

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

MEETING DATE: Friday, March 10, 2023

MEETING TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEETING LOCATION: **Online via Zoom**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lask – Board President, Denise Everett -Secretary/Treasurer, Milagros Severin-Ruiz, Paula Chung, Rory Reid, Lee Anne Malone

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

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: Garrick McNeece, Lana Robards, Mark Brana, Jorge Mijares, Dominic Perry, Sara Lemos, Jeanyne Ward, Abrianna Warren, Jaime Clemens, Amanda Henderson, Stephanie Pineda, Jennifer Murrell, Tracey Checo, John Headley, Donna Meyers, Alicia Rocha, Kim Garcia

Item 1: Welcome, Call to Order.

Mary Lask called the meeting to order 9:04 a.m.

Item 2: Public comments

Lana Robards New Frontier, we have a Gambling Counselor waiting for the oral to be scheduled and the hardship for the organization with the unknown and would like to ask that the exam be scheduled timelier.

Item 3: Minutes from July 29, 2022

Paula Chung made a motion to approve Denise Everette second it, motion carried.

Item 3: Jennifer Murrell- request to extend her internship past the allowed five years- for possible action.

Jennifer Murrell was present via zoom, she explained to the Board that she was a single mom of twins and that life got in the way and she was unable to complete her internship within the five years allowed.

Milagros Severin -Ruiz asked Ms. Murrell when the last time was practiced and what is your plan; she stated that “it’s been a while “and she had no hours logged in and would have to start from scratch.

LeeAnne Malone asked if she had any supervisors available where located and Ms. Murrell stated she had no site nor supervisor secured where she was in Henderson, NV.

Rory Reid asked – how much time was needed for her to complete her internship hours; Jennifer stated she had her masters in addiction counseling completed and that she would need about 2 years extension to complete her internship.

Colleen Platt cited revised regulation stating the board can grant extension if board finds reason necessitating that are resulting of unforeseeable and outside the control. The length of request must be reasonable.

Discussion about the last five years regarding career and unforeseen circumstances.

Ms. Murrell was unable to present unforeseeable events in her life outside of becoming a single mom.

Milagros requested Jennifer to come up with a detailed plan and come back before the board. Jennifer requested a 15-month extension. Paula Chung asked how long it's been since she had a job and if she was currently employed.

Jennifer stated she was unemployed and actively looking for a job.

Mary Lask tabled the request while Jennifer obtained a plan.

Item 5: Abrianna Warren- request to extend her internship past the allowed five years- for possible action.

Ms. Warren was present. She informed the Board that she was Hired as an intern in 2016 completed 264 hours, had child, high risk pregnancy. Worked at West Care, offered an out of state job in 2017 after having her baby, she worked as an Intake coordinator and ran out of time to complete her internship hours within a 5-year period.

Ms. Warren requested two years extension to complete her hours.

Rory Reid made a motion to grant a two-year extension, Lee Ann Malone second it.

Denise Everett abstained due to inability to make up her mind about the issue. Motion carried.

Abrianna Warren was granted two years starting now.

Item 6: Sara Lemos – request to extend her internship past the allowed five years- for possible action.

Sara Lemos was present, she addressed the board and requested an extension for six months to take and pass the oral examination. Sara stated she has 20 years of experience in human services, she worked as an intern in rural Nevada; stated she received sub-par supervision; she failed written exam at first try and recently passed it; her certificate expires now, and she needs an extension to take the oral board; she is currently scheduled to take it on April 7th.

Mary Lask makes motion for 3-month extension.; Paula Chung seconds; unanimous motion carries. June 19, 2023, was set as the expiration date for her internship.

Item 7: John Headley

John Headley was present; he addressed the Board stating that he is in social work program at UNR and is scheduled to graduate next spring 2024 and will enroll in master's program after. His internship started in 2017 and expires in August of 2023. Colleen Platt stated that John only needs that time to complete his education because he has all the required internship hours. John stated that he was unable to finish his undergraduate degree in a timely fashion due to health issues.

Milagros was Mr. Headley and what his plan of action was. He stated that he was taking as many credits as possible and was currently in advanced standing in his social work program.

Asking for one year extension to finish degree and give extension to Feb 10, 2025

Mary Lask moves to allow extension, Dr. Reid seconds, motion carried.

Item 8: Golda Hogan- CADC-I request to extend her internship over 5 years- for possible action.

Not in attendance, Mary Lask tabled for next meeting.

Item 9: Jorge Mijares, CADC-I- application review- (The Board may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person.) For possible action.

