



Ohio Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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Counselor Professional Standards Committee Meeting **Thursday, March 7, 2024**

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

Members Absent: Butch Losey

Staff Present: Yolanda Berry, Bill Hegarty, Rachel Randall, Whitney Caudill, Margaret Ann Adorjan, Tracey Hosom, Brian Carnahan, Kevin Fowler, and Charla Robinson

Guest: Michael Lewis, OCA, and students from Capital University

Call to Order Tonya Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Discussion and Approval of Agenda

Tonya Schaeffer welcomed the guests; Board members and staff were introduced. The agenda was reviewed. Sue Pohler motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Joe Geig seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of January 2024, Minutes

Jerry Strausbaugh motioned to approve the November 2023, minutes. Sue Pohler seconded. Joe Geig abstained. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve Applicants Licensed by Staff from 1/10/2024 – 2/29/2024

Since the last Board meeting 137 Licensed Professional Counselors and 124 Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors were licensed by staff. Jerry Strausbaugh motioned to approve the applicants licensed by staff from January 10, 2024 – February 29, 2024. Joe Geig seconded. Motion carried.

Application Coordinator Report – Yolanda Berry

168 Counselor Trainee applications and 44 Training Supervision Endorsement applications were processed since the last Board meeting.

Review Endorsement Applications/Out of State Coursework

The CPSC reviewed coursework during their work session.

Correspondence

Hardship Requests

a. Abbie Wilson-Harris, LPC

Abbie Wilson-Harris is requesting that 19 hours accrued since 9/19/2023 and approximately 60 hours going forward in 2024 of training supervision by an LISW-S be approved to count toward LPCC licensure. She identified that the request is made due to the difficulty finding an LPCC-S in the area and particularly with expertise in the SUD field. The specific LISW-S who has provided supervision is competent in SUD and has been practicing in the area and in a treatment facility for many years. After a brief discussion, Joe Geig motioned to deny the hardship request of Abbie Wilson-Harris per the Ohio Administrative Code 4757-17-01. Sue Pohler seconded. Motion carried. It was recommended that the licensee seek supervision via video conferencing and view the Ohio Counseling Association's Counselor Supervisor Registry at www.ohiocounseling.org.

b. University of Massachusetts Global

Brian Carnahan provided an overview of the inquiry from the University of Massachusetts Global regarding their creation of curriculum for a dual degree program for Marriage and Family Therapy and Professional Counseling. The CPSC reviewed the coursework review sheet and course syllabi. Concerns were expressed regarding the practicum and internship courses as well as most of the course content which did not appear to focus on counseling but rather more aligned with Marriage and Family Therapy. Brian Carnahan will provide a response to the university.

New Business

a. Triadic Supervision – Definition and Use

The definition and use of triadic supervision was brought to the committee as the definition of triadic supervision varies between disciplines. Triadic supervision has been identified by some as one supervisor and two supervisees while others define it as one supervisor and three supervisees. MFTs have termed didactic supervision as one supervisor and two supervisees. Jerry Strausbaugh commented that his supervision is either individual or group and has not used the term didactic and asked what the importance would be labeling supervision didactic or group. Joe Geig commented that an attempt is being made to decide whether a distinction is necessary. Bill Hegarty added that different terms have always been in the laws and rules and seems a decision as to whether to keep these terms should be made. Joe Geig commented that didactic is interchangeable with individual supervision and triadic, as defined by CACREP is one supervisor and two supervisees. The CPSC determined there should be individual supervision which consists of a supervisor and supervisee and group supervision.

Investigation Report – Bill Hegarty

Bill Hegarty thanked the liaisons for their work on cases and distributed a list of closed cases.

Closed Cases

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

CA2022-8684
CA2023-8799

Custody Issues
Standard of Care

Close with a caution.
Allegation not substantiated.

