

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of

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

September 11, 2020

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

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

The time is 9:04 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 July 10, 2020 minutes. Motion by Ackerson: I move that we accept the Minutes as they are. Seconded by Cook. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1) New Board Member Appointment – Nancy W. Berland, Ph.D. – Welcome & Introductions

REVIEW OF NEW APPLICANTS:

Psychologists

- 1) CAWTHRA, Julia Nicole – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Ackerson and Arata) Motion by Ackerson: I recommend that we admit Dr. Cawthra to the EPPP and PSE. Seconded by Arata. Motion passed.
- 2) WELCH, Emma Kathryn – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Miller and Ackerson) Motion by Miller: I make a motion that we admit Dr. Welch to the EPPP and the PSE. Seconded by Ackerson. Motion passed.

Psychological Technicians

- 1) MARTIN, Tiffany Shamicka – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Miller and Ackerson) Motion by Miller: I move that we table this application and ask Dr. Martin, since it is not evident on her application, to clarify how she has complied with each requirement of Alabama Administrative Code Rule 750-X-2A-.04 and .05, as follows: First, included in the course credit, a minimum of nine (9) of the graduate semester hours must be in the basic substantive areas of psychology and at least three (3) substantive areas must be represented. The basic substantive areas of psychology include, but may not be restricted to, ethics, experimental, developmental, individual differences, psychological tests and measurements, social, cultural/ethnic, sex roles, statistics, history and systems, research and experimental design, personality theory, learning, physiological, abnormal, comparative, motivation, emotion, sensation and perception, learning, thinking and organizational. Second, the degree program of the applicant shall meet all of the following requirements: (g) The program shall encompass the equivalent of a minimum of two (2) academic years, at least one of which shall be one (1) academic year of full-time graduate study in student residence at the institution from which the degree is granted. Residence requires interaction with psychology faculty and other matriculated psychology students. A one-year residency shall consist of thirty (30) semester hours or 45 quarter hours taken on a full-time or part-time basis at the institution. Finally, related to Rule 750-X-2A-.05 References, in evaluating additional qualifications, the Board shall take into consideration the applicant's training, supervision, ethical conduct and professional competence. Four positive references are required. One (1) must be from the applicant's graduate program and one (1) must be from a licensed psychologist or psychological technician. After September 1, 2000 one (1) must be from the applicant's practicum supervisor. When it is impossible to obtain a required reference, the Board may consider an alternative reference on a case-by-case basis. Seconded by Ackerson. Motion passed.

Psychologists, cont.

- 3) HUNT, Melissa Kathryn – Candidate for Licensure – Licensed in two (2) jurisdictions (Arata and Belle) Motion by Arata: I move that we grant Dr. Hunt a license. Seconded by Belle. Motion passed. Specialization in Clinical. **License Number 2194**
- 4) JONES, Liza Tarneshia – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Belle and Bowers) Motion by Belle:

I move that we admit Dr. Liza Jones to the PSE and EPPP. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed.

- 5) KOCH, Agnes Elizabeth – PSE Candidate (Bowers and Cook) Motion by Bowers: I move that we admit Dr. Koch to the PSE. Seconded by Cook. Motion passed.
- 6) McCABE, Brian Edward – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Cook and Miller) Motion by Cook: I would move that we admit Dr. McCabe to take the EPPP and PSE. Seconded by Miller. Motion passed.

Psychological Technicians, cont.

- 2) CRAIN, Carol Jean – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Belle and Arata) Motion by Belle: I move to accept Ms. Crain to the EPPP and PSE and ask that she submit a statement of a detailed plan of how she will update and maintain her training, skills and competence related to her intended area of practice. Seconded by Arata. Motion passed.

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED APPLICANTS:

- 1) CANCELLA, Charles Edward – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Belle and Bowers) Application reviewed on 07/10/2020; admitted to exams but requested to revise specialization statement to remove neuropsychological assessments from his area of intended practice. Review. Motion by Belle: I move that we accept Dr. Cancilla's revisions. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed.
- 2) GAVRON, Lauren Ashley – PSE Candidate (Arata and Ackerson) Application reviewed on 07/10/2020; admitted to exam but requested to remove Neuropsychology from her specialization designation. Review. Motion by Ackerson: I vote that we accept this statement that removes her specialization as Neuropsychology. Seconded by Arata. Motion passed.
- 3) PITCAN, Mikaela Jheanelle – EPPP and PSE Candidate (Belle and Bowers) Application reviewed on 07/10/2020; admitted to exams but requested to revise specialization statement to provide more detail on area of intent of practice, to include specific populations and types of techniques and assessments to be used, and remove Clinical from her area of specialization. Review. Motion by Belle: I move that we accept the revision for Dr. Pitcan. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed.
- 4) POUPARINA, Guadalupe – PSE and EPPP Candidate (Miller and Bowers) Application tabled on 3/13/2020 and again on 5/22/2020. At the March meeting, the Board requested information related to her position at AltaPointe. At the May meeting, the Board reviewed responses and her application was tabled again to request more details on her work at AltaPointe and additional information from the Social Work Board. At the July meeting, the Board reviewed responses and voted to issue the following Consent Order: when issued, her license shall be subject to a probationary period of nine (9) months for violations of Ala. Code § 34-26-46(a)(21) and Rule 750-X-5-.03(1)(t), with continuing education requirements. Cease and desist letters were issued to applicant and to AltaPointe. Review

