

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF A MEETING FOR  
STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

January 13, 2023

**1. Call To Order/Roll Call to Determine the Presence of a Quorum.**

**Call to Order:** The meeting of the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners was called to order by President Whitney Owens, PsyD, at 8:06 a.m. online via "zoom" and physically at the office of the Board of Psychological Examiners, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Ste B-116, Reno, Nevada 89502.

**Roll Call:** Board President Whitney Owens, Psy.D., and members Monique Abarca, LCSW, Lorraine Benuto, Ph.D., Soseh Esmaeili, Psy.D., Stephanie Holland, Psy.D., and Catherine Pearson, Ph.D., were present at roll call. Secretary/Treasurer, Stephanie Woodard, Psy.D., was absent at roll call.

Member Secretary/Treasurer, Stephanie Woodard, Psy.D. joined the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Also present were Joel Bakker, Deputy Attorney General, Dr. Gary Lenkeit, Board Investigator, Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, Neena Laxalt, Board Lobbyist, and members of the public: Dr. Hannah Lerman, Laura Arnold, and Dr. Tara Borsh.

**2. Public Comment.**

There was no public comment at this time.

**3. Minutes**

**A. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the State of Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners on December 2, 2022.**

There were no comments or changes suggested for the minutes of December 2, 2022.

Member Dr. Woodard approved the minutes as to form, not content, as she was not present at the December meeting.

**On motion by Lorraine Benuto, second by Catherine Pearson, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board on December 2, 2022.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 7-0

## 4. Financials

### **A. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Recommended Changes to the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget**

Dr. Stephanie Woodard, Secretary/Treasurer, and Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, presented information related to the monies received for licensure renewals and impact to the current budget.

As the final amount was not known as late renewals were still being received, it was requested that the item be moved to the February meeting. At that time suggestions for adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2023 budget would be made.

Dr. Holland stated that the Fiscal Year 2023 budget was previously approved based on revenue estimates. The discussion in February would be to make any needed adjustments based on the known revenues. Ms. Scurry gave a brief description of the deferred revenue process and how monies are allocated.

There was no action on the item.

### **B. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022, Through June 30, 2023).**

Dr. Stephanie Woodard, Secretary/Treasurer, and Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, presented the Treasurer's Report. Through December 2022, the checking account balance was \$385,853. Of that amount, approximately \$332,000 was revenue generated from license renewal. Due to deferred revenue procedures, approximately \$83,000 would be allocated for use during Fiscal Year 2023. The remaining monies would be split for allocation during Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 (July 1, 2023, January 1, 2024 and July 1, 2024).

The savings account balance was \$105,028.

As of the meeting date, there had been no unforeseen expenses and many line items were under budget, including salary and legal expenses. Revenues were 97% of the expected monies for the fiscal year and total expenses were at 41% of what was budgeted.

**On motion by Lorraine Benuto, second by Stephanie Holland, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2023.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 7-0

**C. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve an extension to the current Office Lease (4600 Kietzke Lane, B-116) for an additional year, February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024, at an annual increase of 3% per year (\$1,114.46/month); or Approval to move the office to an alternative site in the Kietzke Lane complex at an estimated savings of \$200/month.**

Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, explained that the current office lease will expire at the end of January 2023. A request was approved by the property management group to renew for one year rather than their standard three years. The new lease will begin February 1, 2023, at a 3% increase, bringing the monthly cost to \$1,114.46.

Additionally, Ms. Scurry explained that she had inquired about smaller offices in the complex as the current suite is very large. A smaller office could still fit the Board's needs at a lower cost. One of the three available office spaces would be in the next building and close to another Board's office. It would be approximately \$200/month cheaper.

The Board discussed approving a one-year extension of the office lease but directed the executive director to view the available office spaces. Any requested change to the office space would come back to the Board for approval during a later meeting.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Monique Abarca, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved extending the lease for the office at 4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite B-116, at a cost of \$1,114.46/month, while also allowing the executive director to look at other offices in the same complex.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 7-0

## **5. Legislative Update**

### **A. Report on Legislative Activities, including the work of Interim Committees and the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature**

Neena Laxalt, Board Lobbyist, provided the Board with an update on the upcoming session of the Nevada Legislature. To date there were 43 bills being tracked that could potentially impact the Board and/or the practice of psychology.

Ms. Laxalt stated that, upon taking office, Governor Lombardo signed two executive orders limiting the creation of new regulations by State agencies and boards and potentially requiring the elimination of existing regulations that are outdated, irrelevant, etc. As more information becomes available, the Board would be informed.

