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

MEETING DATE: Friday, May 17, 2024

MEETING TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEETING LOCATION: **Online via Zoom**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Lask – member, Denise Everett-Vice President; Rory Reid -Secretary/Treasurer, Milagros Severin-Ruiz-President, Paula Chung-member, Erin Warrell-member

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

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:** Adrienne Renwick, Rita Blankenship, Markos Angelides, Markos Angelides, Alvoid Yokum, Cheryl Greenwade, Jeanyne Ward

**Item 1: Welcome, Call to Order.**

Milagros Severin-Ruiz called the meeting to order 9:00 a.m.

**Item 2: Public comments**

Jeanyne Ward from CASAT spoke in public comment, she informed the Board that the CASAT was awarded a workforce grant for preservice students and free coaching academy for CADC, LADC, LCADC and problem gambling supervisors.

**Item 3: Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on January 12, 2024-** **For Possible Action**.

Denise Everett corrected Erin Warrell’s credentials from MF to MFT and the spelling of both of their names.

Corrections were made. Motion to approve minutes with those changes was made by Denise Everett, Rory Reid second it. Motion carried.

**Item 4: Rita Blankenship, CADC-I- requesting Board’s permission to take written test after three failed attempts -For possible action**.

Ms. Blankenship stated that there were many reason why she couldn’t pass the test, one of them being “she is not a test taker”; as well as medical and personal issues; she said she now is unemployed and able to focus on studying since she has free time. She moved on to say that her employment situation was not conducive to learning different settings of treatment. She feels that she is an asset to the field and does not want to give up on the career. Erin Warrell asked what her plan was to prepare for the test this time.

Rita stated that she was working with the prep website and attended two test prep training sessions.

Agata Gawronski asked what Rita’s experience was taking the test and what she thought the obstacles were for her to pass and asked if she would consider special accommodations; Dr. Reid gave examples of accommodations that she could explore if her doctor was able to assess it and provide letter for ADA accommodation. Rita stated that she did not have any disabilities, and she needed to just focus and spend more time studying. Denise made a motion to give Rita permission to retest, Erin seconded it.

Agata informed Rita that she would need to reapply for licensure since her application expired since she first applied for it.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 5:** **Markos Angelides, CADC-I- requesting Board’s permission to take oral test after three failed attempts** -**For possible action**

Markos Angelides addressed the Board, stating that he has been in a field for 10 years now, and he worked in different levels of care before and is now working in prevention.

He stated that oral exam causes him a lot of anxiety and that he is unable to perform well during the presentation, particularly not enough time to prepare to present, and that he was requesting more time for his condition.

Milagros asked what the condition was, he stated that it was testing anxiety he was experiencing. Agata stated that being around all the oral exams he has taken it did not look like anxiety caused inability to present; it was a lack of proper supervision and lack of knowledge.

Marcos stated that he was in touch with his previous supervisors and will be willing to reach out to work with them.Rory Reid made a motion to give permission to retest, Erin second it. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 6: Phyllis Tellis, CADC-I- request to extend her internship past the allowed 5 years**- **For Possible Action.**

Ms. Tellis stated that she wasn’t aware of the 5-year limit when entering the field. She stated that she recently found a better supervisor and is confident she can finish her internship.

Milagros asked what the problem was that prevented her from completing the hours in a timely fashion.

Phyllis blamed her supervisor for it and stated that she had no hours to work and was never provided real supervision; she stated that she filed a complaint with the Board against her supervisor.

Ms. Tellis was able to complete only 36 hours of the 4000 hours required in 5 years’ time.

Ms. Tellis told the Board that she had other difficulties to deal with during that time, such as her husband and son passing away and her daughter being diagnosed with cancer.

Milagros stated that all the tragic events happened years prior to her starting the internship, so it is not meeting the criteria for extension of the internship.

Milagros made a motion to deny the petition, Denise seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 7: Sarah Brotzman- Intern application for Board’s review and approval- For possible action.**

 Sarah Brotzman was absent from the meeting; the item was tabled.

**Item 8**: **Alvoid Yokum- Intern application for Board’s review and approval**- **For possible action.**

Colleen Platt offered an option of closed session, which was declined by Mr. Yokum.

Paula Hlade informed the Board that while working on Alvoid’s application she discovered in his background check a DUI charge, which she asked for explanation as a part of standard procedure; Mr. Yokum did not disclose this information even though he was provided with an opportunity to do so; and stated that he had forgotten about this charge. In his resume it was also stated that he was providing services without a license.

Milagros asked what year the DUI was, and he responded 1997, and what year he was providing services.

Mr. Yokum informed the Board that he was told his DUI charge will be expunged and assumed he did not have to disclose it since it’s been 25 years.

Paula read his application to the Board which clearly listed his previous job responsibilities consistent with counseling clients with SUD.

Milagros asked for a clarification of what the professional responsibilities he had listed in his resume entailed. He stated that he never practiced without a supervision, he never had a professional license before and that he was just “observing trying to see where I fit in”.” I just misworded everything that’s all, everything I did was under an internship, I did not get paid for it”; “I was an observer, shadowing my supervisor”. Milagros stated he was in this case misrepresenting himself while applying.

He was asked again by Dr Reid about the DUI and explained that he was offered a help from paralegal while at school and promised to have his charges removed from his background check. He said he thought it was removed and he was good to go, and he apologized to the Board for not reporting it.

Reid asked if he had ever received a formal document confirming that his record was expunged and he responded “no”.

Erin Warrell quoted from his resume and representing himself as an expert in the mental health field, to which he stated that he sent it corrected resume; Erin stated that it was a convenient re writing theme as he was getting called out by the Board.

Mary Lask stated that she wasn’t comfortable with him being an intern, because of the level of falsification presented in the application. He also stated that he was not done with his master’s degree, but Milagros pointed out that on his resume he listed Masters degree in Marriage and Family counseling.

Denise made a motion to deny the application, Milagros second it. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 9: Cheryl Greenwade-** **Intern application for Board’s review and approval-** **For possible action.**

The Board moved into closed session. The board comes out of the close session, Milagros made a motion to approve the application, Erin second it. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 10: Updates on Problem Gambling testing and discussion regarding possible revision to examination required for licensure by the Board-For possible action.**

PaulaHlade gave the Board quick update on problem gambling examination, and how we were forced to switch testing company due to the previous one no longer offering the exam anymore.

The problem is that the cost doubled which is a significant burden to the candidates.

Discussion was had whether the Board is willing and able to come up with in state test in cooperation with CASAT, Jeanyne stated it would be difficult to do in house along with running testing center. Colleen Platt stated it would require legislative change to create permanent regulation and implement it to change how we test. Dr Reid stated that we should consider full reciprocity with ICGCB.

Dr Reid made a motion to approve waiving the written exam fees for the problem gambling. Colleen said the motion was not necessary and the Board staff can just waive the fees as they go.

**Item 11: Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Item 12: Adjournment.**

The meeting is adjourned at 11:40 pm.

Next Meeting was scheduled for September 13, 2024.