

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD  
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
AUGUST 7, 2023**

Approved 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, Harriet Bachner, Melissa Briggs, Michael Countryman, Michelle Fairbank, Acha Goris, Bob Kircher, Vanessa Perez, and Andrew Secor. Edil Torres-Rivera was 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 June 5, 2023.** Michael Countryman moved to approve the minutes from June 5, 2023. Jim Kilmartin 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 National Meetings**
- A. Professional Counseling Compact Meeting.** Advisory Committee Chair Laura Shaughnessy, who serves as Compact Commissioner for the state of Kansas for the Professional Counseling Multi-State Compact, attended the Compact Commission meeting in Nashville, TN, on July 26, 2023. The Chair noted that a lot of good information was presented and the Commission is currently working on rules for the Compact. The Commission is working on a licensing database and the current goal is for the Compact to be functional for the purpose of issuing privileges to practice in other Compact states by the end of the calendar year or the beginning of the next year. Advisory Committee members discussed the differences between the Counseling Compact compared to other compacts, such as PSYPACT, which is the multi-state compact for licensed psychologists. PSYPACT primarily enables licensed psychologists the ability to apply for the ability to practice telehealth in other compact states, so it does not entitle as full a right to practice as a license. Comparatively, the Counseling Compact would allow for both telehealth and in-state practice through the privileges. Also, while all licensed psychologists can apply to practice under PSYPACT, the Counseling

Compact is only for licensees at the clinical level, so it may inspire more lower-level licensees to pursue clinical licensure.

- B. Information from National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) Annual Meeting.** The Chair and the Executive Director attending the NBCC annual meeting and provided information to the members of the Advisory Committee. The Chair complimented the Executive Director on his presentation to attendees at the meeting. The topic of the presentation was public protection as involved in educational equivalency reviews for licensure. Some of the presentations at the conference focused on jurisdictional updates and changes made in other states. One presentation focused on recent struggles in Tennessee, including changes in agency leadership and board legal counsel. It was noted that they had a backlog of 600 cases and were experiencing an average license processing time of 9 months. They have noted successful changes and have dropped the average length of time to 6 months. They noted other struggles, such as balancing licensing processing with customer service updates to applications. Another topic was using CE Broker as a tool to assist with tracking and verifying completion of continuing education hours. Other topics included exploring the possibility of using impaired provider programs and considering writing and requiring jurisprudence examinations. Representatives discussed universal licensure broadly. Also, there was a presentation on the use of psychedelics in therapy, including oral ketamine.

- VI. Training for Board Members.** The Executive Director provided an annual training for Advisory Committee members, including information on the BSRB, Board members roles and responsibilities, Advisory Committee structure and responsibilities, attendance by public attendees of meetings, and general information, such as the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act, the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and the Kansas Open Records Act.
- VII. Other Business.** Due to time constraints, other items were deferred to the next Advisory Committee meeting.
- VIII. Next Meeting.** Monday, October 2, 2023, at 10 a.m.
- IX. Adjournment.** Jim Kilmartin moved to adjourn. Bob Kircher seconded. The motion passed.