Dr. Lenkeit, inquired as to the status of the Universal Telehealth Act. Ms. Laxalt responded that there had been no response to his suggestion to the Bill sponsor that the psychologist licensure requirements be added (e.g. doctorate from a program

accredited by the American Psychological Association). That bill will be monitored for its potential impact to licensure requirements.

**B. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action on the Proposed Revision of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 641.390, Representation or Practice Without License or Registration Prohibited, During the 2023 Session of the Nevada State Legislature**

Ms. Laxalt stated that Bill Draft Request (BDR) 799 is the Board's bill. She would continue to monitor its status and provide updates as they occur.

**6. Board Needs and Operations**

**A. Report from the Nevada Psychological Association (NPA)**

Dr. Tara Borsh, representing the Nevada Psychological Association, provided an update on the activities of the NPA. Events included an upcoming continuing education course, and retreats in Las Vegas and Reno hosted by their Legislative Board.

**B. Report From the Executive Director on Board Office Operations, including licensure renewals.**

Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, reviewed the numbers of applications, licenses and registrations for the month of December. She explained that five applicants completed the requirements for licensure in December but asked to wait until January 1st to be issued the license. Other data included the numbers of background checks reviewed, non-resident consultant applications received, and state exams that were administered.

Director Scurry shared that in 2020 540 licenses were renewed. Over the years 2021 and 2022, 147 new licenses were issued. To date, 585 licenses were renewed with 42 pending. Reminders were sent to those who had not renewed. A letter will be mailed prior to any licenses being moved to expired status. Some licensees had informed the Board office of their intention to go inactive or let the license expire.

**7. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Extend an Offer of Employment to the Candidate Selected by the Board's Sub-Committee to Hire an Executive Director from the Following Applicants: Laura Arnold and Tracey Collamer.**

(This item was taken out of order.)

The Sub-Committee to Hire an Executive Director met in December to conduct interviews of three candidates. Of the eight names originally submitted to the Board for approval to interview, five withdrew their names from consideration. Three were interviewed and the Committee recommended Laura Arnold as the next executive director pending approval by the Board.

President Owens explained that one of Ms. Arnold's references had not been reached prior to the start of the meeting. She recommended Board approval of the candidate but suggested that an offer of employment not be extended until the final reference was reached and a positive evaluation received.

There were no questions by the Board.

**On motion by Monique Abarca, second by Lorraine Benuto, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved extending an offer of employment to Laura Arnold for the position of executive director, pending receipt of a second professional reference.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 7-0

**8. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Retain Lisa Scurry in a Part-time position (25 hours/week) upon the first date of employment of the new executive director. Such employment will be temporary, extending not more than 4 weeks from the start date, at her current rate of pay of \$30/hour.**

President Owens proposed retaining the current executive director, Lisa Scurry, in order to train the new executive director. It was suggested that Ms. Scurry be employed temporarily for not more than 4 weeks at 25 hours per week. The hourly salary would remain her current rate of \$30/hour.

Member Dr. Benuto stated her agreement that this plan would be best for a smooth transition in the office.

Ms. Scurry added that her continued employment was a temporary, special circumstance outside of the adopted staff policy and salary schedule for part-time employees.

**On motion by Catherine Pearson, second by Stephanie Holland, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the retention of Lisa Scurry to provide support and training to the new executive director under the following provisions: employment will be not more than 25 hours per week, extend not longer than 4 weeks from the start date of the new executive director, and at a rate of pay of \$30 per hour.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 7-0

**9. (For Possible Action) Discussion, and Possible Action on Pending Consumer Complaints:**

There were no updates on the following complaints. They remained pending.

A. Complaint #19-0626

- B. Complaint #19-0709
- C. Complaint #21-0726
- D. Complaint #22-0804
- E. Complaint #22-0930.

**10. (For Possible Action) Review and Possible Action on Applications for Licensure as a Psychologist or Registration as a Psychological Assistant, Intern or Trainee. The Board May Convene in Closed Session to Receive Information Regarding Applicants, Which May Involve Considering the Character, Alleged Misconduct, Professional Competence or Physical or Mental Health of the Applicant (NRS 241.030). All Deliberation and Action Will Occur in an Open Session. Note: Applicant names are listed on the agenda to allow the Board to discuss applicants when necessary to move the applicant through the licensure process. The listing of an applicant's name on the agenda indicates only that an application for licensure/registration has been received. It does not mean that the application has been approved or that the applicant must appear at the meeting in order for the applicant's application to move forward through the licensure process. If an applicant needs to attend the meeting for the Board to take action, the applicant will be notified in writing prior to the meeting. Please, direct questions or comments regarding licensure applications to the Board office.**