responses. Motion by Miller: I make a motion that we notify Dr. Pouparina that we have received and reviewed her response, dated August 10, 2020, and AltaPointe's response, dated July 29, 2020, and that we notify her that, since she has not yet passed the EPPP or PSE, she has no license against which the Board may maintain any disciplinary action at this time. Should she pass both of the examinations, the Board will meet to determine what, if any, action may be taken with respect to her license upon issuance. I would also like to caution Dr. Pouparina to comply with the cease and desist letter we issued her on July 10, 2020. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed.

Dr. Ackerson left the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

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 matrix on last page of agenda.

Motion by Arata: I move that we grant licenses to these individuals who passed their examinations. Seconded by Miller. Motion passed.

COMPLAINTS:

Against Licensed Psychologists

Old

- 1) 18-016 – Sharon D. Waltz, Psy.D. – Voluntary surrender and suspension of license by Agreement on 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 2/26/2020. Hearing Stayed due to COVID-19 State of Emergency.
- 2) 19-004 – On-going investigation
- 3) 19-005 – Maria del Carmen Aviles, Psy.D. – Probable Cause determination. Administrative Complaint filed 2/3/2020. Original Hearing Date: 4/22/2020 at 10:00 a.m. One (1) Board Member must attend. Hearing Stayed due to COVID-19 State of Emergency. Hearing was rescheduled for 9/3/2020. Review Consent Order. Mr. Johnston suggested 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 Arata: The time is 10:17 a.m. and I make a motion 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. We will return by 10:30 a.m. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed. Motion by Arata: I make a motion that we move out of Executive Session. The time is 10:22 a.m. Seconded by Cook. Motion passed. Motion by Belle: I move that we

accept the Consent Order for Dr. Aviles. Seconded by Cook. Motion passed.

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

New

- 1) 20-008 – On-going investigation
- 2) 20-009 – On-going investigation

Dr. Ackerson returned to the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Joseph Mason Currier, Ph.D. – Case No. 19-012 – Completion of Probationary Period. Review Terms and Conditions of Consent Order. Motion by Cook: I move that we revoke the probationary period and that we restore his license to active status. Seconded by Bowers. Motion passed.
- 2) James Ruffus Stefurak, Ph.D. – Case No. 19-016 – Completion of Probationary Period. Review Terms and Conditions of Consent Order. Motion by Bowers: I would move that we revoke the probationary period and restore him to active status. Seconded by Cook. Motion passed.
- 3) Kimberly A. Whitchar, Ph.D. – Case No. 19-010 – Completion of Probationary Period. Review Terms and Conditions of Consent Order. Motion by Cook: I move that we revoke the probationary period for Dr. Whitchar and return her to full active status as a licensed psychologist. Seconded by Berland. Ackerson abstained. Motion passed.
- 4) Preparing for emergency practice in response to a declared disaster – Language added to our website. Update. State of Emergency extended to September 9, 2020 by Governor Ivey’s Thirteenth Proclamation issued on July 2, 2020 shall expire on September 9, 2020.

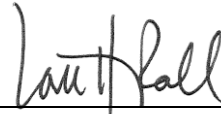
Update. Motion by Cook: I move that we extend our emergency procedures to coincide with the declaration of emergency by the Governor and for as long as a State of Emergency continues to be declared in the State of Alabama. Seconded by Ackerson. Motion passed.

- 5) Psychological Technician Licensure & Medicaid Reimbursement – Update. Motion by Ackerson: I want to make a formal motion that our Administrative Staff make another draft the letter consistent with the discussion and present it back to the Board for e-mailed approval so that it can be submitted to Medicaid in a timely manner. Motion by Cook. Berland abstained. Motion passed.

Motion by Arata: The time is 11:13 and I move to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Miller. Motion passed.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: November 13, 2020

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>
BRESSETTE, Keri Anne	Psychologist			████	Yes	2195	Clinical and School
CANCILLA, Charles Edward	Psychologist	████	Yes			N/A	Clinical and School
COLN, Kristen Lee	Psychologist			████	Yes	2196	Clinical
GAVRON, Lauren Ashley	Psychologist			████	Yes	2197	Clinical
HANSEN, Laura Katherine	Psychologist			████	Yes	2198	Clinical
JOYNER, Jordan Rae	Psychologist			████	Yes	N/A	Counseling
KING EVANS, Katryna Renee	Psychologist	████	No	████	Yes	N/A	Clinical
KONDILIS, Linda Maria	Psychologist			████	Yes	2199	Clinical
PITCAN, Mikaela Jheanelle	Psychologist			████	Yes	N/A	Counseling
SUH, Han Na	Psychologist			████	Yes	N/A	Counseling