

**STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS'  
APPLICATION TRACKING EQUIVALENCY AND MOBILITY (ATEAM)  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

August 27, 2021

**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' Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee was called to order by Executive Director Lisa Scurry at 8:30 a.m. The physical meeting location was the Office of the Board of Psychological Examiners, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite B116, Reno, Nevada, 89502. This meeting was also conducted online via Zoom.

**Roll Call:** Members Soseh Esmaeili, PsyD, and Stephanie Woodard, PsyD, were present. Member Monique Abarca was absent.

Also present were Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, and member of the public Shanel Harris.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time. Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, stated that no public comment had been received in the Board office via email in advance of the meeting.

**3. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Select a Committee Chairperson from the Current Membership of Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaeili, and Monique Abarca.**

Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, stated that Monique Abarca resigned from the Committee. As a result, it was suggested that the item be put off until the next meeting when all three members have been selected and are present.

No further discussion and no action was taken.

**4. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the July 20, 2021, Meeting of the Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee.**

There were no comments nor proposed changes to the minutes.

Member Dr. Esmaeili approved the minutes as to form, not content, as she was not on the Committee on July 20, 2021. Prior to the meeting, Director Scurry provided the minutes to the previous two members of the Committee, Dr. Whitney Owens and Dr. Stephanie Holland. They reviewed the minutes for content and accuracy and recommended no changes to Director Scurry.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee approved the minutes of the July 20, 2021, meeting of the ATEAM Committee.** (Yea: Soseh Esmaeili and Stephanie Woodard) Motion Carried Unanimously: 2-0

**5. (For Possible Action) Review and Possible Action on Applications for Licensure as a Psychologist or Registration as a Psychological Assistant, Intern or Trainee who Attended a Non-APA Accredited Program and/or are an Applicant for Licensure by Endorsement.** (See Attachment A for the List of Applicants.)

**A. Tanya Ayim (PA)**

Member Dr. Stephanie Woodard reviewed the application of Tanya Ayim. Dr. Ayim's PLUS report showed she earned 1,800 internship training hours, making her deficient of the required 2,000 hours. She was also lacking the required number of supervision hours. Dr. Woodard expressed concern over a discrepancy between the dates of the internship and the total number of weeks listed. As a result, Dr. Woodard stated the application, as presented, would not meet the requirements for registration as a psychological assistant.

Director Scurry stated that she had discussed with Dr. Ayim that she may need to register as a psychological intern to complete the hours. Ms. Scurry added that she was told prior to the meeting that Dr. Ayim may be withdrawing her application.

Dr. Woodard recommended Dr. Ayim make any corrections to the application and complete the internship hours, as well as any other deficiencies, prior to applying as a psychological assistant. Member Dr. Esmaeili agreed with the recommendation.

Ms. Scurry asked if Dr. Ayim would meet the requirements as a psychological intern. Dr. Woodard stated the education appeared to be equivalent. For the internship, she would need at least 200 hours of training, 20 individual supervision hours, and 100 group supervision hours. In the event Dr. Ayim re-applies as a psychological intern, the PLUS application will re-evaluated by the Committee.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee denied the application for registration Tanya Ayim as a psychological assistant and requested additional information be provided prior to registering as a psychological intern.** (Yea: Soseh Esmaeili and Stephanie Woodard) Motion Carried Unanimously: 2-0

## **B. Shanel Harris (PI)**

(This item taken out of order.)

Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, stated that the application of Shanel Harris was originally assigned to Board member Dr. Stephanie Holland. As Dr. Holland was not present, Ms. Scurry presented her review.

Review of the application found that the education was conducted fully online which would normally be a disqualifier. Dr. Harris requested an exception based on the recommendations of the American Psychological Association (APA) on dealing with COVID-19 disruptions in training. In the case of Dr. Harris, as a result of the pandemic, the educational program was not able to offer the in-person learning (residency) component. The APA recommended that licensing Boards take these issues into consideration when reviewing certain licensing requirements.

Dr. Holland's written review stated that "case conferences" completed by Dr. Harris could take the place of the practicum. She added that the training supervisor provided a recommendation that Dr. Harris is ready for the internship. Director Scurry stated that it was her impression from Dr. Holland that the applicant should be approved for registration as a psychological intern.

Member Dr. Woodard stated agreement with the recommendation of Dr. Holland's review. She added that Dr. Holland is known for conducting very thorough reviews.

**On motion by Soseh Esmaeili, second by Stephanie Woodard, the Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee approved the registration Shanel Harris as a psychological intern, stating that her educational program was equivalent to that of an APA-accredited program.**

(Yea: Soseh Esmaeili and Stephanie Woodard) Motion Carried Unanimously: 2-0

## **C. Sharon Simington (PA)**

Director Scurry stated that Dr. Simington's application was reviewed and approved previously. This item will be removed from future agendas.