Mary Lask offered the option to go to closed session to discuss the criminal background check; Colleen Platt confirmed that it was an option; Mr. Mijares opted out and asked for this agenda item to be discussed in public.

He proceeded to explain that he did not remember all the criminal records, and that the omission on the application was not done to conceal anything but because he did not know that there was a case in California against him still unresolved; Mijares stated that he is not that person anymore, that he now has stable employment and that he wants to be allowed to come back to work.

Paula Chung asked Mijares what his drug of choice was and when was the last time he used; he responded methamphetamines and in 2017; Chung proceeded to tell him that according to the board documents it looked like he was arrested last year. Colleen Platt stated that he was arrested in 2017 and that diversion program he was ordered into / probation was not successfully completed. The court recently confirmed that the case was closed and that they declined to proceed. The provision in NRS 641C allows him to apply, since it's over two years.

Mijares stated that he failed to make the probation hearing because he moved away from the state for work; he did not break any laws. He stated that he was currently suspended from work due to an issue with his internship certificate.

Milagros asked what he was doing to maintain his sobriety; he stated that he was attending self help groups and is involved with community activities and has been sober since 2017. He stated that he has been out of work since November of 2022 and that he was taking care of himself. He stated that he was certified in California.

Agata Gawronski asked the Board to focus on the fact that Mijares did not disclose all his charges.

Colleen Platt explained that the Board must determine whether the omission was intentional or not.

Denise Everett said that it appears Mijares took care of his unfinished probation as soon as he found out about it being still open which made it look as if it was not intentional and it would make him eligible to apply within two years mark post what he thought was a completed probation.

Paula Hlade clarified for the Board that there was lengthy criminal history undisclosed in his application beside the probation; that there was entire section of criminal records omitted by him.

Dr. Reid stated that this was a game changer and that it was not just one charge but an entire criminal history.

Mary Lask stated that this was a complete failure to disclose; and what he showed was complete disregard for integrity related to this field.

Mary Lask made a motion to deny the application and not allow Mijares to reapply, LeeAnn Malone seconded the motion.

Paula Chung voted against it, Dr. Reid against it, Milagros against, Mary, LeeAnn Malone for it, Everett for it. Motion failed.

Dr. Reid proposed to deny the application but allow him to reapply after 12 months and come before the board for reconsideration of his application. LeeAnn Malone asked the board to consider the fact that Mijares showed continues criminal behavior.

Dr. Reid the application to be denied; Mijares ineligible to re-apply for two years from December of 22, so he will be eligible to re-apply on December 1, 2024, and it will have to be brand new application process without the guarantee of approval; Paula Chung second it. Motion carried with two votes against it from Mary Lask and LeeAnn Malone.

Item 10: Garrick McNeece- CADC-I application review- (The Board may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person.) For possible action.

Garrick McNeece was present, he informed the Board that he misrepresented himself as CADC-I, and that it was completely wrong thing to do on his part; he stated that he had signed a letter with credentials he didn't have to help the client. Pertaining to his criminal history, McNeece stated that he was rebooked on the same sentencing; he also stated that he was currently in recovery and committed to stay in recovery.

Paula Hlade stated that McNeece disclosed a lot of criminal history when applying for his license, but we also need to consider the fact that he misrepresented himself as another issue.

Dr Reid asked if the omissions were as severe as the charges, he in fact disclosed to the board.

McNeece stated that he had a lot of childhood trauma and addiction to methamphetamines and that he did not realize the severity of his actions when misrepresenting himself.

Milagros Severin-Ruiz asked for details regarding his probation and the timelines of sobriety, which was 10/10/2017.

The issue here is pattern of behavior and lack of accountability.

Milagros made a motion to deny the application until 8/24 without the guarantee of approval. LeeAnn Malone second the motion; it carried unanimously.

Item 11: Hill, CADC-I (Case Number 2023-02-01) Review, Approval or Disapproval of Voluntary Surrender In Lieu of Other Discipline. For Possible Action.

Collen Platt presented the settlement agreement and asked the board to accept it.

Mary Lask made a motion to accept the settlement agreement, Dr. Reid second it. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 12: Executive Director's audit report for 2021-22 fiscal year- for possible action.

Milagros made a motion to accept the audit report, Mary Lask second it. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 13: Public Comments

Colleen Platt briefed the Board about the executive order regarding revision of regulations.

Jeanine Ward from CASAT made a quick announcement regarding scholarship opportunities to individuals interested in becoming certified problem gambling interns.

Item 14: Adjournment

Board President Mary Lask adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

