

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
100 N. Union Street, Suite 880
Montgomery, AL 36104

November 20, 2020

Members Present: Catalina M. Arata, Ph.D. – Chair
Kristi Ann Miller, M.S., Psychological Technician Member – Vice-Chair
Joseph D. Ackerson, Ph.D. – Member
Eliza M. Belle, Ph.D. – Member
Nancy W. Berland, Ph.D. – Member
Mary Ann Bowers, Ph.D. – Member

Others Present: Lori H. Rall, Executive Director – Recorder
Lauren B. Benson, Administrative Assistant
Brice M. Johnston, Legal Counsel

The time is 9:13 a.m. We are having a Zoom meeting for the Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology. There is a lawful quorum present and sufficient prior notice has been given as required by the Open Meetings Act.

BOARD MISSION STATEMENT:

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology seeks to promote and protect the public's health, welfare and quality of life by licensing and regulating the practice of psychology and by promoting access to psychological services delivered in a safe, competent, and ethical manner.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Review of the September 11, 2020 minutes. Motion by Ackerson: I make a motion that we accept the Minutes. Seconded by Berland. Motion passed. Dr. Arata granted Ms. Rall permission to sign the official Minutes in her place.

REVIEW OF NEW APPLICANTS:

Psychologists

- 1) ARMANI, Maryam – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Ackerson and Belle) Motion by Ackerson: I move that we reject the application and deny admission to the exams based on the fact that Dr. Armani fails to meet basic degree requirements (Administrative Code Rule 750-X-2-.04 Doctoral Degree From Department Or School of Psychology), fails to meet letter of recommendation requirements (Administrative Code Rule 750-X-2-.05 References), and fails to meet adequate supervision for her internship / field placement (Administrative Code Rule 750-X-2-.07 Internship Training), and question that it appears that she has signed her own Alliant form (Student Evaluation by Client form, dated 08/10/2016) that was conducted while she was getting her supervised experience. Seconded by Belle. Motion passed.
- 2) ASHOKAR, Justine Latha – Licensed in two (2) jurisdictions (Ackerson and Bowers) Motion by Ackerson: I make the motion that we issue Dr. Ashokar a license and ask for her to clarify her intent to practice in her Clinical Specialization statement. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed. Specialization in Clinical. **License Number 2200**
- 3) CANTER, Margaret Fesmire – PSE Candidate (Bowers and Arata) Motion by Bowers: I move that we admit Dr. Canter to the PSE. Seconded by Arata. Motion passed.
- 4) COOPER, Anna Grace – PSE Candidate (Arata and Miller) Motion by Arata: I move that we accept Dr. Cooper to sit for the PSE. Seconded by Miller. Motion passed.
- 5) DeGROTE, Heather Lynn – PSE Candidate (Miller and Berland) Motion by Miller: I would make a motion that we admit Dr. DeGrote to the PSE. Seconded by Berland. Motion passed.
- 6) FOSS, Joanna Molly – PSE Candidate (Belle and Berland) Motion by Belle: I move that we admit Dr. Foss to the PSE. Seconded by Berland. Motion passed.
- 7) SCHWARTZ, Sarah Elizabeth – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Ackerson and Bowers) Motion by Ackerson: I make a motion that we admit Dr. Schwartz to the EPPP and the PSE. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed.
- 8) SOTILLO, Erica Antoinette – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Belle and Arata) Mr. Johnston recommended that the Board go into Executive Session in order to discuss the potential threat of, or possibility of, litigation of the good name and character of an individual. Motion by Dr. Belle: I move that the Board go into Executive Session in order to discuss the potential threat of, or possibility of, litigation of the good name and character of an individual at 10:10 a.m. to come out at 10:30 a.m. Seconded by Arata. Motion passed. Motion by Arata: I move that we come out of Executive Session. The time is 11:02 a.m. Seconded by Belle. Motion passed. Motion by Arata: I move to admit Dr. Sotillo to the EPPP and the PSE. Should she successfully complete the EPPP and PSE, her psychology license, if and when issued, shall be subject to Terms and Conditions to include a Public Reprimand and a Fine to be paid to the Board within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the license for failure to disclose information about the existence of Criminal History Record Information, amounting to fraud or deception in applying for or procuring a license to

practice as a psychologist, per Alabama Code Section 34-26-46(g), and –46(a)(1) and (16), and the Board’s Administrative Code Rule 750-X-5-.03(3), and -.03(1)(a) and (p). Second, the Board requests that Dr. Sotilleo revise her Specialization Statement to be more specific regarding the age of the populations she intends to serve; and, three, that she revises her application and correct her Internship placement as listed on the application. Seconded by Belle. Motion passed.

