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

MEETING DATE: Friday, January 17, 2025

MEETING TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEETING LOCATION: Online **via Zoom**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Denise Everett, Milagros Severin-Ruiz, Rory Reid, Erin Warrell, Kobie West

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

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:** Alama Robinson, Jeanyne Ward, Monica Benway, Sherry Lomack

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

Milagros Severin-Ruiz called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Item 2: Public comments**

Alama Robinson was present at the meeting, he informed the Board that he got licensed in 2015 and reciprocated to California in 2021, with the approval of this Board; he further stated that he was internationally certified through IC&RC. He later let the NV license expire and returned in 2024 to get reinstated. He was asked for original scores from his written examination taken through NADAAC. Mr. Robinson was unable to produce the scores therefore was unable to reinstate. President Severin-Ruiz informed Mr. Robinson that the Board received his information and will process the application accordingly.

Jeanyne Ward from CASAT made a public comment about Supervisor’s coaching academy free to qualified candidates.

**Item 3: New Board Member introduction**- **Kobie West.**

Kobie West joined the Board to fill the vacancy for Certified Problem Gambling Counselor, he is currently working at the Problem Gambling Center in Las Vegas.

**Item 4: - Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on November 13, 2024- For Possible Action.**

Denise Everett motioned to approve, Rory Reid second motion. Unanimous vote, approved.

**Item 5:** **Monica Benway, Intern- request to extend her internship past the allowed 5 years and request to retake written exam after three failed attempts- For Possible Action.**

Ms. Benwaystated that she went through a divorce and experienced two deaths in the family between 2023 and 2024. She stated that she failed the test and between the second and third test she experienced more deaths in the family; she stated that her job is in jeopardy if she does not obtain her license. She stated that she now has the study group and is preparing to take the test again.

Agata confirmed that the hours were completed but extension was needed to practice substance use disorders counseling until Benway passed her test.

Dr. Reid made a motion to extend the internship for 12 months and to retake the test. Kobie West second it, motion passed unanimously.

**Item 6: Sherry Lomack, Intern- request to extend her internship past the allowed 5 years- for possible action.**

Ms. Lomack stated that life got in the way of her internship and that she was not aware of the time limit on the internship, she stated that she had accumulated a small number of hours. Paula informed the Board that there was no documentation of her hours in the system. Erin Warrell informed Ms. Lomack that it was her responsibility to track the hours and make sure they got reported to the board and asked what was going to be different this time. Milagros asked if Sherry had a plan and a supervisor secured to complete the hours; Lomack stated that she would have a supervisor once employed.

Kobie West suggested that she meets with the supervisor at the agency first to secure it and then apply for an internship.

Paula asked what the education level was, Lomack stated that she had master’s in education and PHD in Theology, and BA in Psychology. Milagros tabled the item until the next meeting.

**Item 7: Review and possible approval of authorizing the Executive Director to enter a contract for lobbying and government affairs services and delegating to the Executive Director, board counsel, and lobbyist the ability to engage in discussions and decisions regarding legislation at the legislative session 2025 ( The Perkins Company contract), Colleen Platt- For possible action.**

Colleen Platt asked the Board to grant Agata and herself permission to make the decisions on behalf of the Board during the legislative session.

Milagros made a motion to approve, Erin second it, motion passed unanimously.

**Item 8: Public comment**

No public comments.

**Item 10: Adjournment**

The next meeting was scheduled for March 7th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 am.