President Owens presented the following applicants for licensure, pending completion of licensure requirements: Ashley Arcoleo, Sarah Brennan, Raelynn Brister, Nino Chkhaidze, Christopher Estep, Gila Frank, Lisa Rhee, Michael Villanueva, and Christopher Wolper.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the following applicants for licensure, pending completion of licensure requirements: Ashley Arcoleo, Sarah Brennan, Raelynn Brister, Nino Chkhaidze, Christopher Estep, Gila Frank, Lisa Rhee, Michael Villanueva, and Christopher Wolper.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 7-0

**11. Licensee Requests**

**A. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Consider the Request of Hannah Lerman for temporary, provisional licensure allowing her to remain on active status while completing the Continuing Education Requirements for the License Renewal Period which ended December 31, 2022.**

(This item was taken out of order.)

Dr. Hannah Lerman submitted a request for an extension to complete the continuing education requirement for renewal of her license. Director Scurry explained that the deadline for completing renewal was December 31, 2022. According to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 641.132, a request for an extension must be made by December 1 during the renewal period. As the deadline to request an extension had passed, Dr. Lerman requested a provisional license to provide time to complete the continuing education requirement, allowing her to continue to provide psychological services.

Dr. Lerman stated that she had completed 21 of the 30 required credits.

There was discussion regarding creating a new precedent by allowing an extension or provisional license beyond the December 1 deadline.

Dr. Lerman explained the extenuating circumstances which led to her inability to complete license renewal. Those circumstances included losing her housing and, as a result, access to the internet needed to complete the courses.

President Owens stated her concern with setting the precedent and confirmed that if Dr. Lerman's request was not approved, her license would be moved to inactive status. Member Dr. Benuto agreed, while stating her empathy for Dr. Lerman's situation.

Member Dr. Holland asked if Dr. Lerman was seeing clients. Dr. Lerman replied that she had a private practice where she provides services to two patients.

Dr. Holland asked how long she would need to complete the continuing education requirement. Dr. Lerman responded that the barrier she faced was finding a public computer where she could have access for the needed 9 hours.

Director Scurry explained that if renewal was not completed by March 1, 2023, the license would be moved to an expired status. In either case, to move the license back to an active status would require further review and the approval of the Board at a future meeting. If the license moved to expired and was not renewed within two years, further action could be taken by the Board upon application to reactivate the license.

There was discussion about waiving NAC 641.132 to provide an extension versus granting a provisional license.

At 8:23, President Owens paused the discussion and continued with other items on the agenda.

At approximately 9:00 a.m, discussion of the item was re-started.

Member Dr. Esmaeili asked for clarification about the precedent that could be set by approving the request and providing a provisional license.

President Owens stated that if approval was granted, the reasons should be clearly documented. She added that provisional licenses were only offered in the past related

to implementation of the EPPP Part-2 (national examination). By granting a provisional license, the Board could be opening itself to more requests for provisional licensure based on extenuating circumstances. In the current matter, if Dr. Lerman's request was denied, she would have until March 1 to complete the requirements and be reinstated.

Member Dr. Pearson asked if Dr. Lerman had continued to see her clients since January 1, 2023 when the license was moved to inactive status. Dr. Lerman confirmed that she had seen the patients.

Member Dr. Holland asked if she understood the license was inactive.

Mr. Bekker, Deputy Attorney General, stated that the Board could take action to waive NAC 641.132 and provide an extension giving Dr. Lerman additional time to complete the requirements while remaining active.

There was discussion regarding the continuing education requirements and that licensees had two years to complete the 30 credits. Additional discussion included review of what would happen if the request was denied.

**On motion by Soseh Esmaeili, second by Stephanie Holland, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners denied the request of Dr. Hannah Lerman for an extension to complete the licensure requirements or for a provisional license to continue practicing until the licensure requirements were completed; the Board approved reactivation of the license upon submission and approval by the Board office and review by a Board member. Completion must take place by March 1, 2023 or the license would be moved to expired status.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 7-0

#### **B. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Consider the License Reactivation Application of Scott Deatherage**

Dr. Scott Deatherage submitted an application for reactivation of his license. He submitted proof of meeting the reactivation requirements, including completion of 50 continuing education credits including the live, ethics, suicide prevention, and diversity requirements.

Member Dr. Esmaeili abstained from voting on the item.

