**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR** **ALCOHOL, DRUG AND GAMBLING COUNSELORS**

# MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2025, **TIME:** 9:00 AM **LOCATION:** Via Video Conference (Zoom) **Meeting ID:** 825 9149 6387

# 1) CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair **Denise Everett** called the meeting to order at **9:03 AM** in the absence of Chair **Milagros Severin-Ruiz**.

**Board Members Present:**

* Denise Everett, Vice Chair
* Erin Warrell (Board Member)
* Kobe West (Board Member)
* Mary Charisma (Board Member)
* Jeff Clark (Board Member)
* Milagros Severin- Ruiz, Chair (arrived during meeting)

**Board Members Absent:**

* Rory Reid(excused – attending son's graduation at UCLA)

**Staff Present:**

* Agata Gawronski, Executive Director
* Paula Hlade (Staff)
* Colleen Platt, Board Counsel

**Quorum Established:** Yes, with four board members initially present

# 2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Jeanyne Ward, CASAT Project Manager**, provided updates on two initiatives:

**ARPA Grant Supervisor Initiative** (Started March 2024):

* 71 participants processed through application

* 52 attended coaching academy

* 35 became certified supervisors

* Next coaching academies scheduled:

○ October 22, 2025 (Reno)

○ October 23, 2025 (Las Vegas)

**Problem Gambling Workforce Development** (Since 2020):

* Increased certified problem gambling counselor interns by 24
* Increased certified problem gambling counselor supervisors by 6 ● 11 pending applications in current grant cycle

No other public comments were offered.

# ITEMS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

**15) Legislative Update – SB 78; SB 425**

*Item taken out of order to accommodate presenter’s schedule*

**Presenter:** Brian Evans, The Perkins Company (Contract Lobbyist)

**Legislative Session Status:**

* 18 days remaining (ends June 2, 2025)
* 1,200 bills introduced, 4 signed by Governor
* Split government: Republican Governor, Democrat Legislature

**Senate Bill 78 – Board Consolidation:**

* Originally proposed consolidating all boards and commissions
* Amended to affect only Title 54 licensing boards (37 boards to 19)
* Would create “Behavioral Wellness and Health Board”
* Passed committee 4-3 (just to keep conversation going), currently in Senate Finance
* Limited support (3 hours testimony, mostly opposition)
* BNI approved for 9 positions (requested 55)

**Senate Bill 425 – Alternative Proposal:**

* Creates Nevada Office of Shared Services
* Opt-in model for boards (voluntary participation)
* Services: IT, legal, accounting, software
* Would repeal Office of Boards and Commissions statutes
* Move boards from Business & Industry to Department of Administration ● More likely to pass than SB 78

**MOTION:** Support SB 425 as conceptually presented and authorize Executive Director and Board Chair to craft and sign support letter.

* **Moved by:** Denise Everett
* **Seconded by:** Kobe West
* **Vote:** Unanimous approval (4-0, no abstentions or recusals at time of vote; Chair Milagros Severin-Ruiz not present)

# 3) Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on January 17, 2025

**MOTION:** Approve minutes as presented.

* **Moved by:** Jeff Clark
* **Seconded by:** Kobe West
* **Vote:** Unanimous approval (4-0, no abstentions or recusals at time of vote; Chair not present)

# 4) Latai King, LCADC – Request to Reinstate License #545LC

**Background:** Ms. King completed 6-month suspension per November 2024 settlement agreement.

**Requirements Completed:**

* Paid all associated costs
* Completed 24 hours continuing education
* Appeared before board

**MOTION:** Approve reinstatement of license effective immediately.

* **Moved by:** Kobe West
* **Seconded by:** Mary Charisma
* **Vote:** Unanimous approval (4-0, no abstentions or recusals at time of vote) ● **Effective Date:** May 16, 2025

# 5) Carlos Sanchez – Intern Application Review/Approval

**Issue:** Failed to disclose prior criminal charge from 10+ years ago on application.

**Petitioner Background:**

* Former Las Vegas Metro Police Officer
* Left law enforcement due to PTSD/substance abuse
* 2017 arrest for simple battery
* Currently fitness trainer at Vegas Stronger
* Claimed omission was error, not deception

**Board Discussion:** Emphasized importance of attention to detail in applications.

**MOTION:** Approve CADC intern application.

* **Moved by:** Denise Everett
* **Seconded by:** Erin Warrell
* **Vote:** Unanimous approval (4-0, no abstentions or recusals at time of vote)

# 6) Roxana Monsivais, Intern – Request to Take Test After Three Failed Attempts

**Current Status:**

* Failed three attempts (most recent score: 460/500)
* English as second language
* Limited supervisor support

