

**MINUTES FOR THE BOARDS OF EXAMINERS FOR ALCOHOL, DRUG AND
GAMBLING COUNSELORS**

MEETING DATE: Friday, December 13, 2019- Via teleconference

MEETING TIME: 08:30 a.m.

MEETING LOCATION:

**College of Southern Nevada-Building C
3200 East Chayenne Ave.
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030**

**TMCC Meadowood Campus
7000 Dandini Boulevard
Room: Sierra 100
Reno, Nevada 89512**

MEMBER PRESENT: Mary Lask- President, Merlyn Sexton –Vice president; LeAnn Malone- secretary/treasurer; Paula Chung-member, Milagros Severin-Ruiz-member; Diaz Dixon- member (via telephone)

STAFF PRESENT: Colleen Platt- Board’s Attorney

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:

Item 1: Welcome, Call to Order.

Mary Lask- Board president called meeting to order at 8.32 am.

Item 2: Public Comments.

Denise Quirk was present in Reno, she introduced herself as a member of the public and as Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling. Ms. Quirk stated that the committee was collaborating with CASAT on workforce development and that she was looking forward to collaborating with the Board as well.

Jeannie Ward from CASAT also spoke in support of the collaboration.

Item 3: Introduction of new board members- Denise Everett & Milagros Severin-Ruiz.

Colleen Platt introduced Milagros Severin-Ruiz; Ms. Severin- Ruiz was present in Las Vegas location and introduced herself to the members and public.

Denise Everett was unable to participate.

Item 4: Approval of minutes from Board Meetings on September 9, 2019 - for possible action.

Merlyn Sexton had a correction to Item 8; Paula Chung made motion to approve the minutes with corrections; LeeAnn Malone second it. Motion carried.

Item 5: Request to retake oral examination after three failed attempts, Teresa Duffy CADC-I- for possible action

Mary Lask informed the Board that according to the letter provided by Ms. Duffy she was unable to attend the meeting due to family commitments. Merlyn Sexton expressed his concern about approving Ms. Duffy to retest without being able to talk to her.

LeeAnn Malone made motion to table the item; Paula Chung second it. Motion carried.

Item 6: Request to retake oral examination after three failed attempts, James Judd CADC-I- for possible action

Mr. Judd was on the phone, calling from Elko; he informed the board that he was currently working with coach – J.J. Lee; he stated he was working on his skills in harm reduction and treatment planning. Mr. Judd also elaborated on the comments he had received from the panel after each failed attempt and informed the Board that he was working on it.

Mr. Judd's primary supervisor -Barbara Caskey also spoke on the phone and stated that this has been "learning process" for both.

Merlyn Sexton made a motion to approve Mr. Judd's request to retest. LeeAnn Malone second it. Motion carried.

Item 7: Request to retake oral examination after three failed attempts, Donna Smith CADC-I- for possible action.

Donna Smith was present in Reno; she informed the Board that two weeks after getting hired at the agency as an intern her supervisor resigned and that her training "stopped"; Ms. Smith stated she never had one on one supervision and it was more of a "personal sessions"; she stated that it was followed by group supervision on irregular basis; she stated she was receiving feedback on her assessments and other work. Ms. Smith completed her hours; obtained Provisional Certificate and moved on to another facility.

She went on to say about the continues lack of supervision and inability to navigate ASAM and receiving no supervisory support. She did not pass the test again and was let go from the job. She stated than she hired J.J. Lee as a coach; took the test for the third time and did not pass despite being granted extra time as requested due to her disability. She stated she has been practicing and feeling more confident and ready to test again. Board asked Ms. Smith if she was currently employed, she stated she was working with JJ Lee at her practice and at Positive Path with Ethel Zentz as her primary supervisor.

Mary Lask ask Donna Smith why she was working without supervisor; she corrected herself by saying she did not practice without supervisor she just never received one on one supervision and feedback. Milagros Severin-Ruiz asked if she has attended DSM 5 training and how she was preparing to test now.

Ms. Smith stated that she was working with her supervisors by doing case study and practice scenarios.

Mary Lask stated that she had concerns, because it did not seem that Smith was able to make clinical interpretations or appropriate recommendations for her clients and did not think that even with extra time and another chance Ms. Smith was unable to grasp the concepts. LeeAnn Malone expressed her secondary concern regarding inadequate supervision and her progress reports being essentially falsified.

