

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

MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 23, 2021

MEETING TIME: 9:30 a.m.

MEETING LOCATION: **Online via Zoom**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Milagros Severin-Ruiz

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

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: Alex Tanchek, Carson City Juvenile Services, CASAT staff, Adrienne Renwick, Alicia Rocha, David Marlon, Western Nevada Regional Youth Center (WNRYS) staff, Jo Culver, Christine Cassinelli, Teri Baltisberger, Sarah Adler

Item 1: Welcome, Call to Order.

Colleen opened up the meeting with Public Comments.

Item 2: Public comments

Linda Lawlor Deputy Chief of Juvenile Probation from Carson City Juvenile Services asked for clarification regarding interns and on-site supervision. Agency has qualified intern, but they were told they needed a supervisor on-site, which they do not have on-site. Linda stated this intern is under a grant funded position at WNRYS as well. Colleen discussed temporary regulation regarding virtual supervision. CCJS will contract with supervisor separately. Agata explained that the regulation allows for existing supervisors to provide for remote supervision. This regulation is not allowing for contracting of supervisors not working for the same agency. Linda discussed a scenario regarding contracting with an agency who has a supervised intern and Agata clarified again that an intern cannot practice independently at an agency.

Colleen clarified the history of the on-site supervision requirement and past instances of interns not being supervised appropriately. Linda discussed situation where LCSW and Psychologist are providing drug and alcohol evaluations within their scope, but Chapter 62E states that when a juvenile gets a referral for an alcohol/drug related evaluation, it must be done by someone certified/licensed by this Board. Attorneys are challenging those evaluations because they were not done by a licensed alcohol and drug counselor. Colleen asked for clarification regarding that specific statute.

Agata asked for clarification if LCSW/Psychologists can conduct alcohol and drug evaluations and Colleen explained that they would be exempt from the regulation if they had the proper schooling in addictions. Colleen asked Linda to discuss off-line regarding giving LCSW and Psychologist a license even if they do not need one per statute.

Adrienne Renwick provided public comment regarding the alcohol and drug licenses becoming obsolete due to the issue described in the last public comment. Scope of practice and scope of competency can provide for other clinical credentials to practice alcohol and drug counseling and evaluations within their scope and this is resulting in qualified individuals no longer seeking or maintaining LADC/LCADC credentials. Adrienne fears that if the Board does not consider other ways to regulate the supervision process to provide high quality supervision, absent the requirement that supervisors be on-site, then this license will become obsolete. She asked that the Board tighten up qualifications or the process to become a supervisor to maintain quality and also open up off-site supervision.

David Marlon (LADC-S) commented that he supervises three interns and serves as the President of SNAAP where members are encouraging SNAAP to continue advocating for the ability to remotely supervise. This could result in a

workforce development issue. There needs to be creative ways to allow for capable supervisors to take on interns who are not necessarily employed at the same site.

Colleen asks for any other public comment.

Colleen explained the addition of the ability for an intern to come to the Board and request for an extension of internship if an intern has met the five-year mark (or 10 year if grandfathered in).

No other public comments.

Item 3: Workshop

Alex Tanchek representing Silver State Government Relations representing Vitality Unlimited and New Frontier. They are in support of these updates to 641C.250 regarding the interns being supervised by electronic means. Also support the ability for interns to request an extension in obtaining supervised hours if circumstances warrant.

Colleen asked what individuals propose to ensure that supervisors are providing the required services for the interns if the allowance was to be off-site.

Adrienne Renwick suggested that records be maintained electronically so that a supervisor can review virtually. This may require a contract of some sort between agency and supervisor.

Colleen asked if David Marlon could elaborate on referencing other Boards' requirements regarding off-site supervision.

Christine Cassinelli commented that she believes it's important that her supervisor sit in on her sessions. Patients sign in their disclosure paperwork that sessions may be observed, and patients have a choice to opt out. She also sends her treatment plans and other documentation to her supervisor for approval.

Adrienne added that she's a supervisor for MFT/CPC Board and their supervision allowances to not require a contract or that a supervisor be employed by the same agency, but that they have one hour of supervision per week, either individual or group, which can also be done virtually. She explained there is no requirement to sign documentation per the MFT/CPC Board. Adrienne described different tools she uses to supervise those interns such as case staffing, video review, sitting in on sessions, etc.