**Challenges Cited:**

* Family obligations (father's care)
* Work pressures
* Limited study resources

**Board Recommendations:**

* Utilize CASAT test prep course (free)
* Review score reports by domain
* Take ICNRC practice exam ($60)
* Create flashcards for study

**MOTION:** Approve fourth examination attempt.

* **Moved by:** Erin Warrell
* **Seconded by:** Denise Everett
* **Vote:** Unanimous approval (4-0, no abstentions or recusals at time of vote)

# 11) Charla Rush, Intern – Request to Extend Internship Past Allowed 5 Years

*Item taken out of order to accommodate petitioner’s schedule*

**Chair Milagros Rivera assumed meeting leadership at this point**

**Request:** Five-year extension for CPGC internship

**Current Status:**

* Zero documented hours of required 1,000
* Internship from 2017-2018
* Working full-time LADCs plus part-time job
* Proposed 5-7 hours/week toward internship

**Board Determination:**

* Insufficient commitment demonstrated
* Unrealistic timeline
* Specialization requires dedicated effort

**MOTION:** Disapprove extension request.

* **Moved by:** Erin Warrell
* **Seconded by:** Milagros Severin-Ruiz
* **Vote:** Unanimous disapproval (5-0, no abstentions or recusals)
* **Note:** Petitioner may resubmit with structured plan

# 10) Allicia Faraco, Intern – Request to Extend Internship Past Allowed 5 Years

**Current Status:**

* 14 years since practice
* Completed 1,063 hours
* Only needs 437 additional hours (has minor in addictions)
* Currently pursuing Master’s in Marriage and Family Therapy

**Resolution:** Upon completion of Master’s degree, requirements will be satisfied. Can apply for licensure when degree conferred.

**Board Action:** Item dismissed – no vote required

# 7) Natalie Wallenfang – Request to Extend Internship Past Allowed 5 Years

**Status:** Petitioner did not appear

**Board Action:** Tabled .

# 8) Dana Kincaid, Intern – Request to Extend Internship Past Allowed 5 Years

**Background:**

* Initial application 2010, stopped for law enforcement career
* Second attempt 2016, stopped due to divorce
* Completed 893 hours, needs 607 more
* Bachelor’s in Criminal Justice

**Current Plan:**

* Employed full-time at Vitality Unlimited (Elko)
* 40 hours/week availability
* Supervisors: Vicky La Versa and Barbara Caskey

**Unforeseeable Event:** Divorce

**MOTION:** Approve 18-month extension.

* **Moved by:** Milagros Severin-Ruiz
* **Seconded by:** Erin Warrell
* **Vote:** Unanimous approval (5-0, no abstentions or recusals)

# 9) Lauren Stigler, Intern – Request to Extend Internship Past Allowed 5 Years

**Background:**

* Health issues (kidney complications requiring procedures)
* Domestic violence situation (now resolved)
* Zero documented hours, needs full 4,000
* Currently employed at Behavior Health Group

**Current Status:**

* Internship expires June 24, 2026
* Requesting preemptive extension
* Working 40 hours/week

**Unforeseeable Events:** Medical condition and domestic relationship issues

**MOTION:** Approve two-year extension (through June 25, 2028).

* **Moved by:** Jeff Clark
* **Seconded by:** Kobie West
* **Vote:** Unanimous approval (5-0, no abstentions or recusals)

# 12) Debra Ridgeway, Intern – Request to Extend Internship Past Allowed 5 Years

**Status:** Petitioner contacted board 8 days prior stating non-attendance

**Board Action:** Tabled

# 13) Lance Doss, Intern – Request to Extend Internship Past Allowed 5 Years

**Status:** Petitioner did not appear

**Board Action:** Tabled

# 14) Maura Alcazar, Intern – Request to Extend Internship Past Allowed 5 Years

**Status:** Petitioner did not appear

**Board Action:** Tabled

# 16) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No additional public comments were received.

# DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Board Operations Update (Executive Director)**

* Difficult relationship with Business & Industry Department
* Required to complete audit at $16,000 (lowest quote)
* Receiving hostile communications from BNI
* Continuing compliance efforts despite challenges

**Legal Discussion – Diversion Court Programs**

* Southern Nevada implementing gambling diversion court
* Question regarding two-year waiting period for licensure
* Current regulations tie waiting period to “conviction”
* Diversion programs result in dismissal, not conviction
* Legal counsel to review case-by-case
* May require regulatory update

**Administrative Matters**

* Spam emails using board members’ names reported
* Members advised not to open suspicious emails requesting purchases

# NEXT MEETING

**Date:** Friday, August 15, 2025 **Time:** 9:00 AM **Format:** Video Conference

# 17) ADJOURNMENT

Chair **Milagros Severin-Ruiz** adjourned the meeting at **10:49 AM**.