

**Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
Licensed Addiction Counselor Advisory Committee
Meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2022**

Approved Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Deb Stidham at 11:00 a.m.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance: Advisory Committee members who participated by Zoom were Deb Stidham, Christina Boyd, Jason Hess, Chad Jacobs, Mike James, Charity Kossin, Dulcinea Rakestraw, and Sohna Shook.

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

- II. Review and Approval for the Agenda:** Jason Hess moved to approve the agenda. Dulcinea Rakestraw seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- III. Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting on December 17, 2021:** Dulcinea Rakestraw moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2021, meeting as written. Charity Kossin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- IV. Executive Director Report:** David Fye, Executive Director for the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory (BSRB), reported on the following items:

A. BSRB Staff Update. As of January 4, 2022, BSRB licensing staff are back in the office full-time. Investigators are using a hybrid model, working in the office three days each week and utilizing the BSRB Telework Pilot to work remotely two days each week. The Governor's previous mask mandate for state employees in state office buildings has been made optional, however the other pandemic directions still apply, including the direction to avoid in-person meetings, so Advisory Committee meetings will continue to be held remotely until we receive a change in direction. The BSRB has been working on a plan for the conversion of paper record to electronic records. The Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Taskforce recently started accepting grant proposals for modernization funding, so the Executive Director submitted a request for additional funding to convert agency paper records to electronic records. The Executive Director will report updates back to the Advisory Committee.

B. 2022 Legislative Session. Legislation was requested on behalf of BSRB in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee. SB 387 included three recommendations of the Board of the BSRB. Information about SB 387 is posted to the front page of the BSRB website. The Executive Director provided a summary of the three Board recommendations in the bill. SB 387 was heard by the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, which removed the section of the bill that would have required continuing education for Licensed Psychologists in the area of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). After amending the bill, the Senate Committee voted the bill

favorable for passage as amended. Amended SB 387 was not passed by the Senate chamber prior to the Legislative Turnaround deadline, so the bill died on the Senate calendar. However, the Executive Director was able to have the contents of Amended SB 387 introduced in House Appropriations Committee as a new House Bill, HB 2734. HB 2734 was referred to the House Health and Human Services Committee and expedited for hearing on March 17, 2022. After hearing HB 2734, the Committee worked the bill the same day and passed HB 2734 out of Committee favorably with no changes. The Executive Director noted he will be working to ensure HB 2734 is passed on the House floor. The Executive Director provided updates on other bills with a connection to the BSRB. The Executive Director provided updates on other bills relevant to the BSRB.

C. FARB Conference. The Executive Director was invited to speak at the Federal Association of Regulatory Boards (FARB) annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas, on the topic of Public Protection Through Creative Access to Information. On Friday, February 4, 2022, the Executive Director attended Day 1 of the annual meeting of the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB). One of the topics discussed at the conference was telehealth standards. Day 2 of the annual meeting was on Friday, February 18, 2022.

D. Board Meeting on March 14, 2022. At a future meeting, the Board plans to discuss the possibility of utilizing an impaired provider program for practitioners and establishing tele-health standards.

V. New Business

A. Changes to Continuing Education Requirements in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Advisory Committee members discussed support for continuing education in the area of DEI. It was noted that the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee removed the Board-recommended requirement of continuing education in DEI for the Licensed Psychology profession from Senate Bill 387 and it has appeared that the Legislature has recently been seeking to remove requirements for licensure, rather than to add additional requirements. Advisory Committee members discussed availability of continuing education on this topic, the impact of one profession supporting a requirement compared to the impact if all professions supported a change to requirements, the value of ensuring that practitioners are able to take continuing education classes in different categories versus a system where many different categories of trainings were required, and the definition of DEI. Advisory Committee members did not make any recommendations, but expressed support for continuing to discuss this topic at future meetings.

B. Board-Approved Continuing Education Providers. The regulations for the Social Work profession allow the BSRB to pre-approve continuing education providers and pre-approve continuing education courses, upon application by individuals interested in that designation. Leslie Allen, Assistant Director and Licensing Manager for the BSRB, provided background on the number of pre-approved providers and the

criteria for what material is pre-approved. Advisory Committee members discussed whether pre-approval would mistakenly lead some individuals to believe that only providers and programs would need to be pre-approved for those hours to count. The Advisory Committee did not make a recommendation for any changes for the Addiction Counselor profession. The Chair noted that she would report back whether other Advisory Committees supported changes in this area.

- C. Training for Board/Advisory Committee Members.** The Executive Director provided training to Board members and Advisory Committee members serving on the Advisory Committee, including an overview of the Expectations of Board Members Policy, the Advisory Committee Policy, Guidelines for Public Attendees of Meetings, and a summary of Board Member and Advisory Committee Orientation prepared by Assistant Attorney General Janet Arndt.
- D. Unprofessional Conduct Regulations.** The Executive Director noted Advisory Committee members received a copy of the unprofessional conduct regulations for the profession and asked members to review the regulations to be able to discuss whether any changes are needed at the next Advisory Committee meeting. The Executive Director noted the importance of Advisory Committees reviewing the statutes and regulations for the professions to make sure those documents do not contain outdated terminology and take into consideration changes in technology, such as social media and telehealth.
- E. Committee Work for the Upcoming Year.** The members of the Advisory Committee did not highlight any specific topics beyond what is already being worked on by the Advisory Committee.

VI. Next Meeting. June 24, 2022, at 10 a.m.

VII. Adjournment. Jason Hess moved to Adjourn. Christina Boyd seconded. The motion carried.