CA2023-9014	Improper Termination	Close with a caution.
CA2022-7936	Record Keeping	Close with a caution.
CA2022-8523	Record Keeping	Close with a caution.
CA2022-8537	Unlicensed Practice	Close with a caution.
CA2022-8538	Record Keeping	Close with a caution.
CA2022-8239	Record Keeping	Close with a caution.
CA2023-9569	Record Keeping	Close with a caution.
CA2022-8469	Non-Sexual Boundaries	Close with a caution.
CA2023-8835	Standard of Care	Allegation not substantiated.
CA2023-9040	Unlicensed Practice	Close with a caution.

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

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

CA2023-8983	Confidentiality	Allegation not substantiated.
CA2023-8984	Confidentiality	Allegation not substantiated.
CA2022-8683	Non-Sexual Boundaries	Close with a caution.

In Butch Losey's absence, Joe Geig motioned to close the cases reviewed by Butch Losey for the reasons identified. Jerry Strausbaugh seconded. Motion carried.

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

CA2022-8648	Non-Sexual Boundaries	Allegation not substantiated.
CA2023-8945	Sexual Boundaries	No violation found.
CA2023-9055	Impairment	Close with a caution.
CA2023-9031	Sexual Boundaries	Allegation not substantiated.

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

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

CA2022-8663	Custody Issues	Allegation not substantiated
CA2022-8725	Unprofessional Conduct	Close with a strong caution.
CA2022-8729	Standard of Care	Allegation not substantiated.
CA2023-8837	Standard of Care	Close with a caution.
CA2023-8982	Unlicensed Practice	Allegation not substantiated.

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

Bill Hegarty explained the Consent Agreement process to the students from Capital University.

Consent Agreement

Tiffany Drago

Tiffany Drago is a licensed professional clinical counselor. On October 26, 2022, while employed at Family Life Counseling in Mount Gilead, Ohio she blurred her professional boundaries with a client by facilitating a financial transaction between her family member and the client. As a result, Tiffany Drago's license is reprimanded, the supervision designation on her professional clinical counselor license is suspended for two years beginning March 7, 2024, and is required to complete six additional hours of continuing education in ethics with 3 of those hours specifically related to boundaries which does not count toward her license renewal. Joe Geig motioned to accept the Consent Agreement between the Board and Tiffany Drago. Tonya Schaeffer seconded. Motion carried.

Sarah Poppell

Sarah Poppell is a Licensed Professional Counselor. On or about December 2022 – January 2023 while working at a private practice in Milford, Ohio she failed to maintain appropriate boundaries with a client by meeting with the client socially on three occasions and failed to maintain proper documentation of services provided to clients by intermingling counseling and coaching services. As a result, her license will be suspended for two months beginning April 1, 2024, must renew her license during the period of suspension if she intends to re-enter the field and must receive personal counseling from a Board pre-approved practitioner for eighteen months. After the suspension has been lifted, she is not permitted to be in solo private practice while licensed as an LPC with this Board. Joe Geig motioned to accept the Consent Agreement between the Board and Sarah Poppell. Sue Pohler seconded. Motion carried.

Notice of Opportunity for Hearing

Case Number CA2023-9333

This individual is a Licensed Professional Counselor who on or about December 28, 2023, in the Girard Municipal Court of Trumbull County, Ohio, was convicted of aggravated menacing, a first-degree misdemeanor, which took place in the course of his practice as a professional counselor. Mr. Hegarty called for a motion to begin the process of issuing the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. Tonya Schaeffer motioned to issue the Notice of Opportunity in Case Number 2023-9333. Joe Geig seconded. Motion carried. Now being a public record, the licensee in this matter is David Reece.

The CPSC explained to the students from Capital University the process for closing cases and identified some of the issues involving those cases. Bill Hegarty asked if there were any questions and hearing none, concluded his report.

The CPSC acknowledged Bill Hegarty for his service on the Board in light of his upcoming retirement and thanked everyone for their hard work on cases.

Meeting Adjourned

Tonya Schaeffer adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.