



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday, January 16, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Via Zoom and In-Person at 4600 Kietzke Lane B-115, 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:** Jeanyne Ward (CASAT), Kim Garcia, Desiree Carrillo, Sarita Edwards, LeeAnn Malone

*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.*

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**Item 1: Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at **9:02 a.m.** by Board President, Milagros Severin-Ruiz.

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**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)*

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### Item 3: Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2025 — *For Possible Action*

The Board reviewed the draft minutes.

#### Action Taken:

- No changes were brought forth. Dr. West made a **motion** to approve the minutes.
  - **Second** received by Milagros.
  - **Approved unanimously.**
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### Item 4: Discussion regarding the manner in which the Board would like to conduct a search for a permanent Executive Director — *For Possible Action*

The Board discussed the process for conducting the search for a permanent Executive Director.

#### Summary

- Legal guidance was provided by Colleen regarding the use of a work group, Open Meeting Law requirements, and public records considerations.
- Board considered options to streamline the search while maintaining compliance.
- Discussion included job posting timelines, candidate qualifications, and the interview process.
- Board discussed limiting the number of finalists advanced for full Board interviews.

#### Action Taken

- Dr. Reid **made a motion** to establish a work group to conduct the Executive Director search with the following criteria
  - Job posting approved for a **30-day** period.
  - Work group authorized to review applications and recommend **no more than three finalists** to the full Board.
  - Work group comprised of two Board members and an external advisor, such as the former Executive Director if available and willing
- **Second** received by Dr. West
- **Approved unanimously**
  
- Discussion regarding the members of the work group. Dr. Reid agreed to be in the work group if no one else was interested and asked if anyone else was interested. Denise expressed her interest
- Dr. West **made a motion** to approve himself and Denise as a part of the work group
- Dr. Reid provided **a second to the motion**

- **Motion approved unanimously** appointing Denise Everett and Dr. West as Board members to the work group.
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**Item 5: Discussion and possible approval of request by Desiree Carrillo, pursuant to NAC 641C.220, to sit for an additional examination. — *For Possible Action***

**Summary:**

- Desiree Carrillo expressed her desire to retake her exam after three unsuccessful attempts, citing her busy schedule and lack of preparation time due to her doctorate studies and work commitments.
- Milagros Severin and Colleen Platt clarified the board's regulations on retaking the exam.
- Paula clarified that the Board has historically approved three more attempts when allowing exam retakes

**Action Taken:**

- Dr. Reid **made a motion** that the board approved Desiree's request to take the exam again by the end of the year
  - **Second received** by Erin
  - **Approved unanimously**
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**Item 6: Jessica Elbe -request to extend internship past the allowed 5 years — *For Possible Action***

Jessica let the Board know she was not interested in going before the Board at this time.

**Action Taken:**

- Item tabled
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**Item 8: Follow-up discussion and solicitation of questions regarding CASAT Problem Gambling Workforce Survey — *For Possible Action***

Jeanyne Ward from CASAT/UNR opened the follow up discussion from the last meeting when they presented findings from a workforce development survey conducted under a grant with the Advisory Council on Problem Gambling, focused on expanding Nevada's problem gambling treatment workforce.

- Survey respondents expressed interest in a potential endorsement pathway, prompting discussion on current certification pathways and possible future expansion.

- Legal counsel reviewed statutory requirements under NRS 641C.430 and NRS 641C.440, clarifying that certification criteria, supervision hours, and examination requirements are largely statute-driven and cannot be waived without legislative change.
- Board discussed distinctions between pathways for licensed professionals, non-licensed applicants, and interns, including required education, training hours, supervision, and exams.
- Concerns were raised that current requirements (1,000–2,000 supervised hours) may discourage experienced clinicians from pursuing problem gambling certification.
- Board members emphasized that problem gambling treatment is a specialized area requiring dedicated education and supervision and expressed concern about any automatic or overly broad pathways.
- Multiple members noted that graduate programs generally lack sufficient gambling-specific training, leading even dual-licensed clinicians to refer out due to lack of competence.
- Discussion highlighted additional barriers, including cumulative licensure fees, CEU requirements, and administrative burden associated with multiple credentials.
- Comparisons were shared to other states' models (e.g., California), where licensed clinicians may obtain a gambling endorsement through targeted training and ongoing consultation, expanding workforce capacity.
- Legal counsel outlined a potential regulatory “band-aid” option: adopting regulations to grant partial credit toward required supervision hours based on specific education or training, while noting that a true endorsement would require statutory change.
- Administrative considerations were discussed, including database limitations, certificate tracking, and potential costs associated with implementing endorsements or credential modifications.
- Reciprocity for out-of-state problem gambling credentials was clarified as already available by regulation, provided the applicant meets Nevada’s statutory education and equivalency requirements.

**Action Taken:**

- No action was taken. The discussion concluded with acknowledgment that further clarification, analysis, and policy development would be needed before pursuing regulatory or legislative changes.

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**Item 7: Sarita Edwards - request to extend internship past the allowed 5 years — *For Possible Action***

**Summary:**

- Sarita expressed her desire to extend her internship past the allowed 5 years and explained that her internship was interrupted in 2019 due to expiration of her SAPTA-

approved practicum site, followed by personal hardships (multiple family deaths) and the COVID-19 pandemic. These circumstances resulted in a leave of absence from her doctoral program and the inability to continue accruing supervised hours, which she stated were outside of her control. She stated she held the intern license for approximately six months and had accrued about 100 hours. She confirmed that conditions have stabilized and that she has secured an approved supervisor and site, allowing her to resume hours immediately if an extension is granted.

- She initially estimated approximately 1.5 years to complete remaining hours but, after Board discussion regarding workload and exam timelines, revised her request to approximately 2.5–3 years.
- Board members discussed the feasibility of completing required hours and emphasized allowing adequate time for examination preparation and testing.

#### **Action Taken**

- Erin **made a motion** to grant an internship extension for **three (3) years**.
  - Dr. West provided a **second**
  - **Motion passed unanimously.**
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#### **10. Public Comment**

Public comment was opened again and no public comment was offered.

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#### **Informational Item – Not on Agenda, no action taken**

- Chair provided an informational update regarding the Board's selection for review by the Legislative Sunset Committee.
  - Interim Executive Director and Chair will participate in the Sunset Committee presentation scheduled for March 27.
  - No action was taken.
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#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately **10:37 am**.