Mary Lask made motion to not approve the request to retest; LeeAnn Malone second it. Motion carried.

Item 8: Request by Adrienne Renwick to supervise additional inters for a total number of 7- for possible action.

Ms. Renewick was present in Reno and presented to the Board regarding her agency -Community Chest in Virginia City informing the members about the growth of their clinical team. She stated that all her interns are LCADC interns; she has one whom is 1000 hours away from being able to test, and others are about one to two years away and she was asking to be able to have one additional intern.

She currently has five and asking for one more not two as it was stated in the agenda item.

LeeAnn Malone made motion to approve the request for additional intern for period of six months; Mary Lask second it; motion carried. Adrienne Renewick was approved to supervise total of 6 interns for six months and asked to return in six months if there was a need for additional intern.

Item 9: Request to supervise additional interns- Kasey Chu LADC/Supervisor- for possible action.

Kasey Chu was present in Reno; stated that she works for Rural Nevada and currently has 5 interns. The agency recently lost a supervisor that is why she is asking for additional two interns to supervise. She is in Fallon and so are the interns in need for supervision one of them is ready to test.

Merlyn Sexton made motion to approve Kasey Chu's request for 2 additional interns until July 1, 2020. Paula Chung second it. Motion carried.

Item 10: Reinstatement application- Brian Veal- for possible action.

Mr. Veal was present in Las Vegas. Colleen Platt- legal counsel to the Board gave the members quick overview of his case and history with the Board; his criminal charges included conspiracy to commit coercion and kidnaping, which was revealed upon his certificate renewal two years ago. Mr. Veal presented to the Board that he had been a counselor for 27 years and never had any legal issues and problems prior and that it was a "one time incident due to relationship going bad". All the charges against him were dropped and he did not have the money at the time to have the charges dismissed. Mr. Veal stated that he had since worked on himself and how to approach relationships as well as work with his Sponsor and stated that even tough the experience was very painful for him and his family, he had gained a lot of wisdom and knowledge. Paula Chung asked if Mr. Veal was currently working, he stated he was working in several agencies as a certified domestic violence counselor.

LeeAnn Malone made motion to go to closed session pursuant to NRC 241.038. Milagros Severin -Ruiz second it. Motion carried. LeeAnn Malone made motion to return to open session; Merlyn Sexton second it. Motion carried.

Merlyn Sexton made motion to reinstate Bryan Veal as CADC, Paula Chung second it. Motion carried.

Item 11: Review and approval of settlement agreement – Angel Lash, LADC/Supervisor – for possible action.

Colleen Platt presented settlement agreement to the Board which included education and public reprimand. LeeAnn Malone made motion to approve; Diaz Dixon second it. Motion carried.

Item 12: Review and approval of settlement agreement- Belen Ruelas CADC-I – for possible action.

Colleen Platt presented the agreement which included education and paying the cost of investigation to the Board as well as education. Paula Chung made motion to approve the settlement agreement; LeeAnn Malone second it. Motion carried.

Item 13: Review and approval of settlement agreement -Glen Kriegsman CADC-I- for possible action.

Ms. Platt presented the settlement. LeeAnn Malone made motion to approve the settlement agreement; Merlyn Sexton second it. Motion carried.

Item 14: Administrative hearing -Cynthia Smith-case number 2019-10-10 for possible action.

Colleen Platt informed the Board that the case has been continued; Ms. Smith retained the attorney and is working on the response. Her licenses will remain suspended under Summery Suspension order issued by the Board In November of 2019 until the next hearing is scheduled.

Item 15: Executive Director’s Report

Colleen Platt informed the Board that the Executive Director was absent due to illness. Ms. Platts spoke on behalf of Agata Gawronski about annual audit being completed and submitted in timely fashion to the budget division without findings; the Board is on track with the budget except for merchant processing fees which is being addressed.

Ms. Platt also informed the Board that is has been decided to not send renewal postcards to the licensees due to high cost and replace the reminders with emails and follow ups.

Agata Gawronski will be teaching test prep class trough CASAT in February.

Item 16: Public comments

Jeanine Ward from CASAT confirmed that the Test Prep class will be available in Las Vegas and Reno; she also informed the Board about free trainings available trough CASAT’s website and new supervision refresher course with special topics being offered.

Item 17: Adjournment.