

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

Draft Minutes

- I. Call to Order.** Laura Shaughnessy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and called roll.

Advisory Committee Members: Advisory Committee members who participated by Zoom were Laura Shaughnessy, Jim Kilmartin, Melissa Briggs, Harriet Bachner, Michael Countryman, Bob Kircher, Vanessa Perez, and Edil Torres-Rivera. Acha Goris and Andrew Secor were absent.

BSRB Staff: David Fye and Leslie Allen were present by Zoom.

Guests: None.

- II. Agenda Approval.** Jim Kilmartin moved to approve the agenda. Vanessa Perez seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Committee Meeting on October 2, 2023.** Bob Kircher moved to approve the minutes from October 2, 2023. Michael Countryman seconded. The motion passed.
- IV. Executive Director's Report.** David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, reported on agency updates, updates from recent Board meetings, and legislative updates.
- V. Updates on Professional Counseling Multi-State Compact.** The Chair of the Advisory Committee, who also serves as the Commissioner for Kansas, informed the Advisory Committee that there were not many updates since the last meeting.
- VI. Old Business**
- A. Continued Discussion on Supervision by Licensees from Other Professions.** The Advisory Committee discussed whether it was best to continue to allow individuals from other professions to provide supervision professional counselors under extenuating circumstances. Currently, statutes require supervision to be provided by professional counselors as long as they are board-approved supervisors, but current regulations also allow certain individuals from other professions to become board-approved supervisors and provide supervision to professional counselor with board approval if extenuating circumstances can be shown necessitating those individuals serving as supervisors. Vanessa Perez moved to keep the regulation how it is currently written. Harriet Bachner seconded. The motion passed.

- B. Continued Discussion on Proposed Changes to Unprofessional Conduct Regulations from Other Professions.** The Advisory Committee continued discussion on proposed changes to the unprofessional conduct regulations for the other professions, based on discussion by the other Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee did not have any additions.
- C. Continued Discussion on Examination for Clinical License.** The Advisory Committee continued discussion on the examination for clinical license. The Executive Director will reach out to someone from the exam company to come and speak to the Advisory Committee regarding the clinical exam. The Advisory Committee discussed possible questions for the Executive Director to forward to the examination company to be addressed at another meeting.

VII. New Business

- A. Discussion on Possible Change to K.A.R. 102-3-3a(b)(1)(A) and Other Possible Changes to K.A.R. 102-3-3a(f) and (g).** The Executive Director noted that most professions for the BSRB recognize a national accrediting body so that individuals who obtain their education from a program accredited by that entity will be able to satisfy most of the educational requirements for licensure and will be able to move through the licensing process quickly. The statutes and regulations for most professions are written to allow applicants who received their education from programs not accredited by the national accrediting body to be able to satisfy the education requirements through educational equivalency, by meeting alternative requirements in the regulations. However, the wording of the relevant regulation for professional counseling provides a third pathway, as it calls for individuals to have obtained their education from a program “not lower than (the standards of the national accrediting entity).” However, evaluating applicants under this unique third pathway puts an undue burden on the BSRB to be knowledgeable about all of the current requirements of the national accrediting body and apply those standards in a way that body would interpret their standards. This process necessitates the BSRB hiring an expert to complete this type of review and this process can be lengthy, which runs contrary to the legislative direction to process license applications as quickly as possible. The Executive Director asked the Advisory Committee to consider recommending the Board change this regulation to match the other professions, eliminating the third pathway. However, the Executive Director noted that it has been some time since the individually listed requirements for applicants from non-accredited programs have been reviewed to ensure they are similar to what the national accrediting body current recommends, so the Executive Director encouraged further review and possible changes to K.A.R. 102-3-3a(b)(1)(A) along with changes to K.A.R. 102-3-3a(f) and (g). The Advisory Committee will discuss at a future meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting. Monday, February 5, 2024, at 10 a.m.

- IX. Adjournment.** Jim Kilmartin moved to adjourn. Harriet Bachner seconded. The motion passed.