

MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ALCOHOL, DRUG AND GAMBLING COUNSELORS

MEETING DATE: February 15, 2013– Via teleconference

MEETING TIME: 9:00 AM

MEETING LOCATION: **Attorney's General Office (Mock Courtroom)**
100 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Grant Sawyer Building
Room 4500
555 E. Washington Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Members present: Larry Ashley, Dianne Springborn, Steven Burt, Darlene Dufault, Jacquelyn Wotherspoon, Barbara Hunt, and MaryAnn Potter
Staff present: Agata Gawronski, Executive Director, Connie Corley, Executive Assistant, and Keith Marcher Dep. Attorney General; Saul Singer, Investigator.
Members of the public present: Denise Quirk, Michelle Happe, Colin Hodgen , Mendy Canales, Miranda Fisher

Item 1: Welcome, Call to Order

Dianne Springborn called the meeting to order at 9:15AM

Item 2: Public comments

Dianne asked for public comments and there were no public comments.

Item3: Approval of the Minutes

Steve Burt requested the correction to the last meeting's minutes and for his name to be removed, since he did not attend it; minutes were approved with the correction; motion carried.

Item 4: Renee Khan-LCADC, requesting to supervise additional intern (for possible action)

Miss Khan was not present at the meeting; Diane Springborn requested for this agenda item to be tabled.

Item 5: Michelle Happe-expired LADC license, requesting waiver of examination (for possible action)

Michelle Happe was present at the Board meeting in Carson City and was asked to present her case by Dianne Springborn; Mrs. Happe stated that she had failed to inform the Board about the address change; did not receive her renewal notice on time and her license expired; Ms. Happy was requesting the waver of examination;

Larry Ashley pointed out the fact that Michelle Happe still has current Supervisor certificate and asked if she was able to supervise and if she had any interns; Agata Gawronski explained that, if the regular license expires the supervisor's certificate expires as well. Michelle Happe stated that she had always relied on the renewal notices, but did not receive one this time, because she failed to inform the Board about the change of the address. Darlene Dufault asked Michelle whom is supervising her interns at this moment, and Michelle Happe stated that they have secondary supervisor. Darlene Dufault made motion to deny the request; Larry Ashley second it, all in favor, motion carried.

Mrs. Happy was informed about the option of being provisionally licensed, and what the steps were to regain her licensure.

Mrs. Happe expressed her willingness to re-apply and take MAC test in order to re-instate her license.

Item 6: Denise Quirk-expired CPGC license, requesting waiver of examination (for possible action)

Denise Quirk was present at the Carson City location and was invited to present her case. Dianne Springborn requested herself due to conflict of interest and financial involvement related to the book, they collaborated on; it was turned over to Darlene Dufault.

Mrs. Quirk stated that she had never received second notice about her expired license, , and she had realized in December of 2012 that her Certified Problem Gambling Counselor license expired in April of 2012 and was asking for a waiver, since in her opinion she was not properly notified by the Board. Darlene Dufault asked about the supervisees, and Denise informed the Board that her interns were re-assigned to the secondary supervisor Colin Hodgins. Jaqueline Wotherspoon made motion to deny the request , Larry Ashley second it, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Denise Quirk was informed that she was eligible for Provisional license and to contact the Board staff about the application and testing process.

Colin Hodgins asked to be allowed to make public comment; and spoke about Denise Quirk and her career and high achievements in the community.

Steve Burt suggested to the Board staff to send out second and final notices to the counselors by certified mail, which would help with tracking process as well as prevent this type of situations to occur in the future.

Agata Gawronski agreed to do it from this point forward.

Item 7: Miranda Fisher, CADC-I – BA in Journalism with Minor in Sociology/and addiction/ 4000 hours of supervision completed, asking for approval to take NCAC (level II) test (for possible action)

Miranda Fisher was present at the Las Vegas location, and presented her case, stating that she was originally granted by the previous Executive Director, Wendy Lay that after completing her minor in addiction studies, she will be eligible for testing and certification, despite the fact that her degree was not on the approved list. Steve Burt made motion to approve the request, Dianne Springborn second it, all in favor, motion

carried. Larry Ashley brought out the topic of Minor in Addiction and what the definition of it was. It has been clarified that the minimum was 18 hours, for the purpose of reducing internship hours from 4000 to 1500, but for the degrees not on the approved list of social studies, the required amount of hours by the statutes is 24 units.

