015	Non-Sexual Boundaries	Close with a caution.
CA2021-7102	Record Keeping	Close with a caution.
CA2021-7149	Record Keeping	No violation found.
CA2021-7245	Standard of Care	Allegation not substantiated.

Tonya Schaeffer motioned to close the cases that she reviewed for the reasons identified. Butch Losey seconded. Motion carried.

The following cases were reviewed by Jerry Strausbaugh and recommended for closure as they did not lead to formal discipline.

CA2021-7137	Custody Issues	Close with a strong caution.
CA2021-7210	Improper Termination	Close with a caution.

Jerry Strausbaugh motioned to close the cases he reviewed for the reasons identified. Joe Geig seconded. Motion carried.

Goldman Review

Pamela Hawthorne, LPC

Pamela Hawthorne is a Licensed Professional Counselor who on September 15, 2021, entered into a Consent Agreement with the Board stipulating that she would receive personal counseling and to submit the counselor's name, contact information and professional resume or vitae. This information was to be submitted by October 21, 2021. Board staff contacted Pamela Hawthorne on several occasions regarding this requirement to which she did not comply resulting in a failure to comply with the consent agreement. Bill Hegarty stated that precedence in these cases have been to revoke licensure however the final decision rests with the CPSC based on the evidence presented. Butch Losey motioned to revoke the license of Pamela Hawthorne. Joe Geig seconded. Jerry Strausbaugh asked when a license is revoked if there an opportunity to become licensed again. Bill Hegarty stated theoretically a year from the date of her revocation she could apply for a new license which will require passing the national exam. The Board would review her application noting that she did not comply with the previous consent agreement. Although the Board is not required to issue her a license, a way to do this, if she is amenable, would be to enter into another consent agreement where we would license her and she would agree to complete the personal counseling with the purview that she could not renew her license until the personal counseling was complete. With no further discussion, motion carried.

Paul Vernier, Jr., LPC

Paul Vernier is a Licensed Professional Counselor who was convicted of two counts of Medicaid fraud, each a fourth-degree felony. Bill Hegarty stated the precedence has been revocation and called for a motion to revoke, but asked or whether there was any other proposed disciplinary action. Joe Geig motioned to revoke the license of Paul Vernier, Jr. Sue Pohler seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Hegarty reported that there were two endorsement consent agreement processed since the last Board meeting.

Consent Agreement

Dionne Kinninger

Dionne Kinninger is a Professional Clinical Counselor. Between January 2020 and May 2021, she violated professional standards of care and confidentiality while working at an agency in Findlay, Ohio. Her license will be reprimanded, and she will complete three hours of continuing education in ethics at her expense. Sue Pohler motioned to accept the consent agreement between the Board and Dionne Kinninger. Jerry Strausbaugh seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Hegarty asked if the CPSC had any questions and upon hearing none concluded his report. Joe Geig thanked the Board Investigators for their continuous hard work on cases.

Meeting Adjourned

Joe Geig adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.