



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL & OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF COUNSELING PROFESSIONALS LICENSURE
76 NORTHERN AVENUE
GARDINER, MAINE 04345

Anne L. Head
Commissioner

**Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure
Public Board Meeting
Monday, April 22, 2024**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer King, Board Chair
Angela Blier, Vice Chair (remote)
Holly Cavna, Complaint Officer
Ellen Grunblatt
Joanne Grant (remote)
Carolyn Silsby, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT

Megan Hudson-MacRae, Assistant Attorney General
Kristina Halvorsen, Board Administrator
George Morgan, Board Investigator
Jessica Cirello, Professional Licensing Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Jennifer King, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the March 25, 2024 minutes.

A motion was made by Holly Cavna and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to approve the minutes as written.

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 abstained: Carolyn Silsby.

COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS

Joanne Grant left the meeting 9:17 a.m.–9:22 a.m.

2023-COU-19577

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and issue a letter of guidance, citing Board rules Chapter 8-A (2)1(A) (impairment of professional judgement), and discussing the importance of collaborating with clients' other providers,

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especially when there is a lack of diagnosis clarity, and utilizing secure electronic communication to protect confidentiality, which will stay in the licensee's file for 2 years.

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

2023-COU-19597

A motion was made by Ellen Grunblatt and seconded by Carolyn Silsby to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board law or rule.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 recused: Joanne Grant, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

2023-COU-19699

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Jennifer King to table this complaint and direct Board staff to request all of this client's treatment records.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed: Joanne Grant, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

A motion was made by Angela Blier and seconded by Holly Cavna to take a short break.

Vote: 6 in favor.

Meeting at break: 10:44 a.m.-10:52 a.m.

Angela Blier left the meeting 10:52 a.m.-10:57 a.m.

2024-COU-19811

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, with all of the following: a warning; citation of Board rules Chapter 8-A (2) (protecting best interest of clients) and Title 10 §8003 (5-A) (A)2 (failure to follow a standard of practice); completion of the State of Maine's online mandated reporting training; and 6 months of probation that will include in-person or virtual consultation for 1 hour a month, concurrent with the licensee's active practice of professional counseling, with a clinical social worker or counseling professional supervisor who has been in good standing for the last 5 years, is either a school-based provider or has expertise in adolescent services, who the licensee hasn't consulted with before and who will be Board-approved within 30 days of the fully executed consent agreement. The supervisor will submit reports to the Board after 3 months and 6 months along with a final report and recommendation.

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS

2023-COU-19634 Request to Reconsider

A motion was made by Ellen Grunblatt and seconded by Angela Blier to accept the request to reconsider, to rescind the originally offered consent agreement and to dismiss the complaint and issue a letter of guidance.

Vote: 3 in favor, 2 opposed: Joanne Grant and Carolyn Silsby, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

A motion was made by Ellen Grunblatt and seconded by Angela Blier for the letter of guidance to cite the 3 Board rules cited in the original consent agreement and to stay in the licensee's file for 5 years.

Vote: 3 in favor, 2 opposed: Joanne Grant and Carolyn Silsby, 1 abstained: Holly Cavna.

RULEMAKING DISCUSSION

DOE Accreditation

A motion was made by Holly Cavna and seconded by Jennifer King to approve the proposed rule draft and move these changes forward in the formal rulemaking process.

Vote: 6 in favor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, discussed the legislative session ending.

Kristina discussed this Board's rulemaking process. Kristina will work on the follow-up research items from the last rulemaking session and bring them to the Board's next rulemaking meeting.

Kristina discussed the compact commissioner role that will be needed for the Counseling Compact. Board members should contact Kristina if they are interested in this role and/or if they have any questions. A vote for this delegate role will be added to a future agenda.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven from Beal University discussed that Beal University is creating a Clinical Mental Health Counseling master-level program. He thanked Commissioner Head and the Board for considering the DOE accreditation issue at today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carolyn Silsby and seconded by Ellen Grunblatt to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Vote: 6 in favor.