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED APPLICANTS:

- 1) CRAIN, Carol Jean – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Belle and Arata) Application reviewed on 09/11/2020; admitted to exams, requested submission of a detailed plan on updating and maintaining training, skills, and competence in her intended area of practice. Review. Motion by Belle: I move that we accept the statement of Ms. Crain for revising her intent to update and maintain her training skills and competency in her intended area of practice. Seconded by Arata. Motion passed.

REVIEW of Exam Scores for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and the Professional Standards Exam (PSE), and the ISSUANCE OF LICENSES:

See Last Page of Final Agenda for More Information – will email prior to Meeting

Motion by Arata: I move that we issue licenses to Drs. Alicea Rodriguez (Specialization in Clinical, **License Number 2201**), Joyner (Specialization in Counseling, **License Number 2202**), Pitcan (Specialization in Counseling, **License Number 2203**), and Suh (Specialization in Counseling, **License Number 2204**). Seconded by Ackerson. Motion passed.

COMPLAINTS:

Against Licensed Psychologists

Old

- 1) 18-016 – Sharon D. Waltz, Psy.D. – Voluntary surrender and suspension of license by Agreement (12/31/2018) pending investigation by the Alabama Medicaid Agency in the Alabama Attorney General’s Office. On 8/14/2019, Dr. Waltz was indicted on One Count of Health Care Fraud Conspiracy in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347 of Section 24(b), Alabama Medicaid. Plea Hearing took place on 10/4/2019. Sentencing Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, 2/26/2020 Stayed due to COVID-19 State of Emergency, rescheduled for 12/10/2020. Administrative Complaint filed 11/10/2020; Consent Order agreement signed by Dr. Waltz. Review. Mr. Johnston recommended that the Board go into Executive Session in order to discuss the potential threat of, or possibility of, litigation of the good name and character of an individual. Motion by Dr. Arata: I move that the Board go into Executive Session in order to discuss the potential threat of,

or possibility of, litigation of the good name and character of an individual at 11:10 a.m. to come out at 11:30 a.m. Seconded by Ackerson. Motion passed. Motion by Arata: I move that we come out of Executive Session. The time is 11:16 a.m. Seconded by Belle. Motion passed. Motion by Ackerson: I make a motion that we accept the Consent Order revoking Dr. Waltz' license. Seconded by Belle. Motion passed.

- 2) 19-004 – On-going investigation
- 3) 19-007 – On-going investigation
- 4) 19-015 – On-going investigation
- 5) 19-019 – On-going investigation
- 6) 19-020 – On-going investigation
- 7) 19-021 – On-going investigation
- 8) 20-001 – On-going investigation
- 9) 20-002 – On-going investigation
- 10) 20-003 – On-going investigation
- 11) 20-004 – On-going investigation
- 12) 20-005 – On-going investigation
- 13) 20-006 – On-going investigation
- 14) 20-007 – On-going investigation
- 15) 20-008 – On-going investigation
- 16) 20-009 – On-going investigation

New

- 1) 21-001 – On-going investigation
- 2) 21-002 – On-going investigation
- 3) 21-003 – On-going investigation
- 4) 21-004 – On-going investigation

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) William E. Finger, Ph.D. – Case No. 19-002 – Emergency Suspension 1/11/2019. Consent Order agreement accepted 5/10/2019 continuing suspension of licensure until completion of terms and conditions. Dr. Finger elected to not renew licensure for Fiscal Year 2021; final licensure status – “Non-Renewal FY2021 / Suspended”.
- 2) Related to Disciplinary Case Nos. 18-016, Sharon D. Waltz, Psy.D. and 19-010, Kimberly A. Whitcard, Ph.D. – US v. Heidi Robertson in the United States District Court Northern District of Alabama, Southern Division, Case Number: 2:20-cr-00153-RDP-GMB. Ms. Robertson previously worked for Dr. Waltz and for Dr. Whitcard and was indicted on One Count of Health Care Fraud Conspiracy in violation of Title 18, United States Code,

Section 1349. Sentencing Hearing 11/17/2020. Mr. Johnston recommended that the Board go into Executive Session in order to discuss the potential threat of, or possibility of, litigation of the good name and character of an individual. Motion by Dr. Arata: I move that we go into Executive Session in order to discuss the potential threat of, or possibility of, litigation of the good name and character of an individual. The time is 11:20 a.m. and we will come out at 11:30 a.m. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed. Motion by Arata: I move that we come out of Executive Session; the time is 11:21 a.m. Seconded by Belle. Motion passed.

