

**Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB)
Marriage and Family Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, October 8, 2021**

Minutes

Call to Order. Mary Jones, Chair of the Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members: Advisory Committee members present by Zoom were Mary Jones, Jim Godbey, Joyce Baptist, John Fleeker, and Rebecca Culver-Turner.

Staff: BSRB staff present by Zoom were David Fye, Leslie Allen, and Ashley VanBuskirk.

Approval of Minutes: John Fleeker moved to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2021, Advisory Committee meeting as written. Joyce Baptist seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Director's Report. David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, reported on the following items:

- 1. Board Chair and Vice-Chair.** The Board elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair at the July Board meeting. Leslie Sewester is the new Chair of the Board and David Anderson is the new Vice-Chair of the Board.
- 2. Mary Ann Gabel.** Former BSRB Executive Director, Mary Ann Gabel, passed away September 1, 2021. Flowers were sent to the visitation on behalf of the Board and the agency.
- 3. Budget.** On September 15, 2021, all state agencies submitted revised budget estimates for FY 2022 and FY 2023. The Executive Director submitted the agency's revised budget estimate for the same amounts approved by the 2021 Legislature, with internal adjustments to account for certain savings and other increased costs.
- 4. BSRB Website.** The BSRB is presently doing most license renewals online. The Executive Director noted he hopes to provide a method for initial licenses applications to be submitted online. Additionally, the agency plans to move to an electronic records system over the next three years. Recently, due to a network rollover, some postings were removed from the website, but BSRB staff is actively restoring that information to the website. The agency hopes to have all content re-uploaded shortly with no issues.
- 5. State Employees Remote Work.** Governor Laura Kelly directed all state employees to primarily work from home through October 4, 2021. The BSRB is currently working on a hybrid method, limiting the number of staff members in the office at a time, while keeping the physical office open for business.
- 6. BSRB Open Administrative Assistant Position.** The BSRB currently has an open administrative assistant position and is conducting interviews to fill this position.
- 7. Board Planning Meeting.** The Board's annual planning meeting was originally scheduled to be held in-person on September 27, 2021. However, due to concerns related to the COVID-19 variants, state agencies are prohibited from holding in-person meetings, so the first day of the planning meetings was held over Zoom. The second meeting will be held over Zoom on October 25, 2021.

Old Business

1. Records of Deceased Practitioners. The Board met and discussed the option of adding new statutory language or introducing new regulatory languages on this topic. After discussion, the Advisory Committee's consensus was not to recommend a change in statute or regulation, but noted general support that clarifying a custodian of records would be a best practice.

2. Required Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion CEU's for Licensees. The Board met and discussed whether continuing education hours should be required in the areas of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Several different options on how to implement this requirement were discussed and the Board asked Advisory Committees to continue discussing this topic and to provide specific recommendations if Advisory Committees were in favor of adding this as a requirement. It was noted that the Board discussed the possibility of allowing overlapping hours for DEI within existing requirements for hours in Ethics or Diagnosis and Treatment. The Advisory Committee noted general support for continuing education hours in DEI, so long as the definition of DEI was sufficiently broad and if continuing education hours could count in multiple categories, so that hours that address both ethics and DEI (or hours that address both diagnosis and treatment and DEI) could be used to satisfy both requirements as part of the licensure renewal process.

New Business

1. "In Residence" Educational Requirements. Leslie Allen, Assistant Director and Licensing Manager for the BSRB, noted that the Marriage and Family Therapy statutes currently require half of the educational hours an applicant must complete to be "in residence" at an academic institution. "In residence" was defined as face-to-face, breathing the same air, at the same location, in front of core faculty. This requirement applies to institutions that were accredited by the national accrediting body and those that are not accredited. The Advisory Committee discussed whether to change the definition of "in-residence" so that institutions accredited by the national accrediting body would no longer be required to have half of their hours "in residence," while non-accredited institutions would continue to have the requirement for half of their hours to be "in residence." There was general support for making this change, but the members of the Advisory Committee agreed to continue this discussion at their next meeting.

2. Supervision of Supervision Language and Continuing Education Language. The Chair of the Advisory Committee noted that the current Board-approved supervisor regulation requires 15 hours of training (noted as continuing education), however within the language for the continuing education regulation, supervision of supervision is not included under the list of approved continuing education activities. The continuing education regulation allows some supervision, but not explicitly supervision of supervision. The new language would say 15 hours, inclusive of 8 hours of hand-on practice in supervision of supervision and the 7 remaining hours would be in eight categories, including ethics, best practices, post-modern, etc. It was noted that the current application notes to list supervision of supervision, though the current language of the statutes and regulations does not require supervision of supervision. The Assistant Director noted that the language in the application needs to be adjusted, which will correct this issue. Advisory Committee members requested to see the current language on the application, and in regulation, in comparison to how the language would appear with adjustments. The Chair noted the current language indicates "hands on supervision" totaling 8 hours. The application asks for a letter with the name of the supervisor as well as confirmation that the supervision was provided. The consensus of the Advisory Committee was to make the necessary change concerning the continuing education language. The Advisory Committee will continue the discussion on the supervision topic at the next meeting and the Assistant Director noted she would pull the relevant statutes and regulations for review at that time.

3. Syncing Expiration Dates for Multiple Licenses. The Chair noted the BSRB had received requests from individuals who hold multiple licenses under the BSRB, who wish to sync the expiration dates of their licenses, so all licenses would be due at the same time. The Board requested the Advisory Committees to

discuss whether the BSRB should pursue a change to allow syncing of expiration dates for licenses. Multiple Advisory Committee members stated that it may be helpful to keep the expiration dates separate, due to the flexibility of spreading out the fees for both licenses and the desire to keep separate the different requirements for each license, such as continuing education hours. The Executive Director noted that the statutes currently define a licensure period as two years from the date the license is issued for most professions, so any change to allow adjustments to the expiration dates would need to be a change in statute, which would require language to be passed by the Legislature in a bill. The Advisory Committee did not have an official recommendation on this topic, but it was noted that if the majority of the Board was in favor of making this change, the Advisory Committee would prefer that syncing of expiration dates would be an option, rather than for the syncing to be a requirement.

Other Business. None.

Next Meeting. The next Marriage and Family Advisory Committee meeting will be Friday, December 10, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn. Joyce Baptist moved to adjourn the meeting. John Fleeker seconded. The motion carried.