



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF NEVADA BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS STANDARDS
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ALCOHOL, DRUG, & GAMBLING COUNSELORS**

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 13, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom and In-Person at 4600 Kietzke Lane, G-160, Reno, NV 89502

Board Members in attendance: Milagros Severin, Board President; Denise Everett, Vice President; Dr. Rory Reid, Secretary/Treasurer; Erin Warrell, Member; Dr. Kobie West, Member
Board Staff: Paula Hlade, Interim Executive Director; Colleen Platt, Legal Counsel
Public attendees: Jill Seely, Jennifer Autry, Pauline Salla, Jaime Clemens, Kelli Wilson, Eunice McKinnon, Paul Mouriski, Lauren Dalton

Please Note: The Board may (a) address agenda items out of sequence to accommodate persons appearing before the Board or to aid the efficiency or effectiveness of the meeting; (b) combine agenda items for consideration by the public body; and (c) pull or remove items from the agenda at any time. The Board may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person. (NRS 241.020, NRS 241.030). Items discussed that were not on the agenda were for informational purposes only, and no action was taken.

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **9:04 a.m.** by Board President, Milagros Severin-Ruiz.

Item 2: Public Comment

Public comment was opened.
No public comment was provided at this time.

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

Item 3: Jill Seely - Request to extend internship past the allowed 5 years - For Possible Action.

The Board discussed Jill's request to extend her internship hours.

Summary

- Jill explained that unforeseen personal challenges, including severe mental health issues, divorce, and homelessness, prevented her from completing the remaining 1,060 hours.
- She now works at Community Counseling Center as a behavioral tech and plans to complete her bachelor's degree in fall, after which she expects to become an intern counselor within 3 months

Action Taken

- Dr. West **made a motion** to approve three-year extension
 - Denise Everett provided **a second to the motion**
 - **Motion approved unanimously** approving a 3-year extension motion, with the requirement that Jill must still follow the application process with the board and meet all relevant requirements.
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Item 5: Paul Mouriski - Request to extend internship past the allowed 5 years - For Possible Action

The Board discussed Paul's request to extend his internship hours.

Summary

- Paul explained unforeseen personal challenges, including health issues that resulted in a foot amputation, prevented him from completing his internship
- Came from CA and was counselor there, but was unsure what transferred over in 2020 when he came to Nevada. Paul completed 423 hours in Nevada prior to expiration.
- Paul stated he is in school to complete his Bachelor's degree in October 2026, and has the opportunity to become an intern at his current place of employment with an approved supervisor. Erin Warrell asked for clarification regarding the timing of his request and ability to find internship placement. Paul clarified that he is confident there will be an internship position if the Board allows for an extension, but not prior to the approval. Erin reiterated the timeframe needed once an approval is granted and that this is a one-time request.
- Paula clarified that there may be approved hours in California if provided the appropriate paperwork, but currently need 3,577 hours without the California hours

Action Taken

- Dr. Reid **made a motion** to approve three-year extension
 - Dr. West provided a **second to the motion**
 - **Motion approved unanimously** approving a 3-year extension motion, with the requirement that Paul must still follow the application process with the board and meet all relevant requirements.
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Item 6: Brandon Mays – Application Review – For Possible Action.

Paula clarified that this item was no longer needed after discussion with Colleen

Action Taken:

- No action was taken.
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Item 4: Lauren Dalton - Request to extend internship past the allowed 5 years - For Possible Action.

Summary:

- Lauren explained that she was involved in a car accident with multiple surgeries and medical treatment. This had a major impact on her ability to work at the time and during this time she was also assaulted at a gas station and had trauma resulting from that incident as well. She paused her schooling and internship while she was working through those events.
- Lauren has the opportunity to work full-time as a counselor at her current employer with an approved supervisor
- Lauren has Bachelor's degree in Psychology and needs 3,385 hours to apply for CADC

Action Taken:

- Erin Warrell **made a motion** to approve three-year extension
 - Denise Everett provided a **second to the motion**
 - **Motion approved unanimously** approving a 3-year extension motion, with the requirement that Lauren must still follow the application process with the board and meet all relevant requirements.
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Item 7: Executive Director Interviews - For Possible Action

- a. Jennifer Autry
- b. Pauline Salla-Smith
- c. Paula Hlade

Summary:

The Board conducted interviews for the Executive Director position with three candidates: Jennifer Autry, Pauline Salla, and Paula Hlade

Each candidate was interviewed individually using a standardized set of questions and allotted equal time. Candidates were placed in a separate waiting area while other interviews were conducted and were not present for one another's interviews.

Interviews were conducted in the following order: Jennifer Autry, Pauline Salla, and Paula Hlade

Following the completion of all interviews, the Board discussed the qualifications of each candidate, including their experience, leadership background, and responses to the interview questions.

Action Taken

- Jeff Clark **made a motion** to appoint Paula Hlade as permanent Executive Director
 - Milagros provided a **second motion**
 - **Motion passed unanimously.**
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Item 8: Negotiations for Salary and benefits for Executive Director. – For Possible Action.

The board discussed a proposed salary for the permanent Executive Director.

Summary:

The Board discussed the Executive Director salary, including prior interim compensation, current job responsibilities, and overall budget considerations. It was noted that the Executive Director is currently managing multiple roles, and members considered the scope of duties alongside the Board's financial position. General discussion included recent budget impacts, anticipated stabilization of expenses, and the need to balance fair compensation with fiscal responsibility.

Board members expressed support for a modest salary adjustment, with consideration for a future review once the budget is more predictable.

Action Taken:

- Jeff **made a motion** to approve a salary of \$115,000 for the executive director position, with benefits included.
- Denise provided a **second motion**
- **Motion passed unanimously**

Item 9: Update regarding the Legislative Sunset Subcommittee meeting scheduled for March 27, 2026, at 9am, and the related Sunset Review audit process - Informational Only

- Paula provided an update on preparation for the Sunset Committee review. Submission is near completion pending final financial data. Board members may provide public comment in support if desired via email or during the meeting

Informational Item – Not on Agenda, no action taken

- **Website & Processes:** Board emphasized improving clarity, accessibility, and application processes; full website rebuild is underway.
- **Training Requirement:** Members were reminded to complete required Boards and Commissions training and submit acknowledgments.

Item 10: Public Comments.

- **Regulatory Workshop:** Colleen Platt shared that there is a public workshop for an updated draft of a proposed regulation from the Office of Boards and Commissions. It will be on 3/31 at 10:00am via zoom and Board members are welcome to attend. Paula will send the link out
- No other public comment

Item 11: Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at **12:17 pm.**