

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

MEETING DATE: Friday, February 11, 2022

MEETING TIME: 9:30 a.m.

MEETING LOCATION: **Online via Zoom**

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

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

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: Sarah Mesereau-Adler, Denise Quirk, Alicia Rocha, Adrienne Renwick, Jasmine Troop, Jo Culver, Althea Levell, Lena Hatzidopavakis, Natalia Lapina, CASAT staff, David Marlon, Stephanie Goodman, Julia Smith, Jeff Marotta, Donna Meyers, Kim Garcia, Peter Ott, two unidentified phone numbers

Item 1: Welcome, Call to Order.

Mary Lask called the meeting to order 9:33a.m. and asked that attendees wishing to speak raise their hand on the meeting platform.

Item 2: Public comments

Dr. Rory Reid- Certified Gambling Counselor and support agenda #5, need more working relationship between gambling and alcohol and drug arena. Would like virtual supervision for interns to increase workforce and accessibility for supervision

Denise Quirk- CPGC and CPGC-S is current vice-chair on Governor's problem gambling; willing to sit on legislative workgroup if needed

Alan Feldman- chair of Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling, but voiced interest to expand workforce in gambling field; and invited Board members to join.

Ted Hartwell- DRI and consult on NV council on prob gambling, voice support for expanding workforce Item 5 on agenda. Streamline the process to join the workforce.

Caryn Sternlicht- need to receive services in different arenas is necessary; Disease of recovery is a family issue and want to expand services.

Tina Marie Bisiaux stated that she is currently working at Bristlecone at Problem Gambling Center with rural background; she expressed her excitement regarding telehealth and supervision as an LADC since 2005, she was unable to get supervisor and had to move to Reno to begin internship again. Cannot be a supervisor for two years; would like to see changes in requirement that she wait 2 years to become supervisor.

No other public comments.

Item 3: Formal Hearing Tenea Smith, License Nos. 0492-LC and 0173-LCS, Case No. 2021-04-01--For Possible Action

Colleen Platt discussed with Ms. Smith and her lawyer, and the item is being continued

Item 4: Public Hearing for adoption of regulation LCB File No. R046-21--For Possible Action.

Colleen Platt explains the process; stated that the original temporary regulation regarding telehealth/ remote supervision had expired and the Board is moving on to adopt it as a permanent regulation; The Board also added a change regarding 5 year term for internship allowing flexibility on individual basis ; Interns are going to be able to come before the Board to request the extension ;Milagros Severin-Ruiz asked if this rule would apply to the 10year interns ; Colleen confirmed that yes, it would be applicable to those whom were grandfathered in ;

Mary Lask asked for public comment on the proposed regulation; Colleen asked the Board to make comment or propose changes; there was no discussion among the members. Paula Chung made a motion to adopt the regulation as drafted; Merlyn Sexton second it. Mary Lask asked for the vote. Motion carried Unanimously.

Colleen Platt informed the Board that she will submit it to the Legislative Council Bureau.

Item 5: Discussion regarding problem gambling workforce development- For Possible Action.

Jeanne Ward from CASAT stated that she was speaking on behalf of DHHS, CASAT and the Advisory Counsel on Problem Gambling workforce initiative. She provided the members with the white paper expressing the need for workforce development for problem gambling in the State of Nevada. CASAT had been developing coursework since 2019 and offered the course at no charge in 2020. There were five individuals who completed the course since it has been offered, and it would make them eligible for an internship as a Problem Gambling Counselor Interns however there is a currently a lack of workforce in the state and lack of supervision in the field. Ms. Ward suggested opening existing regulations and allowing current LCADC supervisors to provide supervision to the problem gambling interns., with either passing the International Problem Gambling test or additional continued education course as set forth by the Board; second ask is to allow currently licensed mental health professionals to be allowed of site supervision with supervisor who may or may not be employed by the same agency; Paula Chung asked clarifying questions regarding the training requirements.

Jeff Marotta, a consultant for the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling stated that all the Gambling programs in Nevada are very small, and often when counselor leaves, the program becomes a single person operation; which is a threat to a program because often times there is no way to fill the vacancies for Problem Gambling Counselors/Interns. Allowing LCADC to provide clinical supervision would extend the services and sustain the services for problem gamblers; it would help break down the barriers in the treatment field.

Paula Chung expressed her concerns about the competency and education in problem gambling with LCADC supervisors; Agata Gawronski stated that the requirement to pass the test is enough to get those clinicians ready and prepared.

Marlyn Sexton confirmed that he was have a very difficult time finding Problem Gambling Supervisors and that it was critical to make those changes. Agata Gawronski stated that she will collaborate with the CASAT on the proposal to amend existing regulation.

Milagros Severin -Ruiz stated that she supports the idea; Mary Lask directed the Board staff and interested parties to come up with the proposal to amend the regulations. Milagros Severin-Ruiz second it, motion carried.Paula Chung requested to be involved in the process.

Item 6: Public Comments

Adrienne Renwick spoke in support of the change saying that it was a necessary move to build up the Supervisors in our area; she also expressed her concerns about not having enough LCADC supervisors due to increased number of counselors giving up their licenses because of the restrictions; Peter Ott- ED of Bristlecone expressed his support for the changes in regulations.

Tina Marie-Bisoux proposed to extend the amendment to LADCs as well.

Item 7: Adjournment

Mary Lask adjourned the meeting 10:29am

Next meeting TBD as well as upcoming workshop.