**On motion by Stephanie Holland, second by Monique Abarca, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the application of Dr. Scott Deatherage to reactivate his license as of January 13, 2023.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard. Abstain: Soseh Esmaeili) Motion Carried: 6-0



**C. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Consider the License Reactivation Application of Linda Lifur-Bennett**

Dr. Linda Lifur-Bennett submitted an application for reactivation of her license. The application stated she had earned 45 continuing education credits including the live, ethics, suicide prevention, and diversity requirements. Ms. Scurry explained that the application was missing several certificates and asked that the Board approve the application pending receipt of the missing certificates. She added that this was believed to have been an error and that the credits were completed.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the application of Dr. Linda Lifur-Bennett to reactivate her license as of the date the proof of continuing education was received by the Board office.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 7-0

**D. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Consider the License Reactivation Application of Avraham Schweiger**

Dr. Avraham Schweiger submitted an application for reactivation of his license. He submitted proof of meeting the reactivation requirements, including completion of 30 continuing education credits including the live, ethics, suicide prevention, and diversity requirements.

**On motion by Soseh Esmaeili, second by Stephanie Holland, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the application of Dr. Avraham Schweiger to reactivate his license as of January 13, 2023.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard.) Motion Carried: 7-0

**12. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Request of Dr. Jonathan Campos for a Change of Supervisor as a Psychological Assistant to Dr. Brian Norensberg**

Dr. Jonathan Campos submitted a request for a change in supervisor for his registration as a psychological assistant. The Board previously provided an extension for his registration as a psychological assistant. The new supervisor, Dr. Brian Norensberg, served as Dr. Campos' supervisor in the past.

Director Scurry explained that the Board office received the new Supervised Practice Plan and contract between Dr. Norensberg and the employment location (Seven Hills). However, the agreement between Dr. Campos and Seven Hills had not been received. As a result, the item was put on hold until the additional contract was received. The item would return to a future meeting for further discussion.

**13. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Board to Consider Registration of Supervisors of Psychological Assistants, Psychological Interns, and Psychological Trainees, and Associated Concerns. Discussion and Possible Approval may include:**

- A. Establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee and Committee members from the following individuals: Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Whitney Owens, Catherine Pearson, Stephanie Woodard, Ben Adams, Gretchen Arian, Andrew Bertagnolli, Yvonne Fritz, Christopher Fyfe, and Adrianna Zimring.
- B. Charge of the committee to revise Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 641.1519, Qualifications of Supervisors, and 641.158, Limitations on Number of Assistants, Interns, and Supervisors.
- C. Consideration of up to 2 continuing education credits for each committee member for the renewal period ending December 31, 2024

President Owens proposed creation of an Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of creating a registration of supervisors regulation and process.

Director Scurry suggested that the membership be an odd number and that it consist of either 2 Board members and 3 other licensees, or 3 Board members and 2 other licensees. She also proposed that a Board member be named the Chair for the purpose of scheduling the meetings, and that no meeting schedule be established at the present time. Lastly, she stated that any other licensees or members of the public would be able to attend the meetings as they would be publicly posted.

The following Board members expressed interest in serving: Dr. Benuto, Dr. Holland, and Dr. Owens.

There was discussion about the non-Board member applicants. Dr. Owens stated for the record that Dr. Adriana Zimring was her business partner.

In discussing the applicants, although the Board received several quality applicants, it was suggested that a second request for applicants be sent to licensees in hopes of increasing the diversity of the group. There was discussion about selecting a member who had experience as a supervisor and another who might be new to licensure and had recently gone through the supervision process.

It was decided that Dr. Benuto would assist Director Scurry in revising the committee applicant advertisement. The item would return to the next Board meeting in February.

**14. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Revise the Policy on Consumer Complaints and Discipline**

Director Scurry reviewed the Consumer Complaints and Discipline Policy. She explained that some changes had been made since the document was reviewed during the December meeting. New language was added related to records retention.

President Owens suggested adding language related to the operational oversight role of the executive director in receiving complaints and working with the investigators and legal counsel.

Director Scurry stated that the additional revisions would be made and the policy brought back to a future meeting of the Board.

**15. (For Possible Action) Schedule of Future Board Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops. The Board May Discuss and Decide Future Meeting Dates, Hearing Dates, and Workshop Dates**

- A. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners is Friday, February 10, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

There were no suggested changes to the next meeting date and time.

**16. Requests for Future Board Meeting Agenda Items (No Discussion Among the Members will Take Place on this Item)**

There were no requests for future Board meeting agenda items.

**17. Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

**18. (For Possible Action) Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, President Owens adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.