

NEVADA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ALCOHOL, DRUG & GAMBLING
COUNSELORS
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 15, 2025

TIME: 9:00 AM

LOCATION: Zoom Videoconference

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Milagros Severin-Ruiz, President
Denise Everett, Secretary
Erin Warrell, Member
Kobe West, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rory Reid, Member
Jeffrey Clark, Member
Mary Lask, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Agata Gawronski, Executive Director
Paula Hlade, Licensing Specialist
Colleen Platt, Legal Counsel

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:

Jeanyne Ward, CASAT
Brian Lawhorn
Natalie Wallenfang
Daniel Fred
Christopher Gentry
David Perez
Adrienne Renwick

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Milagros Severin-Ruiz called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. A quorum was established with four board members present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanyne Ward (CASAT) announced the Clinical Supervision Coaching Academy:

Las Vegas: October 2-3, 2025

Reno: October 22-23, 2025

Application currently open

Contact: learning@casat.org

Denise Everett and Kevin Quint will host consultation sessions

3. APPROVAL OF MAY 16, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Denise Everett moved to approve the minutes from May 16, 2025.

Second: Milagros Severin-Ruiz

Vote: Unanimous approval (4-0)

4. NATALIE WALLENFANG - REQUEST TO EXTEND INTERNSHIP

Request: Extension of internship beyond five-year limit

Circumstances:

Left position to complete master's degree at UNLV School of Social Work

Completed LCSW hours (now licensed)

Had a baby (now 2 years old)

Currently working with TINHIH

Needs 341 hours to complete internship

Motion: Kobe West moved to approve 18-month extension from today's date.

Second: Denise Everett

Vote: Unanimous approval (4-0)

Effective Date: Must complete by February 15, 2027

5. BRIAN LAWHORN - REQUEST TO EXTEND INTERNSHIP AND RETAKE ORAL EXAMINATION

Request: Permission to retake oral examination after three failed attempts and extension of internship

Discussion Points:

Has failed oral examination progressively worse each attempt

Panel members (Denise Everett, Erin Warrell, Paula Hlade) testified to lack of progress
Has hired Christine Green for private tutoring
Currently employed at New Dawn Treatment Center
Internship expired August 6, 2025

Motion: Milagros Severin-Ruiz moved to approve one final attempt at oral examination and one-year extension of internship.

Second: Erin Warrell

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 opposed (Denise Everett)

Effective Date: Must complete by August 15, 2026

6. DANIEL FRED - REQUEST TO REINSTATE INTERNSHIP

Request: Reinstatement of internship beyond five-year limit

Background:

Master's in Human Development Family Studies with addiction treatment specialization (2012)
Left in 2016 for national recovery advocacy work
Now Director of NRAP Collegiate Recovery Program at university
Needs 15 hours to complete requirements

Motion: Denise Everett moved to allow one year to satisfy requirements.

Second: Kobe West

Vote: Unanimous approval (4-0)

Effective Date: Must complete by August 15, 2026

7. CHRISTOPHER GENTRY-REQUEST TO REINSTATE INTERNSHIP (TABLED)

Request: Reinstatement of internship beyond five-year limit

Status: Applicant left meeting before presenting case. Item tabled to next meeting.

Completed 500 mental health hours and 500 substance use disorder hours

Needs 2,500 substance use disorder hours for LADC

Staff will follow up with applicant regarding requirements for appearing before board

8. DAVID PEREZ - REVIEW OF CADC APPLICATION

Issue: Discrepancy between disclosed criminal history and background check results

Background:

Licensed in California, Oregon, and Washington

Associate's degree in addiction counseling, Bachelor's in business management

Criminal history from addiction period was pardoned through California New Leaf program

Currently employed at Lux Treatment Center as behavioral technician

13 years of sobriety

Motion: Erin Warrell moved to approve CADC application.

Second: Milagros Severin-Ruiz

Vote: Unanimous approval (4-0)

9. FY 2025-2026 BUDGET APPROVAL

Issue: Budget approval amid audit compliance crisis and mandated retroactive audits

Background:

- FY 2023-24 audit not completed due to CPA resignation mid-year
- No replacement CPA available on short notice despite willingness to pay \$20,000-\$25,000
- Balance sheet submitted to Legislative Audit Division after Board approval in September
- Board revenue of \$210,000 exceeded \$200,000 audit threshold; exception not granted
- Balance sheet accepted for FY 2023-24

Current Fiscal Year Developments:

- Secured \$16,000 quote for FY 2024-25 audit
- Budget constraints from software company back billing and lobbying expenses
- Audit Division inquired about continued financial hardship
- Director decided to submit balance sheet again for FY 2024-25

Compliance Action:

- Deputy Director of Business and Industry issued letter of non-compliance after legislative session
- Board directed to provide corrective action plan
- Required to conduct retroactive audits for both FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25
- CPA quoted \$24,000 for both years combined
- Projected deficit of approximately \$30,000
- Board required to use reserves to cover audit costs

Board President Statement: President Severin-Ruiz reported extensive correspondence with Business & Industry and Governor's Finance Office regarding compliance matter. Noted this situation is unprecedented in her seven years of Board service. Response letter prepared for submission following meeting.

Motion: Denise Everett moved to approve FY 2025-2026 budget with noted amendments.

Second: Erin Warrell

Vote: Unanimous approval (4-0)

10. PROBLEM GAMBLING ASSESSMENT AND REFERRALS (INFORMATIONAL)

Discussion:

CADCs and LADCs are encouraged to conduct basic problem gambling screening

Screening with appropriate referral falls within scope of practice

Future consideration for mandatory problem gambling CEUs

Would require regulation change per NAC 641C.300

Item to return as action item at future meeting

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

12. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

Next board meeting scheduled for November 21, 2025 at 9:00 AM via Zoom.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 AM.