Item 8: Emily Garnett –settlement (for possible action)

The settlement agreement was presented in Emily Garnett’s case; she is Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor and was accused / investigated on and admitted to living with former client and using the client as fitness trainer.

Keith Marcher drafted the settlement agreement which was to complete ethics class, and was accepted by the accused and her lawyer, and asked the Board to accept or reject it; Jackie Wotherspoon stated that she was not comfortable to vote on it without hearing the case; Keith explained the process to the members; stating that the Board should not hear too many details about the case to be able to be make fair decision. Jackie Wotherspoon made motion to reject the agreement, Steve Burt second it; all voted in favor and motion carried.

Keith Marcher asked for directions /suggestions from the Board members.

Barbara Hunt proposed oversight, Steve Burt suggested probation; Dianne asked for the restitution of the investigative cost and also one year of probation at the minimum; Larry Ashley proposed the one- on- one meeting with the Board on the quarterly basis.

MaryAnn Potter suggested treatment/ counseling for Ms. Garnett. Keith Marcher stated that he will draft new settlement agreement and pass it over to Agata Gawronski for approval.

Item 9: LCADC licensure- the requirements, scope of practice, the interpretation of NRS 641C.330 and 641C.331 (Larry Ashley)

Larry Ashley presented short history of the LCADC licensure, stating that the purpose of it was for mental health professionals to treat dual diagnosis clients; however recently he has been asked by number of people in the field about the scope of practice, stating that SAPTA is telling people that LCADC cannot treat mental health clients. Larry Ashley read the scope of practice from the NRS and the criteria; pointing out major difference between LADC and LCADC. Dianne Springborn stated that SAPTA approved the co-occurring grant for her agency, which included LCADCs as treatment providers for dually diagnosed clients. Steve Burt proposed to invite SAPTA to the Board meeting to clarify the ongoing issue of the LCADC scope of practice. Agata Gawronski asked for the clarification of what “comprehensive evaluation” was. Steve Burt stated that per SAPTA it is mental health screening, Dianne Springborn confirmed. Steve Burt stated that Deborah McBride should be invited to the meeting and clarifies and cleans up the language; also Steve agreed with Keith’s suggestion to draft the new regulation and re-establish the subcommittee.

Item 10: Tobacco Help Line, scope of practice, who can do it? Larry Ashley

Larry Ashley expressed his concern about the Smoking Cessation programs being currently offered by various organizations and provided by unlicensed individuals; Diane Springborn presented quick history on the smoking cessation program stating that it used to be requirement for the help line employees to become substance abuse interns.

Dianne stated that we would not be able to stop American Lung Association from doing Smoking Cessation Programs; Jackie Wotherspoon asked if they were in fact providing treatment or education only; Keith Marcher asked for the definition of treatment was and how it was relating to what the ALA was doing.

Mandy Canales (Project Director for Nevada Tobacco Helpline) was present in Las Vegas and expressed her concerns about who is providing tobacco prevention/ treatment/education programs, which are being paid for by the insurance companies. Ms. Canales stated that with the Affordable Care Act reform and new Medicaid requirements, state of Nevada will be flooded with the out of state vendors providing tobacco cessation programs without the proper education; Ms. Canales mentioned Chronic Disease bureau and Tobacco treatment in the State of Nevada, Steve Burt asked if both of those agencies were under the State Health Division, and Ms. Canales confirmed. Diane Springborn asked if the Board should invite the ALA to the meeting, and the members agreed. Keith Marcher suggested that American Lung Association should be approached about their program. Dianne Springborn made motion to invite representative from the Health Division to the next meeting, Jackie Wotherspoon second it, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Item 11: Executive Director Report (year to date budget and audit report)
Agata Gawronski/Steve Burt**

Agata Gawronski stated that the budget was well maintained half way thru the fiscal year. Steve Burt commented on the recent financial audit and suggested minor corrections; summarizing that the audit was overall “super positive”; Agata Gawronski stated that miscellaneous income came from the Treasurer from the unclaimed checks; Steve Burt suggested finding different auditor due to many mistakes that were done by the current CPA.

Item 12: Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Item 13: Adjournment

Dianne Springborn made the motion to adjourn the meeting.