- 3) David S. Kantra, Psy.D. – Case No. 19-017 – Completion of Probationary Period. Review Terms and Conditions of Consent Order. Motion by Ackerson: I move that we accept Dr. Kantra’s submissions and lift his Probation. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed.
- 4) Preparing for emergency practice in response to a declared disaster – Language added to website. Update. State of Emergency extended to January 7, 2021 by Governor Ivey.
- 5) Bill to establish the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) and the Alabama Psychology Professionals Wellness Committee – 2021 Legislative Session, Sponsored by Alabama State Senator Andrew Jones. Review.
- 6) Board of Examiners in Marriage & Family Therapy – Notice of Intended Action, Rule No. 536-X-1, Definition of Terms, Amended. Final Date for Comment and Completion of Notice: Friday, 12/4/2020. Review. Motion by Ackerson: I move that we send correspondence to the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy thanking them for their cooperation and response to our concerns about prior drafts of their Bill, and that we are in full support of their Notice as it currently stands. Seconded by Miller. Motion passed.


NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Renewal Season Statistics for Fiscal Year 2021 – 1,036 Active licenses (1,007 Psychologists; 29 Psychological Technicians), 56 Inactive licenses, and 55 Lapsed licenses.
- 2) Board Member Appointments for Fiscal Year 2021. Kristi Ann Miller, M.S., Vice Chair – Term Expired 01/15/2020. Catalina M. Arata, Ph.D., Chair – Term Expired on 01/15/2020. Joseph D. Ackerson, Ph.D. – Term to Expire on 01/15/2021. Update.
- 3) Quarterly Statistics Report – 4th Quarter, Fiscal Year 2019. Review.
- 4) Budget for Fiscal Year 2022. Review.
- 5) Proposed Fee Increase for Fiscal Year 2022. Review. More discussion to come in January 2021.
- 6) Schedule of Board Meetings for Calendar Year 2021. Motion by Arata: I move that we move the January meeting date to January 15, 2021 in order to allow time for us to receive and review applications for licensure. Seconded by Belle. Motion passed.

Motion by Arata: The time is 11:55 a.m. and I move that we adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Berland. Motion passed.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: January 15, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori H. Rall, Recorder
Executive Director

/s/ Catalina Arata, Ph.D.

Catalina M. Arata, Ph.D.
Chair

REVIEW of Exam Scores for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and the Professional Standards Exam (PSE), and the ISSUANCE OF LICENSES:

Psychologists: Pass or fail for each candidate is based upon the ASPPB recommended passing score for psychologists. The EPPP passing score for psychologists is 500. The passing score for the PSE is 80% (34 correct).

Psychological Technicians: The EPPP passing score for psychological technicians is 400. The passing score for the PSE is 80% (34 correct).

<i>Name</i>	<i>Application Level</i>	<i>EPPP Score</i>	<i>Passed?</i>	<i>PSE Score</i>	<i>Passed?</i>	<i>License No. Issued</i>	<i>Area of Specialization</i>
ALICEA RODRIGUEZ, Angel Luis	Psychologist	■	Yes	■	Yes	2201	Clinical
DESROCHERS, Madeleine Tracie	Psychological Technician	■	Yes			N/A	N/A
JOYNER, Jordan Rae	Psychologist	■	Yes	Previously Passed		2202	Counseling
McCABE, Brian Edward	Psychologist			■	Yes	N/A	Counseling
PITCAN, Mikaela Jheanelle	Psychologist	■	Yes	Previously Passed		2203	Counseling
SNEAD, Stacey Chambliss	Psychologist	■	No			N/A	Clinical
SUH, Han Na	Psychologist	■	Yes	Previously Passed		2204	Counseling