## **D. Karima Shagaga (Endorsement)**

Karima Shagaga's application for licensure by endorsement was reviewed by the Committee. Director Scurry explained that she had been licensed for 4 years in California and a year in Missouri. Dr. Shagaga's application indicated she completed 1,500 internship hours and 2,000 post-doctoral training hours, which would not meet the requirements for licensure. Although NAC 641.080 would allow for a reduction in training hours to 1,500 internship and 1,500 post-doctoral hours, as she did not have at least 5 years of licensure, Dr. Shagaga would not automatically qualify under that provision.

Ms. Scurry provided the Committee with additional information such as completion of continuing education courses. Over the past two years, she completed 36 hours of continuing education in each of the last two biennium.

The application of Dr. Shagaga was assigned to Member Dr. Woodard for thorough review and will be brought back to the September ATEAM Committee meeting.

#### **E. Michael Stein (Endorsement)**

Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, explained that Michael Stein has been licensed for more than 5 years in Colorado, a state where the requirements are substantially equivalent to those in Nevada. He attended an APA-accredited educational program and earned at least 1,500 internship and 1,500 post-doctoral training hours. In accordance with NAC 641.080 as he had been licensed for at least 5 years, he was only required to accrue 1,500 internship and 1,500 post-doctoral hours to be license eligible.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee recommended forwarding the application for licensure by endorsement of Michael Stein to the Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners for approval contingent upon satisfactory completion of all licensure requirements.** (Yea: Soseh Esmaeili and Stephanie Woodard) Motion Carried Unanimously: 2-0

#### **6. (For Possible Action) Discussion of Procedures Related to Licensure by Endorsement and the ATEAM Committee; and Possible Action to Propose Revisions to and/or Make Recommendations to the Board of Psychological Examiners of the Procedures.**

- A. Process for review of applicants with 20 or more years' experience but who did not attend an APA-accredited educational program
- B. Process for review of applicants with 5 or more years' experience whose license is from a state with substantially equivalent licensure requirements
- C. Review of the State-by-State jurisdiction comparison and the "red light/green light" language when reviewing applicants from different jurisdictions applying for licensure by endorsement.

Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, presented proposed changes to the policy on applications for licensure by endorsement. The changes included:

1. Addition of language that Part-2 of the EPPP (national examination) is not currently required of applicants for licensure by endorsement.
2. Addition of the list of credentials that will expedite the processing of an application (National Register of Health Science Psychologists Credential, American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) Credential, Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) in Psychology).

3. Additional of language in the substantially equivalent ("yellow") and non-equivalent ("red") state sections related to when ATEAM Committee review will not be necessary (application has 20 or more years of experience, has one of the credentials listed, and/or meets the supervised training requirements under NAC 641.080.).
4. Removal of language related to veterans and their spouses as a specific category for licensure by endorsement. The language was recently removed from statute following the 2021 session of the Nevada licensure.

There was discussion related to #3 above which would not require "red" state applicants to be reviewed by the ATEAM Committee when they comply with training requirements under NAC 641.080. It was decided that such applicants should continue to come to the Committee for review. Only "yellow" state applicants would be exempt from ATEAM review under those conditions.

Dr. Esmaeili inquired about "double dipping" of training hours and whether that would be reviewed by the Committee. Ms. Scurry responded that when there is a question that submitted training hours were actually completed for an alternative license (e.g. social work, marriage and family therapy), the application will come to the Committee for review. In such cases, the applicant would likely be required to complete hours specific to psychological training.

Dr. Woodard suggested the policy include information regarding communication with the applicant on the status of their application.

Dr. Esmaeili inquired about approval of applicants who have been licensed for 20 or more years and whether or not they are reviewed to ensure they possess a doctoral degree and meet the other qualifications for licensure. Ms. Scurry responded that such applicants must complete an extended application that requests information related to education, training, etc. If any of the requirements are missing, review by the ATEAM Committee or the Board may occur.

Dr. Woodard inquired about foreign applicants and where those procedures are listed. Ms. Scurry stated that there is a regulation under consideration that would mandate a foreign graduate be referred to the National Register of Health Service Psychologists. That process will be defined and described within an alternative policy related to standard applications.

## **7. (For Possible Action) Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Dates for the ATEAM Committee**

- A. The next ATEAM Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 24, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

There was no discussion or suggested changes to the meeting date or time.

## **8. Items For Future Discussion.** (No discussion among the Committee members will take place on this item.)

**9. Public Comment.**

There was no public comment at this time.

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

There being no further business before the Committee, Executive Director Scurry adjourned the meeting at 9:24 a.m.