Paula Lopez Hlade, Licensing Specialist for the Board, and LADC-S and would like to find a way to keep the requirements regarding document review and signatures, but also get creative to find ways to have quality supervision. Paula brought up interns who seem underprepared for the oral exam even with the current supervision requirements and would not want to decrease those requirements and therefore the quality of interns. Some interns even self-disclose that they are not happy with their current supervision.

Alicia Rocha explained that she feels that while the Board had good intentions to rectify past situations where supervisors were derelict in their duties to their interns, the Board has overcorrected and made the requirements too stringent. This is limiting capable professionals from practicing and asked what the disciplinary actions are for those who neglect their duties as a supervisor. She believes there could be safeguarding the profession and standards but increasing access to the community and other professionals to obtain licensure. Alicia is familiar with a few LADC Supervisors who are letting their supervisor's license lapse due to the constraints.

Jo Culver, owner of Diversity Counseling of Nevada, explained that she could have reciprocity with most states in the country, but that the alcohol and drug licenses do not have parity with the other licenses in Nevada. She feels this speaks to the value of the profession in the state. She feels there are obstacles in this profession that deter others from pursuing this credential. She is not advocating for lowering standards, but feels that if other Boards can remotely supervise interns, then this Board should allow.

Agata discussed history of this regulation and clarified the perception that this Board is limiting the field. Agata explained the various requirements to become an intern with other Boards which is not the case with this Board. This Board allows for interns to still work on their Bachelor's degree and have no previous experience despite providing services to the most vulnerable population. The past legislative changes also increased the educational requirements to become an intern where interns could previously apply with only a G.E.D. Agata asked for suggestions to mitigate the risk of poor supervision, lack of qualified interns, etc. because the Board's intent is not to create barriers.

Adrienne Renwick added that the requirements to become a Supervisor for MFT/CPC Board are more strict and in order to apply to become a supervisor, an applicant must take a full University level course, complete 25 hours of supervised supervision, and three years as a Licensed clinician.

Christine Cassinelli expressed appreciation to the Board to take all of these items into consideration, but feels the barrier of on-site supervision limits where she can obtain her hours. Christine explained she can obtain her hours quicker in another state.

Alicia Rocha wanted to clarify that SNAAP's position delineates between the interns still in undergrad and graduate school and the post-grad interns, holding that interns who are not in their post-graduate internship should be allowed to have off-site supervisors. She explained that during her practicum internship, she had an on-site supervisor because she was still a student. Agata clarified that there is no LADC-I credential as mentioned by Alicia. Agata explained that the changes Alicia is presenting create a double-standard for the same credential. Alicia asked that this would be an additional criteria for internship/licensure.

Paula Hlade discussed coming in as an intern with a Masters in Criminal Justice and Bachelor's in Psychology, which would meet the post-graduate requirement Alicia spoke to, but felt that when she became an intern, she was not prepared and didn't feel knowledgeable in the field and was thankful for the 4000 hour requirement. Paula explained that not all interns have the ability to self-reflect and know that they aren't getting quality supervision and may be doing damage to clients.

Alicia clarified that she meant a mental health masters degree and not other graduate degrees. Paula clarified that that is why the LCADC internship exists because the requirements Alicia speaks of are already in existence with the LCADC credential.

Colleen proposed that this regulation be adopted as-is and create a workshop group to move in the direction of the discussion today. The temporary regulation is set to expire in November.

No other public comment regarding the regulation changes.

Paula asks for clarification from Colleen that this is providing for current supervisors to provide distance supervision and not to allow for new supervisors to allow

Colleen clarified that the intern still needs to be employed by the agency where the supervisor works and this regulation also includes the ability for an intern who has not met the internship hour requirement by the expiration date to appeal to the Board for consideration of an extension.

Milagros asked how long the extension would be good for and Colleen explained that would be up to the Board.

No further public comment for the Workshop

Item 4: Public Comment

No general public comment.

Colleen explained that from this point, the regulation would go to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for adoption and then the regulation will be posted for 30 days. After that, there will be a meeting scheduled to adopt the regulation as permanent.

Item 11: Adjournment

Next meeting TBD