

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

MEETING DATE: Friday, October 2, 2020
MEETING TIME: 10:30 a.m.
MEETING LOCATION: **Online via Zoom**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lask, Denise Everett, Milagros Severin-Ruiz, Paula Chung, Lee Ann Malone

STAFF PRESENT: Agata Gawronski Executive Director, Paula Hlade, Licensing Specialist, Colleen Platt, Legal Counsel

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: Alex Tanchek with Silver State Government Relations

Item 1: Welcome, Call to Order.

Lee Ann Malone called the meeting to order.

Item 2: Public comments

Alex Tanchek with Silver State Government Relations, representing Vitality Unlimited speaking on Agenda Item #7:

On behalf of Vitality Unlimited, we would like to express appreciation for item #7 on your agenda this morning.

As this Board may be aware, Vitality is a long-standing provider of residential and outpatient treatment services for substance use, behavioral health, and co-occurring disorders. Vitality has operations in Elko, Reno, Carson City and Dayton.

Vitality is committed to the highest quality of care and treatment, and takes seriously their role and responsibility to support the training of providers in these fields. Vitality is confident that such training and support of interns can be accomplished with an appropriate mixture of distance and in-person supervision, consultation, and review of case notes. This flexibility is, indeed, essential to Vitality being able to create a high quality pipeline of providers to meet the needs of its organization and others in Nevada.

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes for December 13, 2019 meeting.

Mary Lask and Colleen Platt open discussion and ask for any changes or edits. No changes or edits were suggested.

Lee Ann Malone motions to approve minutes as is.

Paula Chung seconded; the motion was carried unanimously.

Item 4: Request to retake oral/written examination after three failed attempts approved by Executive Director

Aya Williams – approved

Teresa Duffy - approved

Farmer Malone – approved

Agata Gawronski stated she consulted with Colleen Platt and both agreed approving the requests for all individuals due to the pandemic and issues with scheduling of the next oral examination.

Lee Ann Malone made a motion to approve. Milagros Severin-Ruiz seconded; the motion carried unanimously

Item 5: Review and Approval of Settlement Agreement- Stacey Ledesma, CADC (for possible action)

No issues with agreement. Paula Chung made a motion to approve. Lee Ann Malone seconded; the motion carried unanimously

Item 6: Discussion regarding internal Board policies and procedures which include, without limitation, attendance, discipline and vacation. Mary Lask (for possible action).

Mary Lask asks the board to look at the Policies & Procedures for possible action. Paula Chung would like to amend the office hours and eliminate Fridays. Mary would like to add a Table of Contents. No other changes were discussed. Colleen asks board members to continue to review and add any additional items if needed. Mary moves to table for next meeting, Lee Ann seconds the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Item 7: Discussion regarding adopting regulations to set forth uniform standards for locations where interns provide services and standards concerning the electronic supervision of interns at remote sites. Agata Gawronski, Colleen Platt (for possible action).

Colleen Platt began the discussion regarding regulations and statutes. Interns must provide services at the location of their supervisor, but the issue is the electronic supervision of interns at remote sites. Colleen explained that a regulation for electronic supervision is needed and asked the board to work on creating a regulation to be brought back for approval. Currently, there is a temporary regulation adopted through November 30, 2021. Colleen suggested hosting a workshop to gather input from agencies and supervisors and then bring back a regulation for adoption. She noted that the workshop can be considered an open meeting, not a board meeting. Colleen explained that the board has from July 2021 to November 2021 to make a permanent regulation. Paula Chung would like the regulation limited to specific sites/situations. For example, rural areas of 50 miles or more. Agata Gawronski stated that the language may or may not need to include mileage but a thorough definition of remote. LeeAnn Malone asks if there could be language about requiring supervisors and interns meeting in person a minimum of one time per month. Milagros Severin-Ruiz asks for clarification regarding “on-site” when there are multiple locations for the same agency. Agata clarifies that the regulation defines place of practice “where you have your own

clients”. Discussion between Colleen Platt and Mary Lask regarding the timeline for adopting a new regulation. Colleen clarified that ideally, they would have a permanent regulation by next November.

Item 8: Executive Director’s Report (Profit & Loss Budget overview; Budget proposal for FY 2020/21; update on new licensing software and payment processor; changes in Board operations)- Agata Gawronski (for possible action).

Director Gawronski explains the budget will be off by 7K due to fees of merchant processor, but the new merchant processor (CyberSource) is through the State Treasurers Office, which has helped eliminate costs. Agata also reported transitioning the licensing software from GL Solutions to Thentia. The software was developed and up and running within 60 days and, despite still having issues with the transition, the system is automated and has greatly reduced the need for postage, paper, stickers, etc. Agata introduced Paula Hlade, the new Licensing Specialist. Paula is LADC and Supervisor and comes to the board with experience and knowledge that has helped the board transition between staff and databases. Agata discussed a new BDR coming up regarding reciprocity, and the issues seen with out of state licenses not meeting Nevada requirements. There was discussion about creating some sort of temporary licensure for out of state applicants while they are working toward NV requirements. Also, discussion about possibly creating a separate classification of license to address the issue. Mary Lask asked if a temporary regulation could be developed to be included with the current regulation for Provisional licenses. Per Colleen Platt, the current regulation is for expedited endorsement rather than a permanent license status. Paula Chung brought up concerns about the education process and the standards we currently have and Agata stated current legislation across the country is moving to create some sort of change to allow for this reciprocity/allowance. Decision was made to continue the discussion at the next meeting. Leeann made motion to approve budget and changes; Paula Chung seconds’ motion; motion carried unanimously.

Item 9: Executive Director’s annual performance review– Mary Lask (for possible action).

Mary Lask and Agata Gawronski explain that Agata’s health insurance has been restored and there were no changes to her pay. Milagros offered her praise of what Agata has done with the budget, office operations, etc. The Board agreed that Agata has done a great job running things smoothly. Paula Chung made motion to accept evaluation as presented. Leeann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the evaluation was approved as is.

Item 10: Public Comment

Denise Everett said hello to the board and apologized that she had been unable to attend the previous meeting.

No other public comments

Agata set next meeting date (Dec. 11th- 9am)

Adjournment (for possible action)

Paula Chung made a motion to adjourn.

Lee Ann seconded, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned.